

Norfolk Practice Week

The Art of Individuality

Monday 18 – Friday 22 May 2026

Respecting and Empowering Individual Identity
in Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Children and
Young People

Hilary Heath, GRT Team Manager
Rachel Yates, Specialist GRT Practitioner
Claire Tattersall, Specialist GRT Practitioner
GRT Service, Partnerships Schools and Communities



Welcome...

We'd love you to participate but please use the 'raise hand' facility to ask questions and contribute when others are talking.

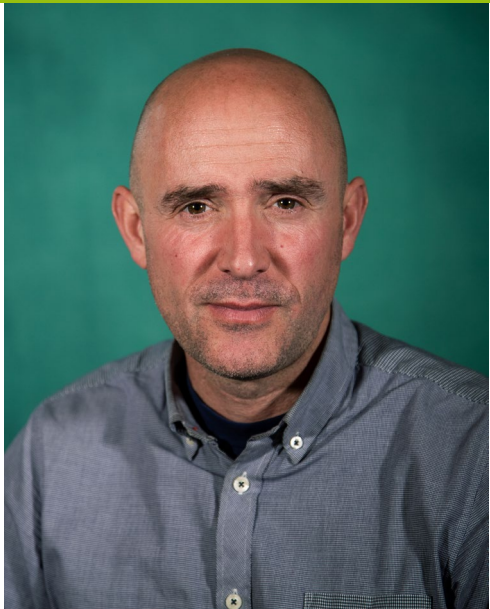
Please be considerate to others – this should be a safe, open and reflective space to learn.

If you need live captions, click on the 3 dots at the top of your screen.

Please do take 2 minutes to provide us with some feedback – we love to hear what you think. The QR code and link will be provided later.

Some of these Practice Week sessions are being recorded for learning purposes. Your presenter will let you know at the start.

Thank you!



Primary, Secondary and Roma Adviser



Specialist GRT Practitioner



GRT Team Manager



Specialist GRT Practitioner



Community Liaison Officer



Specialist GRT Practitioner



Community Liaison Officer

GRT Team
GRT Advisers
Specialist GRT Practitioners
Community Liaison Officers

Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Cultural Awareness Training



Showmen



Barge or Boater



Romani Gypsy

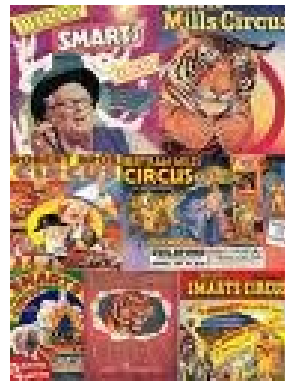
Who Are Our Gypsy Roma Traveller Children and Young People



Roma



Scottish



Circus



New Travellers



Irish Travellers

How do we support GRT Children and young people in schools to feel respected as individuals and confident in their own identity?

The GRT Service supports Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people by working in close partnership with schools and families to promote identity, belonging, equality and improved learning outcomes.

Our practice is child-centred, and culturally informed, ensuring that each child is recognised, respected and supported as an individual.

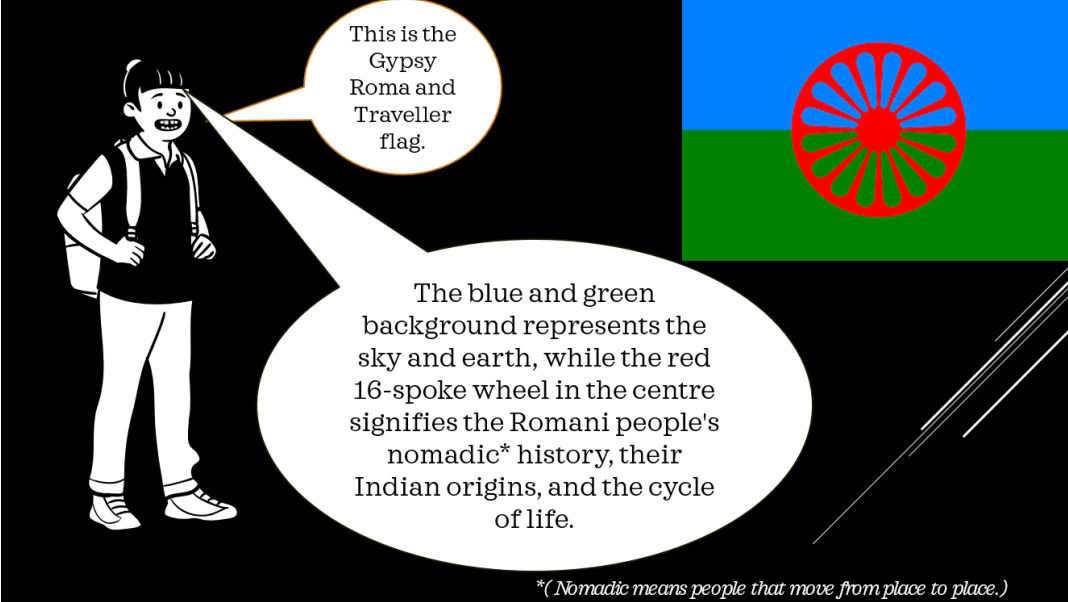
We promote inclusive practice and provide resources that enable schools to embed GRT histories and culture across the curriculum.

