



A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A FUTURE

Whitminster Endowed C of E Primary School

Traveller Education Policy

Agreed by Governors: Spring Term 2025
Review Date: Spring Term 2027

Ethos of the school

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Each child is recognised as an individual and encouraged to develop his or her varying talents, interests and potential. We aim to provide an ethos in which pupils can learn and be happy, providing them with a firm and lasting foundation of knowledge and values to serve them as they grow up and take their place in society.

At Whitminster School we have Gypsy/Roma Travellers, Showmen travellers and occasionally travellers of Irish heritage.

Whitminster School is committed to the development and promotion of Equality of Opportunity for all. We have high expectations of all our pupils regardless of their ethnicity, culture, gender or background.

We recognise DfE's comments that Gypsy/Roma or Travellers of Irish heritage are the group most at risk in the education system.

"Although there is some evidence of growing economically and educationally successful Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (Ryder and Greenfield, forthcoming), there is still concern that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils are reported to be amongst the lowest achieving ethnic groups within schools in England, are more likely to be identified as having special educational needs (SEN), and are four times more likely than any other group to be excluded from school as a result of their behaviour (DfES, 2005; DCSF, 2009a)."

Our policy aims to promote good attendance and attainment for all our Travelling pupils.

Leaders are ambitious for all pupils, including those with SEND and those from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Teachers make sure that all pupils get the support they need.

OFSTED inspection May 2022

Access to school places

As a school, we have a statutory duty to make education available for all children of primary school age in line with the Local Authority's statement of intent:

Admission, initial assessment and induction of new or returning Traveller pupils (also see school attendance policy)

1. In line with the school's standard admission number for each year group of 15 children, places will be offered according to the availability of places within each of those year groups. Should a particular year group be full then any subsequent children requiring places will be added to the waiting list.

2. When Traveller families are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school (but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision), the pupil can remain on roll at Whitminster School (T CODE). To help ensure continuity of education for Traveller children we advise that the child should attend school elsewhere when their family is travelling and can be dual registered at that school and the main school.

Children from these groups whose families do not travel are expected to register at a school and attend as normal. They are subject to the same rules as other children in terms of the requirement to attend school regularly once registered at a school.

3. Contact is made with the previous school for any relevant records they may have.

It should be noted that all children admitted to the school are regarded as full and equal members of the school community in every sense, regardless of their likely length of stay.

Resources and Curriculum

All pupils, whatever their gender, ability, ethnicity or social circumstances, have equal access to all areas of the curriculum.

In line with our Equality policy the school actively seeks to include traveller culture. The school's resources and curriculum should reflect and celebrate our ethnically and culturally diverse society (e.g. multi-cultural jigsaws, story and information books, etc).

If the school is informed that a Traveller child is about to move on and distance learning materials are needed, school will provide a distance learning pack which will be appropriate to each child's needs, level and ability. The family and school will liaise to ensure that the work is understood and expectations are clear and appropriate. The children will receive feedback on the work completed during their travels on returning to school.

Pupils will be asked to share their work from another school if one was attended whilst travelling or a diary kept of their time travelling.

Staff information and training

We have a named member of staff and named school governor to take responsibility for Equal Opportunities issues, including Traveller issues. To find out these people please ask the school office.

Working with parents

All Traveller parents and children are given equal access to all school activities. Every effort is made by staff to be sensitive to all parents' needs and personal contact will be made with parents to ensure equal access to information. The school endeavours to inform parents by whatever means appropriate. One to one communication is held between the family and teacher.

Monitoring and Review

Attendance

The school regularly monitors attendance for all pupils and will inform the EEI team if there are any concerns. The school will ask for proof of work when travelling e.g work

permits, dates of fairs etc. The school actively promotes regular attendance and encourages attendance in other schools whilst travelling.

Review

Traveller matters will be reviewed regularly as part of the analysis sessions between headteacher and class teacher and can be raised through the standing staff meeting agenda item, cause for concern, to ensure that there are no negative trends in comparison with other pupils.

For further information on monitoring different groups see our Equality Policy.