

The Ascription of Gypsy Roma and Traveller (GRT) Children

Information and Advice for School Staff

Did You Know?

- Ealing is one of the most ethnically diverse Boroughs in London and one of the most diverse areas in Britain.
- Estimates put the total number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Ealing residents in excess of 4,000 individuals at certain times of year.

GRT in Ealing

Ealing Borough is home to predominantly two traditional nomadic groups:

- ▶ Travellers of Irish Heritage - Irish Traveller communities are the largest known group in the Ealing area. Parish registers show that they have had associations with the area for at least two centuries.
- ▶ Roma from Europe - Since the break-up of political systems in Eastern Europe, Roma families have travelled to Ealing. They now constitute the second largest Gypsy Traveller group in the borough.

Current Schools Data

Year group	Travellers of Irish Heritage (WIRT)	Gypsy / Roma (WROM)	All pupils ethnically ascribed as Travellers
Nursery	1	3	4
Reception	8	3	11
1	5	8	13
2	9	2	11
3	13	6	19
4	8	1	9
5	9	4	13
6	9	3	12
7	9	1	10
8	5	1	6
9	1	2	3
10	4	2	6
11	8	3	11
12			
13			
14	1		1
All	90	39	129
High	26	8	34
Primary	61	29	90
Special	3	2	5

Source: January 2015 school census

129 traveller children identified via their ethnicity, 90 in primary schools, 34 in secondary schools and 5 in special schools

Additional 33 children identified as Irish Travellers in May background collection but who have another ethnic ascription (*primarily white Irish or White Other*)

GRT Ethnic Self- Ascription in Ealing

The Ealing Gypsy Roma and Traveller (GRT) Achievement Service have noted that the official school census data held by Ealing Local Authority does not accurately reflect the number of GRT children resident in the Borough or on- roll at Ealing Schools.

From initial research undertaken by service staff it is estimated that up to 70% of GRT children in the Borough are not correctly ethnically ascribed within their school settings, causing data for numbers of GRT and their achievements within the schooling system, to be skewed.

What are we doing and why are we doing it?

Why it's important

- ▶ Accurate data means better targeted provision
- ▶ Shows successes of GRT within school - linked to Ofsted criteria
- ▶ Access GRTAS support for pupils

What we are doing

- ▶ Approaching schools
- ▶ Approaching GRT families
- ▶ GRTAS Network Forum
- ▶ Monitoring central data

How you can help?

GRT currently on roll

- ▶ Where pupils are not ethnically ascribed as GRT but you think they may be, refer to GRTAS Team for advice
- ▶ If there is a good relationship with parents, suggest that parents might consider self- ascription and the benefits of this
- ▶ Use the background collection boxes to indicate where pupils are known to be of GRT heritage but are not self- ascribed

GRT new admissions

- ▶ Be welcoming and supportive, as always
- ▶ Where possible support with form- filling or refer to GRTAS for this service
- ▶ Encourage parents to self- ascribe for additional support from GRTAS where necessary

With our support

- ▶ For advice and practical support engaging with your GRT parents around ascription and self- ascription, please feel free to get in touch with the GRTAS team

Who We Are

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Service (GRTAS) in Ealing was founded in 1990. We support the education and lifelong learning of children, young people and adults of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) heritages. The service supports and advises schools, children's centres and all education providers on measures to raise the educational access and achievement of the GRT communities (source; EGFL).

What We do

Primary Setting - support, advice and classroom modelling and interventions.

Secondary - support and advice, particularly geared towards pupil retention.

Transition - practical support and advice for schools concerned with the successful transition of their year 6-7 pupils.

Family Support - holistic practical support and advice for GRT families with a view to supporting educational attainment, e.g. benefits advice, housing advice, social services advocacy, grant applications etc.

Inset and Training - hosting of a quarterly GRT forum open to all schools, as well as bespoke inset training for schools.

How to get in touch

If you would like to discuss the needs of your GRT pupils with GRTAS staff, please make a referral using the online form available from the EGFL:

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/school-effectiveness/teaching-and-learning/equality-and-achievement/gypsy-roma-and-traveller>

Or for more information call or email our Southall office base:

020 8813 9715

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