

Ascription



- Travellers (GRT) may ascribe as 'WROM' (White Romany Gypsy) or 'WIRT' (White Irish Traveller) but it is not uncommon for them to choose 'WBRI' (White British) and in that way hide their Traveller identities.
- Where there is a positive relationship between home and school, correct ascription is more likely. Use the [EMTAS postcard on ascription](#) to support conversations with families and to encourage correct ascription.
- Showmen usually ascribe as 'WBRI'. They are not a recognised ethnic group like Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers so 'WBRI' is often the most appropriate choice for this group.

Attendance



- Monitor closely the attendance of Traveller pupils to ensure attendance does not impact on progress and attainment.
- Use the T code in line with the Education Act 1995 to mark Traveller pupils absent when they are travelling with their parents for work purposes. Use the [EMTAS T-Code Postcard](#) for more detail on this.
- Have high expectations with regards attendance but maintain a flexible approach for pupils who are travelling for long periods during the school year and provide support to help them reintegrate on their return.

Distance learning



- Many Traveller pupils, especially Showmen pupils, travel with their parents for work purposes and may be absent from school for long periods of time.
- Early communication and planning with the Traveller/Showmen pupil, parents and staff is vital before the travelling season begins in order for Traveller and Showmen pupils to have access to distance learning materials to support their learning whilst travelling.
- Careful planning and support may also be needed to support their return.
- See the EMTAS website for more on [Distance Learning](#).

Relationships & Sex Education



- Most Traveller families deal with sex-related issues within their own communities and may not allow their children to attend lessons that focus on this.
- Discuss RSE with parents in advance of any lessons on this topic so they are clear that Relationships Education is statutory but that they have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education up to two terms before the child's 16th birthday when it becomes the child's choice whether they attend or not.
- EMTAS has worked with Traveller parents to co-produce teaching resources to support Traveller and Showmen pupils to access key parts of the RSE curriculum.

Transition



- If necessary, assist Traveller and Showmen parents with applications for a school place and consider deadlines if they are travelling when the application round is open.
- If parents are considering withdrawing their child from education, make sure they understand the implications and their responsibilities with regards EHE (Elective Home Education).
- EMTAS offer transition support for Traveller and Showmen pupils moving into Year R, between KS1 and KS2 and between KS2 and KS3. See the EMTAS website for more information about transition.

Home-school communication



- Have a named member of staff with whom Traveller/Showmen pupils and parents can discuss issues that arise. Traveller/Showmen parents may not be aware of issues to do with attendance, when to apply for school places or how to access free school meals; the Traveller/Showmen lead can proactively approach parents to make sure they don't miss these things.
- Ensure clear communication that helps Traveller and Showmen parents feel valued and listened to.
- Where there are difficulties, EMTAS can support schools to work towards solutions with Traveller and Showmen parents.

Training



- EMTAS offers whole school training to raise awareness of Traveller and Showmen cultures and best practice when working with Traveller and Showmen pupils and families.
- There is also an e-learning module available on the EMTAS Moodle. Contact EMTAS to get a password to access this.

Traveller Excellence Award



- The EMTAS Traveller Excellence Award is an online self-evaluation tool supporting schools to develop and embed best practice and provision for Traveller pupils and communities.
- Following a successful submission, schools can achieve an Award which remains valid for two years.
- See EMTAS website for more information about the [Traveller Excellence Award](#).

Links



- [Traveller Excellence Award](#)
- [Friends, Families and Travellers](#)
- [Travellers' Times](#)

- [EMTAS blog](#) – Traveller and Showmen specific articles
- [Traveller videoscribe](#)