

Both Gypsy and New Traveller children have attended Broadhempston Primary School:

“Every Traveller child in the school has been wonderful. The staff thoroughly enjoyed having them and working with them and have been sorry to see them go”.

Roger Clarke, Headteacher (Nov 1999)

DEVON CONSORTIUM TRAVELLER EDUCATION SERVICE

is a partnership between Devon County Council, Plymouth City and Torbay Council. It is a support service within the Education, Arts and Libraries Directorate.

THE DEVON CONSORTIUM TRAVELLER EDUCATION SERVICE

works to give

Gypsy and Traveller children access to equal opportunities in mainstream schools alongside all children

and works to make

resources giving perspectives on Traveller cultures

available to

all children in every school

For further information, training sessions, resources, booklets or other support contact: Devon Consortium Traveller Education Service, Redworth House Ashburton Road, Totnes TQ9 5JZ

Tel: 01392 386811 Fax 01392 386829

Email: ckiddle@dial.devon.gov.uk or maxford@devon.gov.uk

Look at our website: www.devon.gov.uk/eal/pandp/traveller

ARE YOU INCLUDING EVERYONE?

(Notes for School Governors)

In the year 1999 – 2000 the Devon Consortium Traveller Education Service (DCTES) had contact with 354 Gypsy and Traveller children between the ages of 5 and 16. 227 attended school for all or part of the year. 58 did not have access to school or any other provision.

“ GYPSY TRAVELLER CHILDREN ARE THE GROUP MOST AT RISK IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM”.

(OFSTED 1999)

‘ Clare Thomas, headteacher of Yealmpstone Farm Primary School in Plympton, was praised for dealing with Traveller children when she was nominated for the annual Teacher of the Year awards earlier this year.

She said that Traveller children often had disruption to their education if they moved around.

Mrs Thomas added: “But we found that having Traveller children in class was advantageous to us in that it helped teach our pupils about different cultures”.

Evening Herald 20.10.99

‘Both Dave and Rosie from DCTES were so supportive and helpful, to both the school and the Traveller families, that the lines of communication between us were always open’.

Sue Hawker, Shebbear Primary, Feb 2001

WOULD YOUR SCHOOL MAKE THEM WELCOME ?

WHO ARE TRAVELLERS?

The word 'Traveller' embraces a number of separate and distinct groups. Some are Travellers because of ethnicity, some by reason of mobility, some because of both of these factors:

- **Gypsy Travellers** – live in housing or on council or private sites. Some are settled, others travel seasonally or occasionally from bases in Devon. Some families regularly resort to the area, but if no legal places to stop are available they are subject to swift eviction.
- **Irish and Scottish Travellers** – resort to the area throughout the year. If they are on unauthorised sites they are subject to swift eviction.
- **Fairground Travellers** – some families have winter quarters in the consortium area (Devon, Plymouth and Torbay). Other families (beyond those with winter bases here) come into the area as part of their travelling season.
- **Circus Travellers** – circuses periodically come into the consortium area as part of their travelling season.
- **New Travellers** – families stop regularly or occasionally in the area. Some have legal places to camp, others are on unauthorised sites and subject to eviction.
- **Roma** – This is the name by which most Gypsy Travellers from the countries of Eastern Europe wish to be known.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Due to mobility and the lack of sufficient legal places to stop, the education of Traveller children is often interrupted. Therefore the DFEE makes funding available to LEAs, through the Standards Fund to enable support services to be maintained and offer equal opportunities to Traveller children. The Traveller Education Services enable some continuity of education, they work with schools to provide distance learning and they support schools and pupils with teaching, training and resources as necessary within budget limits.

“Our weeks visit of five children from a touring circus, in the summer of 2000, proved very successful thanks to the input from DCTES.

Ros Coombe, Tavistock Community Primary School, Feb 2001

TRAVELLER CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO SCHOOL AS EVERY OTHER CHILD

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE DIFFICULTIES OF ACCESS FOR MOBILE CHILDREN AND HAS PASSED SOME SPECIFIC LEGISLATION TO HELP:

DUAL REGISTRATION

Many Traveller children have a winter 'base' school to which they regularly return each year. While travelling seasonally away from their base the children may temporarily attend other schools for short periods. In these circumstances, dual registration is allowed so that the base school places may be kept open for the children when they return.

Attendance at other schools, for however brief a period, helps with continuity of education and enables the children to keep in contact with the 'World of School'.

INFANT CLASS SIZES

Traveller children coming temporarily into schools as they travel may be regarded as exceptions to the limits on numbers in infant classes. They may be enrolled, even though this means that numbers may go over 30 for a period.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- 'Traveller Children in School' A booklet for the use of school administrators and headteachers. (DCTES 1999)
- 'The Work of the Traveller Education Service' (DCTES New Edition available Easter 2001)
- 'The Education of Travelling Children' (OFSTED 1996)
- 'Raising The Attainment of Minority Ethnic Pupils: School and LEA responses' (OFSTED 1999)
- 'Working Towards Inclusive Education: Aspects of Good Practice for Gypsy Traveller pupils' (DFEE 2000)

MORE EXTENSIVE READING LISTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM DCTES ON REQUEST