

Advice for Schools: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Families Travelling for Work Purposes

Some GRT parents may need to take their children out of school to travel for work purposes.

The legislation (*Education Act 1996 Section 444(6)*) regarding school attendance recognises this and provides protection from unreasonable prosecution if children are absent whilst parents are travelling for their trade or business. This applies to children who meet both the following criteria:

- **Pupils are ascribed as:**
 - Gypsies (inc. Romanies, Romanichals, Welsh Gypsies/Kaale, Scottish Gypsies/Travellers)
 - Irish Travellers (inc. Minceir)
 - Roma (from Eastern and Central Europe)
 - Occupational Travellers (Showmen/Fairground)
 - Circus people
 - Boat Travellers/Bargees
 - New Age Travellers
- **The parent/carer is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature that requires them to travel from place to place** (*Education Act 1996 Section 444(6)*)

If a child meets the above criteria, the Headteacher should consider the following points before authorising an absence:

- The child attends regularly when not travelling
- The child has been in school for at least 100 days (200 sessions) in the 12 month period prior to their expected return date from travelling (*Education Act 1996 Section 444(6)*)
- Parents have completed a leave of absence request form before the period of travel for work. It is recommended that parents/carer provide evidence to show they are travelling for work purposes.
- Parents have given the school an expected return date and stay in regular contact.
- Do the parents intend to dual register their child whilst away? Could the child's learning be supported through online/distance learning provision?

Decisions should be made consistently and fairly, on a case-by-case basis. Parents/carers should fully understand the decision-making process (the parent/carer flow chart can support this process).

Further advice available:

Email: rema@surreycc.gov.uk or contact SCC Inclusion Team