

RACE ROW PUPILS GO ON STRIKE

By PETER BREAREY

UNOFFICIAL reports today said that 60 per cent of pupils at Bradford's Drummond Middle School had stayed away in protest over the views of headmaster Ray Honeyford.

A spokeswoman at the school said Mr. Honeyford was busy with educational inspectors who were investigating every aspect of school life. She added: "We have children away because it is Ramadhan, and others are absent because of third-year projects, so we cannot say how many are away because of the protest."

But a supporter of the "strike" at the school, where 86 per cent of the pupils are of Asian origin, said he had counted the children as they went in.

"Around 200 of the 520 pupils attended, so that is an absentee rate of 60 per cent, which we regard as a success," he said.

The protest follows allegedly racist remarks made by Mr. Honeyford in a Right-wing journal.

Miss Jenny Woodward, of Drummond Parents' Action, also hailed the protest as a success.

She said: "As late as Friday, many of the pupils were undecided. We know that the headmaster told children they must attend today, or bring a note explaining their absence."

Arrived

"If 60 per cent have stayed away, the action has been successful."

There were no demonstrations or pickets at the school this morning as Bradford Council's team of ten inspectors arrived to conduct their investigation.

They are to probe complaints by Parents' Action about conditions at the school — but they will also bear in mind that not all parents are supporting the demand that Mr. Honeyford should be sacked.

Geoff Sawyer, of Durham Road, Bradford, who has a 13-year-old son at the school, said: "I have always been happy with the way things have been run at Drummond, as have the majority of parents."

Trouble at the school came to a head after Mr. Honeyford, 50, wrote an article in the journal *Salisbury Review* which attacked the "race lobby" and spoke out about the decline of educational standards in schools with high proportions of black pupils.