We place pupil voice at the heart of planning, ensuring each child's views, experiences and aspirations shape the support they receive.

We provide GRT Training for schools to develop accurate knowledge and understanding of GRT culture, enabling a whole school approach to inclusive practice that ensures GRT children and young people feel respected as individuals and have a strong sense of belonging.

Celebrating GRT Identity and Culture in School

“Other kids were saying unkind things to me because I am a Gypsy and some of them were from people I thought were my friends.”



This is the Gypsy Roma and Traveller flag.

The blue and green background represents the sky and earth, while the red 16-spoke wheel in the centre signifies the Romani people's nomadic* history, their Indian origins, and the cycle of life.

**(Nomadic means people that move from place to place.)*

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN, HAVE A GO AT SPEAKING THE ROMANI LANGUAGE TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU!

English	Romanes	Pronunciation
What is your name?	So see chiro nav?	(soh see CHEE-roh nahv')
My name is...	Murro nav see...	(moo-roh nahv see)
Man/boy	Mush	
Woman/girl	Rakli	(rackleye)
Oh dear	Oh dordi	(oh Dordee)
Non-travelling person	Gorja	



Thank you for listening and learning about the Gypsy Roma and Traveller culture.

REMEMBER... WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN CULTURES AND WE SHOULD ALL RESPECT EACH OTHER.

“I feel really proud of my PowerPoint ”

Celebrating GRT Identity and Culture in School



“Feedback from other children in regard to the books and the display, they really love the display and have made reference to how nice it looks in the library. They have also been reading the books and have enjoyed the stories and learning facts about the GRT community from the information bubbles. B is really proud of the display, and I feel that it has increased her confidence to celebrate her culture more in school and to raise the profile of the GRT community.

Celebrating GRT Identity and Culture in School

Did you know...



Gypsies come from all different types of homes.

Some live in houses.

Some live in trailers.

Some live on boats.

Some live in caravans.

Some live on sites.

They are still gypsies no matter where they live or what they do.

Raising awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Culture in our school. Breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes.

Did you know...



Gypsies can have all types of jobs.

Boxer, Plasterers, construction, roofers, hair stylists, beauticians.

Many own their own companies.

Going against stereotypes many are teachers, doctors, and even government workers.

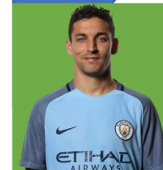
Raising awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Culture in our school. Breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes.

Did you know...



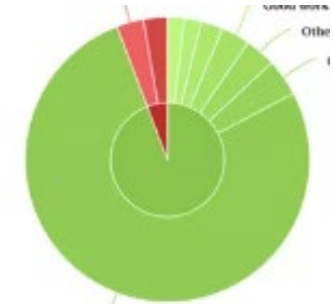
Some Famous Gypsies are:

- Rita Hayworth (Actor)
- Billy Brazil (Boxer)
- Tyson Fury (Boxer)
- Jesus Navas (Footballer)
- Jose Antonio Reyes (Footballer)
- Oona Chaplin (Actor)



Raising awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Culture in our school. Breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes.

Celebrating GRT Identity through a Child Led Approach



“A lot of things A talks to Claire about school don’t know but it helps A regulate. Sessions in the mornings set her up for good days, she is calmer. Without the sessions it would affect the outcomes of GCSEs.”

Head of Year:
“You are one of the successes of Year 11.”

“A is ‘Smashing it!’
More mature.”

Dad: “Massive improvement in her behaviour, attitude and how she respects people. Understanding there’s always 2 sides to a story.”

