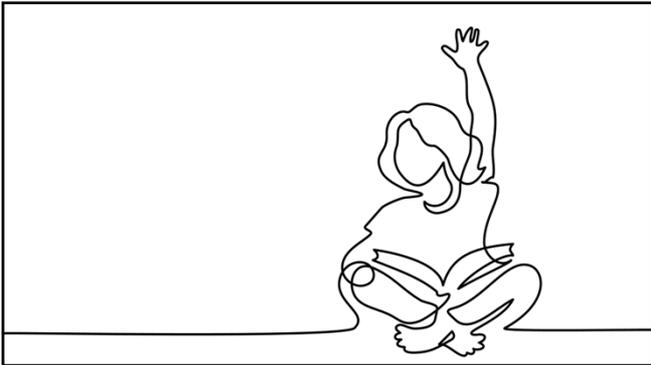


Ensuring the Best Outcomes for Traveller Children



GRT pupils are the most vulnerable of any ethnic group.

- GRT pupils leave school at a much earlier age than children in other ethnic groups.
- They have worse attainment standards than any other ethnic group from Early Years onwards.
- GRT pupils have the highest levels of temporary and permanent exclusion.
- Special educational needs are most prevalent in travellers of Irish heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupils with 30.9% and 26.8% respectively. Travellers of Irish heritage and black Caribbean pupils have the highest percentage of pupils with statements or EHC plans (4.5% and 4.2% respectively).



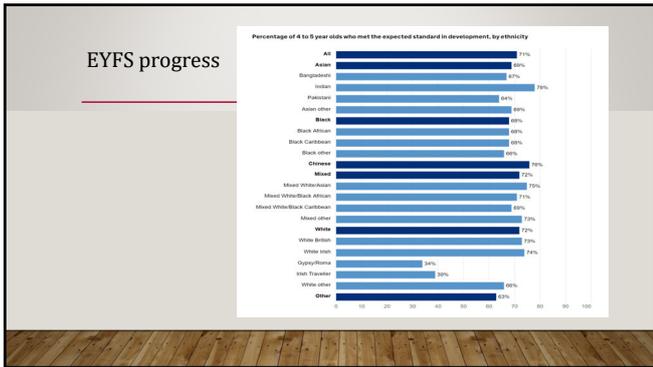
Traveller Movement report (April 2019)

- This group has "slipped from vision...we must not let it slip further."
- GRT communities in the UK are being "comprehensively failed by policy makers."
- "Exclusion and marginalisation."
- "All is not well...parents of the victims of poor and inappropriate policy, provision and practice are left to fight their children's own corner with increasingly blunted equality tools."



"Many schools were unaware that GRT are a distinct ethnic group."

Ensuring the Best Outcomes for Traveller Children



Why?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/22/gypsies-lagging-education-gypsies-travellers>

RESPONSES ON TWITTER TO C4 PROGRAMME.

- "It's like they are above the law!"
- "Being Irish, I can confirm that tinkers are a pain in the c--- and no-one will make me feel sorry for them."
- "These people are scum. No two ways about it. Not that we're allowed to say it. I've known of many instances of criminal acts, against public & police from these human parasites."
- "Their reputation is well deserved. I couldn't even begin to tell the stories I've heard and the things I've seen. Disgusting."
- "This basically confirms my suspicions about so called 'Travellers'. That they're generally an unlawful & immoral people & liability to society."
- "Why can't we deport these Criminal Traveler people the vast majority of them ain't born in Britain. They complain about prejudice but the statistics are there for everyone to see they are a lawless community."

Ensuring the Best Outcomes for Traveller Children

Improving outcomes for GRT pupils

- Safety and Trust.
- Access and inclusion.
- Flexibility.
- High expectations.
- Partnership.
- Respect.



Partnership

Sarah Holmes comments on partnership work at Bankside Primary, a school with an excellent reputation for positive engagement with the Traveller community. "We made it our priority to ensure that the GRT community felt included and just as much as part of the school community as everyone else. We noticed during nursery home visits that families were unsure about how to access basic services so we created a Friday afternoon family group where parents could learn key skills. A creche was provided for young children. We shared cooking, music and stories from both our cultures, resulting in the most wonderful relationships being built and increased school attendance. The Traveller community brings so much joy and life to the school."

Respect

This needs to be promoted as a two-way process. Teacher Sarah Brombley at St. Nicholas School in East Challow: "As a school, we are conscious of the culture and differing needs of the Traveller community. When Traveller families are working with us, we work positively too. There is mutual respect and the Traveller community know that we take their concerns seriously."

Claire Martin O' Donoghue, Headteacher at Polegate School: "Our relationships are built on trust and understanding. We have now had generations of the same families come through the school. We recognise that we won't always agree but we have very open communication which is based on mutual respect. This enables us to find a compromise and solutions together."

Ensuring the Best Outcomes for Traveller Children



