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## Hampshire EMTAS

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Working with children, families and schools on all aspects of practice and provision for

- ✓ pupils for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL)
- ✓ pupils from Traveller and Showmen communities
- ✓ pupils from Black and Ethnic Minority groups

### Get in touch with us



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Access our blog and other resources on our Moodle <http://emtas.hias.hants.gov.uk/>



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## Distance Learning

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### What is Distance Learning?

Many Travellers and Showmen travel for work purposes for significant periods of the school year. For Showmen families, the travelling season usually starts around Easter and ends around November. This can mean that pupils from Showmen families have limited time in school. Distance Learning can be an effective way of supporting these pupils to continue their education whilst travelling. It can also make for an easier reintegration when the pupils return at the end of their travelling season.

It should be noted that not all families have the same travelling pattern; individual family situations vary. Schools are advised to check with each family to establish the details.

### Whose responsibility is it to set Distance Learning?

Pupils who are travelling for work purposes remain on the school's roll whilst they are away and it is the responsibility of the child's school to put together appropriate Distance Learning materials for them. Prepared in advance, these materials can include worksheets and online resources on the school's VLE or on other suitable websites.

### Best Practice Guidance

In order to promote engagement with distance learning, good communication between school and families is important. Families will need to provide dates when they will be travelling and agree with schools the best method of communication. There should also be agreement about how the packs will be sent to the child and, when they've been completed, returned to school to be marked.

Along with suitable work for the pupil, school should also try to provide any equipment that might be needed eg pens, colouring pencils, paper, scissors, glue.

Another way to help maintain friendships with their peers can be for pupils to send postcards during the period of the Traveller/Showmen child's absence from school. Schools can facilitate this two-way communication by providing blank postcards already stamped and addressed to the school for the Traveller/Showmen child's use.

See the [EMTAS website](#) for more information about Hampshire's Traveller and Showmen communities, ways of supporting Traveller and Showmen children in school and the use of the T Code. Read this [article about Distance Learning](#) on the EMTAS open access Blog.

**For further advice contact EMTAS**