Why Celebrating GRT Culture in Schools Matters

Gypsy Roma Traveller children and young people have the poorest educational outcomes of any other ethnic group.

An inclusive ethos and high expectations mean GRT children can flourish and there is no inherent reason why a child from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller community should not achieve as well as any other child.




The GRT Service works in partnership with schools and settings to close the achievement gap, providing culturally inclusive support and resources that empower every GRT child and young person to feel confident in their identity, thrive academically, and experience a strong sense of belonging.



Provide a Culturally Inclusive Curriculum




GRT PADLETS

What can
Schools do?



Norfolk GRT Service

Culturally Reflective Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Showmen Resources for educational settings.

<p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Padlet</p>  <p>GRT Cultural Resources (padlet.com)</p>	<p>Showmen and Circus Travellers Padlet</p>  <p>Showman and Circus Resources (padlet.com)</p>
<p>World War 2 Roma Holocaust Padlet</p>  <p>World War 2 Resources (padlet.com)</p>	

The GRT Service have produced three Padlets with the aim of offering schools the opportunity to enhance the diversity content of their teaching and learning by embedding GRT history and culture into their curriculums.

What can Schools do?

Provide a Culturally Inclusive Curriculum GRT PADLETS

NCC Partnerships. Schools and Communities team + 2 • 1d

GRT Cultural Resources

Held by GRT team

Primary and Secondary Education

Celebrations, Displays & Assemblies

PSHE

History & Science

D&T and Homes

Art & Craft

Music

Early Years

Cultural Books & Loan Boxes

Ofsted
Ofsted has been incorporating the concept of "cultural capital" into its inspections, particularly in the early years, to assess how well schools and early years settings are equipping children for their future success and preparing them to be informed and engaged citizens. These cultural resources will help you to support this across your school.

This section includes EYFS KS1/2 and 3 materials. These resources have been made and are owned by Norfolk County Council. They are free to download and use. Resources must not be altered when used in schools. We welcome any feedback regarding use and impact of the resources in your school or education setting.

Please email this to claire.tattersall@norfolk.gov.uk.

GRT resource boxes of culturally reflective books and materials are available and can be loaned to schools and

GRT History Month
June is GRT History Month. This year the theme is: Onwards with Hope. Use the resources on our Padlets to help your school celebrate it together!

Friends, Families and Travellers - History Month: Onwards with Hope



PDF
GRTHM26-Education-Pack
Explore this year's FFT Education Pack for GRT History Month

Competition Time



PDF
GRTHM26Competition
This year's Friends, Families and Travellers competition. Think about your future and what gives you hope.

Gypsy Roma Traveller Timeline

Considering your next steps? Look at these positive Roma role models to help you.



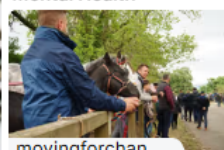
compas.org.uk
Positive Roma role models - COMPAS.org.uk
What will you do after Year 11 and Year 13? Look at these positive Roma role models to help you.

Mental Health in GRT communities KS3



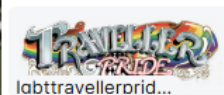
PDF
Mental Health in GRT Communities 1 page

Support for GRT Mental Health



movingforchan...
Gypsy and Traveller Suicide and Mental Health Resources - Moving for Change

LGBT Traveller Pride



Norwich's Romani History



Romani people have been in this county for longer than we thought. Evidence has been found in Norwich showing DNA from nearly 400 years earlier than anything else already documented.

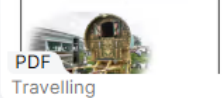
Romani Archaeologist John Henry Phillips



bbc.co.uk
Digging for Britain - Series 12: 6. Lost Mansions and Impaled Prisoners

Watch from: 26mins. Take a look at home Romani Archaeologist John Henry Phillips and his team are uncovering a Romani site in the New Forest. See how the community were forced to stop travelling and move into houses after the encampment

Travelling Patterns



PDF
Travelling

GRT Homes are often moving vehicles so could be explored in Design Technology too!

Homes information and photo pack. EYFS/KS1/KS2/KS3

PDF
Homes photo pack v2

Build a 3D Bow Top Wagon

Instruction Writing— Traditional Bow Top Wagon KS1/KS2/KS3

PDF
Instructions__Traditional_Bow_Top_Wagon__Medium_Level

Build a 3D Reading Wagon.

