

Who to contact?

Tashmina Hoque

Project Co-Ordinator

Office: 01462 440224

Mobile: 07780588800

Mohammed Alam

Forum Director

Office: 01462 440224

Or in writing to

Aiming High

North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

Unity House

Whinbush Road

HITCHIN SG5 1PH

aiminghigh@btconnect.com

North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

About us...

The North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum is a rainbow coalition of local black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. These include Italian, African-Caribbean, Polish and various Asian groups. Our aim is to help these communities to overcome problems that prevent them from playing a full part in the social, economic and environmental life of North Hertfordshire.



Children of the Aiming High project enjoying various activities as part of the programme



AIMING HIGH COMMUNITY MENTORING PROJECT

***Raising achievement of BME
children in schools across North
Herts and Stevenage***



Aiming High

What is it?

Mentoring is a process where the mentor acts as a role model and trusted counselor who provides opportunities for development, growth and support to children who are experiencing difficulties which are not allowing them to fully access the school curriculum.

Children receive guidance, encouragement and support as part of the mentoring programme.

Mentoring support is particularly helpful during the school transition period from year 6 to 7, with the change from primary to senior schools.

Opportunities exist for mentees to take part in further activities outside of school hours. This helps develop the relationships between the mentor and the mentees family.



Who does it?

The North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum has been granted funding by the Hertfordshire Children's Fund to provide a mentoring service to support pupils in years 3-8 in both primary and senior schools, across North Herts and Stevenage.

The Forum has employed Learning Mentors to help and support black and minority ethnic pupils. These mentors have been carefully selected and fully trained and have extensive experience of working with young people and schools.

Referrals to the project are usually made by schools, however parents can also contact the Forum directly if they feel their child will benefit from mentoring.

The mentoring takes place in school and the young people are seen on a weekly basis, for an hour long one-to-one session.

The Mentors hold twice yearly review meetings with the schools and parents to discuss the progress of each individual. The project has received some very positive feedback. There is also a weekly drop-in session at the Forum on Friday mornings for parents to share their thoughts with the mentors.

How will it help?

Mentoring aims to:

- Help the child realise and raise their full academic potential
- Improve the child's confidence through the provision of one-to-one focused support
- Raise the child's self-esteem by forging strong bonds
- Enable the child to voice their concerns and feelings in a nurturing environment
- Assist the child to make positive decisions through a target setting process
- Encourage the child to help themselves

The Criteria

Children from any black and minority ethnic background who fulfill any point listed below are eligible:

- Suffering from low self-esteem/confidence
- Not achieving their full academic potential
- Behaviour difficulties in or out of school
- Suffering bullying in or out of school
- Have high rates of truancy or school non attendance
- Attending target schools in North Herts or Stevenage