

Traveller Education Service

“Our role is to ensure that all Traveller children in Newham receive a good education”.

What are the aims of the Service?

- To ensure Traveller children receive their statutory entitlement to appropriate continuous education
- To help Travellers’ children access mainstream education as quickly as possible
- To help Traveller children integrate socially and academically into mainstream education as quickly as possible
- To help raise the attendance, achievement and attainment of Traveller children in schools
- To make every Traveller child in Newham independent of our support and able to take full advantage of the educational system
- To encourage Travellers to have pride and confidence in their identity
- To strengthen the links between Traveller parents and the school
- To advise schools on the inclusion of Travellers within Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies
- To develop and include Traveller issues/resources within the curriculum.

What services do we offer schools and families?

- Liaison with Traveller families, the Community, Educational Welfare Officers and other statutory and voluntary agencies
- Advice for parents when placing children in school
- When necessary, assistance in the provision of school uniform to enable access to school
- Help with transport in exceptional cases
- Support for Travellers’ children when necessary, both academically and socially within the school
- Updating Distance Learning Packages of visiting Fairground and Circus Children
- Curriculum and professional development.

How we decide which children need support in school?

Travellers' children may receive support if one or more of the following factors apply:

- Educational achievement is substantially below that of other children of the same age for reasons other than Special Educational Needs or EAL
- There is a history of high mobility
- They stop where there are no services and/or there is a constant fear of eviction
- They have had no previous schooling, a late start or a pattern of interrupted schooling
- They lack school related social skills
- They are non-readers, especially at age 7 and above
- They need extra help in Year 6 before transferring to Secondary School.

LINKS

As Travellers move from area to area, linking with other authorities is very important to us. We liaise with neighbouring boroughs and have a close relationship with their Traveller Education Services.

We are members of the National Association of Traveller Teachers and of the Advisory Council for Education of Romany and other Travellers.

We attend, and have helped organise, National and Regional meetings and conferences, keeping in touch with national and international events.



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