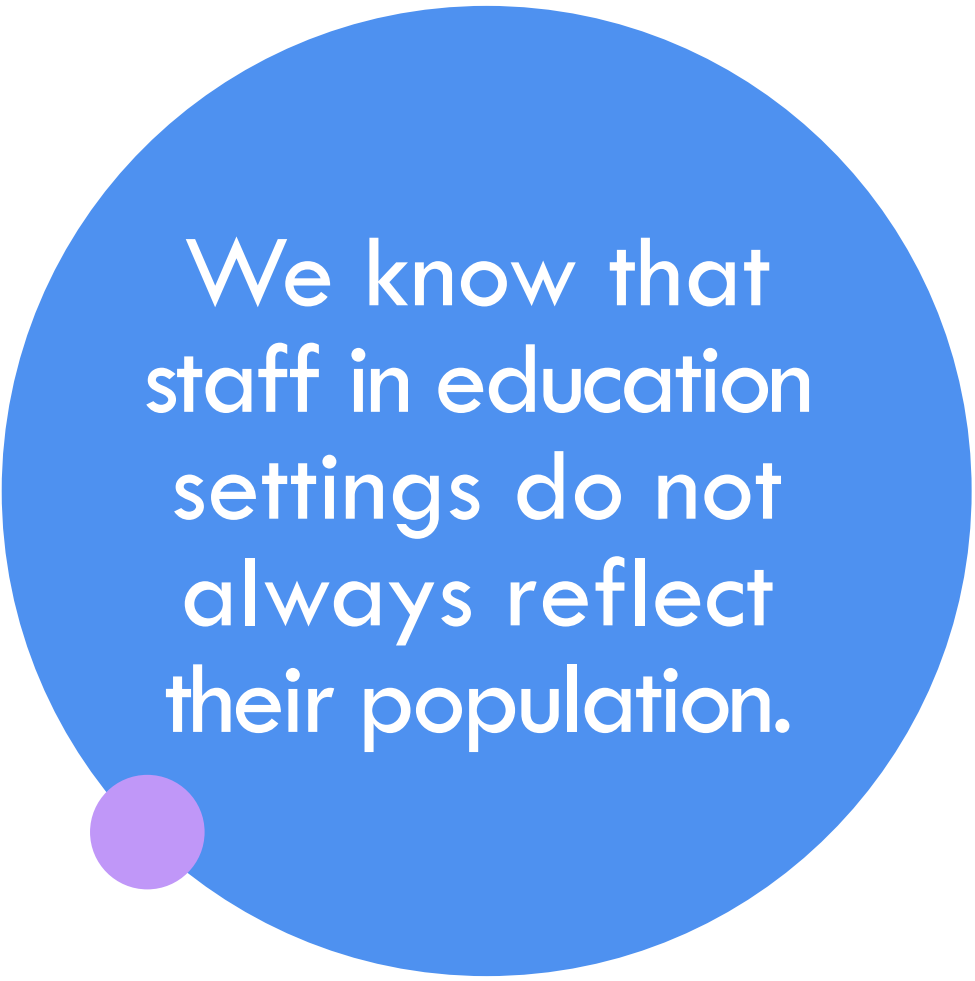





Representation Matters

The perspective of one 8-year-old girl

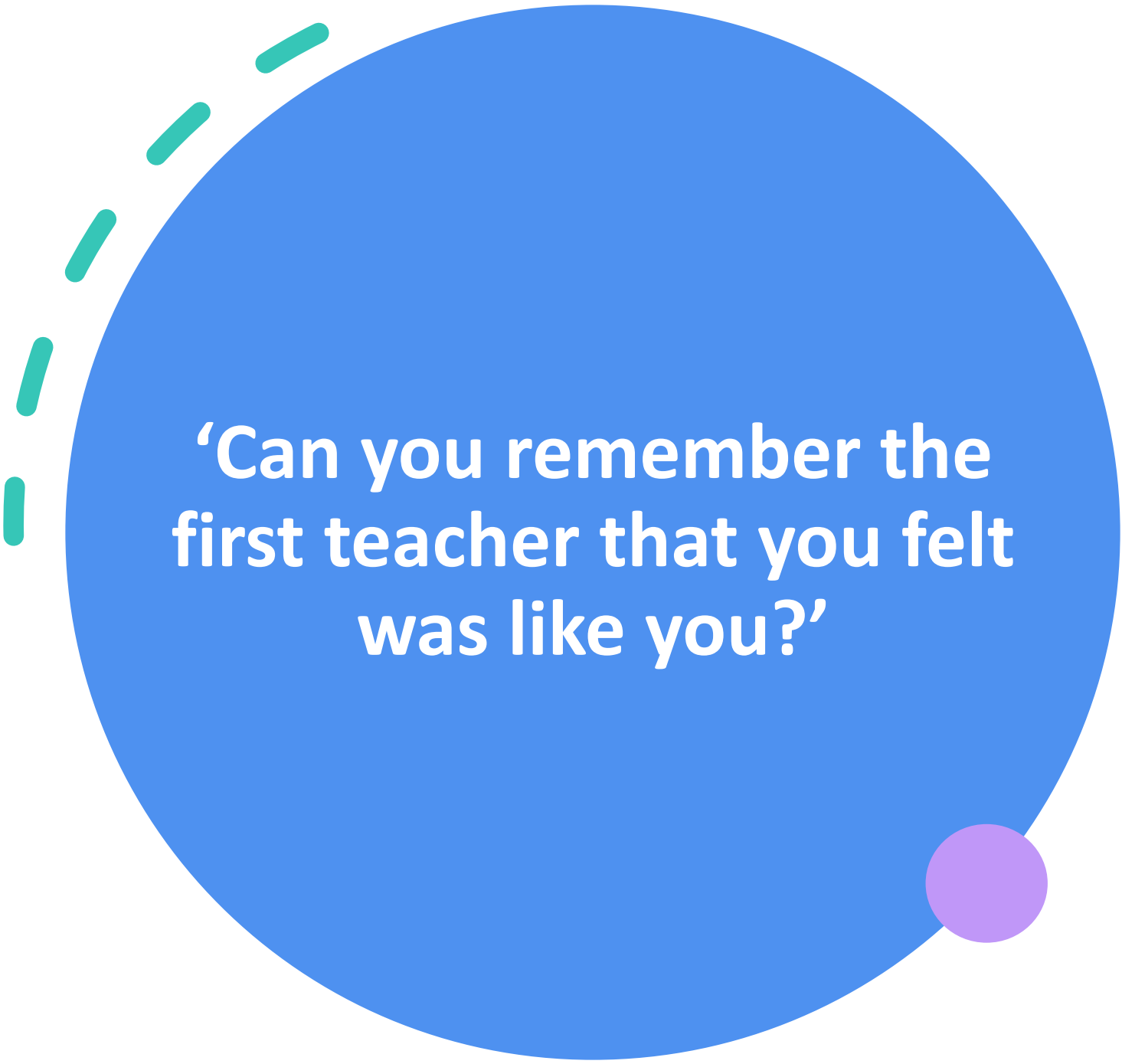


We know that staff in education settings do not always reflect their population.




We were interested to hear about what that might mean for children and young people.


Here's what Esme told her mum:



**‘Can you remember the
first teacher that you felt
was like you?’**

A close-up photograph of a young girl with voluminous, curly brown hair. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth, and looking slightly to the right of the camera. Her skin is a warm, light brown tone. She is wearing a dark, textured top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.


'I have never had
a teacher or staff
member that
looks like me.'



**‘ Can you explain how it
made you feel?’**



It makes me
feel like I have
no one to talk
to at school.



**‘Why do you think it’s
important to have
someone that looks
like you?’**

'It would really help me to have teachers that look like me. If I did, I would feel more comfortable.'



‘Everyone should have someone that they can speak to that they feel comfortable with and that looks like them because they might have experienced the same things. The adults might know how they feel.’



'There's lots of white adults and teachers in school.

It would be nice to have a change.

It would be nice to have some black and brown teachers at school as there is only one brown person that I have seen.'



Thank you

Featuring Esme:

