



Longwood Infant Academy
John King Infant Academy
Kirkstead Junior Academy

Traveller Strategy

Approved by: Governors **Date:** February 2024

Last reviewed on: April 2025

Next review due by: April 2027

Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater communities

Throughout this strategy, reference is made to Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) pupils, parents, and communities. This collective group includes:

- Gypsies
- Showman Travellers and Fairground families
- Scottish or Welsh Travellers
- Travellers of Irish Heritage
- Roma
- Circus Families
- New Travellers
- Bargee or Canal boat families.

Points to consider:

Many Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) families do not attribute themselves to their appropriate ethnic group; this may be due to persistent racism experienced by the GTRSB communities. Consequently, they often remove themselves from mainstream society and this can create challenges in developing trusting relationships.

Accommodation and mobility is an issue for about 20% of GTRSB families as it is officially recognised that there is a lack of authorised site provision nationally. This impacts on children access to education and poses considerable risks to staying safe and being healthy.

When communicating with families, schools may presuppose knowledge and skill levels that not all GTRSB families may have. Be clear about these messages and flexible in choices of communication methods.

Whilst many GTRSB families speak English as a first language, a range of languages are used within GTRSB communities e.g. Romanese entirely as their home language, some Romany families interspersed with English words (Gypsy and Roma families), or Shelta, otherwise known as Gammon or Cant, with English words, (Traveller or Irish Heritage families). It should be noted that Roma families sometimes speak 3 or 4 languages.

GTRSB pupils have the highest rates of exclusions nationally and attendance rates are below national average in many areas.

Working with Traveller families (Please also see Attendance Policy)

The Education Act states:

“Traveller parents are protected from conviction (for the non-attendance of their children at school), if parents can show that their trade or business requires them to travel, and the children has attended school as regularly as the nature of the trade or business allows, and the child – where aged six or over- has attended school for at least 200 sessions (100 days) during the preceding twelve months.”

Education Act 1966 – section 444

The special position of Traveller families is recognised by the law, which protects Traveller parents from conviction, if the parent can demonstrate that the child has attended as regularly as his/her trade permits, **and on at least 200 half days during the previous 12 months.** Traveller children may be dually registered, whilst travelling. The base school holds the place open and records the absence as authorised (register code T). **A Maximum of 180 T codes in a rolling year can be used (90 days).**

To support the continued relationship with school during periods of travelling, a work pack/ live learning will be provided. The school will endeavour to contact travelling families on a weekly basis, where possible.

At Pinxton Village Academies:

At Pinxton Village Academies we are proud to sit at the heart of the community. We are proud that our school community is made up of 18% Showman Travellers who are the third and fourth generation of their families to attend our schools. We work closely with our community to ensure that our community context is represented within our Curriculum and through our Curriculum Principles of LEAP (Language rich, Experiential, Aspirational and Purposeful.)

We will:

- Ensure that the attainment of our Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) pupils is the responsibility of everyone with Quality first teaching.
- All our children will perform at their best in an environment that positively reflects and promotes their culture and lifestyle, the curriculum, its resources and the schools reflect this.
- Support can be sought through the local authority and its Traveller Liaison team.
- Be proactive regarding any mobility patterns for GTRSB pupils, finding out where, when and for how long the families have travelled or plan to travel and then prepare or respond accordingly.
- To support the continued relationship with school during periods of travelling, a work pack/ live learning will be provided. The school will endeavour to contact travelling families on a weekly basis, where possible.
- Families will complete a Travel form to support school in preparation for organising the work packs.

Statutory requirements

It is vital that schools and settings have a clear understanding that Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) are identified as ethnic minority groups under the Race Relations legislation. See below.

Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) children have the same rights to unhindered access to education as all others. The Schools Admission Code of Practice (2003) requires all authorities and admissions forums to have in year fair access protocols in place. The protocols cover all maintained schools and academies in any Local Authority area. The Local Authority should ensure that access to suitable education is secured quickly for children who, on arrival in the area, have no school place.

“The Race Relations” (Amendment) Act 2000 places a clear statutory duty on public bodies, including schools and settings to:

- Provide equality of opportunity
- Tackle unlawful racial discrimination.
- Promote good relations between members of different ethnic communities.

New Arrivals:

- Encourage families to identify their ethnicity. The benefits of correct ascription include a positive impact on children’s self esteem and learning, schools are complying with their duties under the Race Relations Act.
- Build trusting positive relationships with families through meaningful conversations.
- Develop effective links with Traveller Liaison to improve relationships with families and to build capacity in schools.
- Share Traveller strategy and Attendance policy so families know what procedures to follow.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed regularly and has been produced with our Showman Traveller families. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our child protection and safeguarding policy and attendance policy

The T Code

What does the law say about the T Code?

The Law recognises that Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) families may have a valid reason to keep their children from school which is different from non- Traveller families. This reason is where parent(s) / carer(s) are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel from place to place and therefore prevents their children from attending school. **Nevertheless, each child must attend at least 200 sessions (100 days) in each rolling 12-month period.**

The Law does not automatically reduce the number of days that children from GTRSB families are expected to attend school; schools and local authorities should seek to secure GTRSB pupils attendance at 380 sessions each school year.

The Law makes no reference to a physical dwelling so a Traveller family that lives in a house but travels in the course of their trade or business can have absences authorised through use of the T code.

When should the “T” code be used?

On days when a pupil from a Traveller family is known to be out of the area for work purposes and is **not** in educational provision, schools can use the “T” code to record the absence. The Parents/ Carers should make sure they let the school know in advance when they are going to be travelling and when they expect to return. This enables the child’s attendance and absence to be recorded accurately, their safety and well-being to be monitored and appropriate distance learning work to be set by the school.

The term “travelling” means travelling as part of the parents’/carers’ trade or business that requires them to travel from place to place. It does not mean travelling as part of a holiday.

The use of the “T” code to authorise a pupil’s absence is at the discretion of the Headteacher.