

Betty Campbell MBE

1934 - 2017

Betty Campbell was born in Cardiff 1934 to a Welsh Barbadian mother and a Jamaican father. At school, Betty was top of her class and wanted to be a teacher from a young age. She faced discouragement from a teacher who told her the problems would be 'insurmountable' but she was determined.



As a married, mother Betty discovered in 1960 that the Cardiff Teacher Training College were enrolling female students, she applied and was one of only six female students to be admitted.

When she became Wales' first black head teacher at Mount Stuart in the 1970s, she began teaching children about slavery, black history and the system of apartheid which operated at the time in South Africa.

Betty was a community activist and speaking in the Senedd, Campbell explained: "*I was determined that I was going to become one of those people and enhance the black spirit, black culture as much as I could*". Campbell helped to create Black History Month.

Under Campbell's leadership, Mount Stuart School raised its profile across the United Kingdom, and became a template for multicultural education. Campbell became a member of the Home Office's race advisory committee and a member of the Commission for Racial Equality.

She served as an independent councillor for Butetown on Cardiff Council from 1999 to 2004. Prior to that, she had been a Butetown councillor on Cardiff City Council, from 1991 to 1995. In 1998, as a member of the Commission for Racial Equality, she was invited to meet Nelson Mandela on his only visit to Wales.

She was invited to be part of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Commission on Education, which published a number of research papers on education. In 1993, it published the book "Learning to Succeed" where practice examples from Mount Stuart Primary School were cited.

She was a board member of BBC Wales in the 1980s, and was made an honorary fellow of Cardiff Metropolitan University. In 2003, she was awarded an MBE for services to education and community life. In 2015, she received a lifetime achievement award from Unison Cymru's Black Members' group, for her contribution to black history and Welsh education.

Campbell died at the age of 82 on 13 October 2017. Hundreds of people lined the streets of Cardiff to pay their respects.

Black History Month Wales October 2020 – 2000 Nations | Celebrating Diversity



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