Instruction Writing— Traditional Reading Wagon KS1/KS2/KS3

Colouring & Activity Books

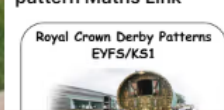


Chanel Lee is a mother of 4 from a Travelling family. She has created these activity books that offer activities that GRT children and young people can relate to: https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/Chanel-Lee/author/BODTK4F6R3?ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true#

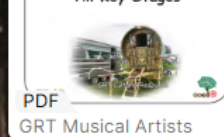
Fine Motor Skills Traditional Flower Craft Early Years/KS1

PDF
Traditional Flower Craft Fine Motor Control

Art - with a repeating pattern Maths Link

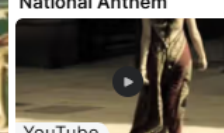


GRT Musicians All Key Stages



PDF
GRT Musical Artists

Djelem, Djelem (Gelem, Gelem) National Anthem



YouTube
Djelem Djelem - Barcelona Gipsy Klezmer Orchestra
Romani National Anthem.

GRT Singers and Songs



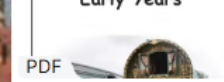
PDF
Gypsy-Traveller-Voices-PDF

An interactive resource with links to traditional Gypsy and Traveller singers and their songs to share with your children and young people.

Sugar Shane

Small world and role play

Small World & Role Play Ideas Early Years



PDF
Small World & Role Play Ideas

Explore how you could include some of these cultural ideas within your small world and role play areas.

Would you rather activity

Would You Rather...? Discussion & Oracy Development EYFS/KS1



PDF
Would You Rather. Discussion and Oracy Development

Explore Oracy development using these cultural questions.

Kathleen Cunningham

Nursery Rhymes & Poems Kathleen Cunningham EYFS



PDF
Nursery Rhymes & Poems Kathleen

We have a range of book loan boxes for schools/education settings to borrow. Each box is either aimed at Primary or Secondary, and include a mixture of both new and historical texts. Many are written by GRT Community members and will help support your planning and teaching. Take a look at each box to see which books you would like to explore!

Primary Box 1



PDF

Primary Cultural Loan box 1

Primary Box 2



PDF

Primary Cultural Loan box 2

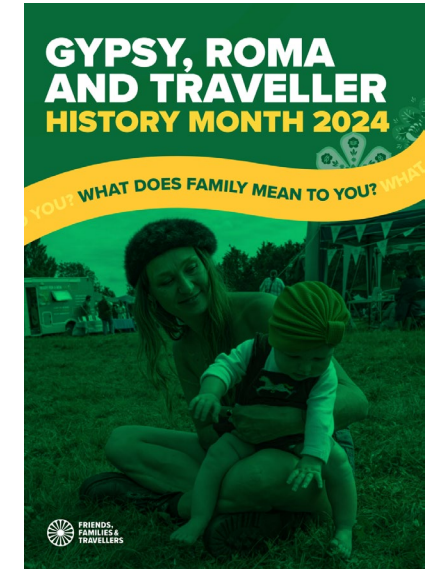
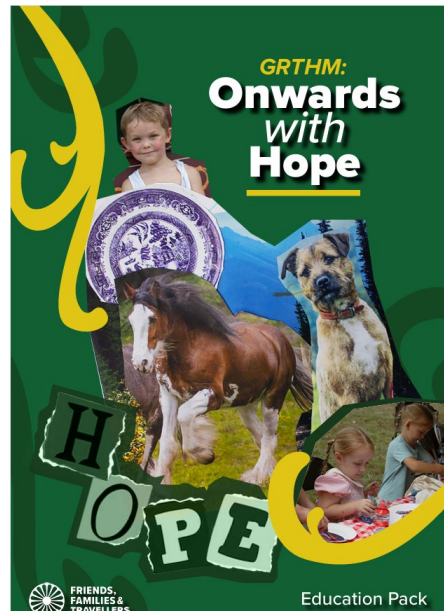
Primary Box 3



Celebrate GRT History Month (GRTHM) in June

What can Schools do?

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. Through celebration, education and raising awareness, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in wider society.



Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month
2022



Identity and Belonging



Identity and belonging–

For many GRT families, extended family are a part of their day to day living and help to shape who they are. This helps to keep **cultural traditions, language, and values alive.**



child voice

“I live on site, close to others in my family. I love living there because I get to see family every day and I can learn about how we cook and clean and take care of each other ”

“They used to cook on a fire. You have 3 sticks and a rope or chain. Then you hang your kettle on it and hunt for food.”

“I want others to know about my family and how we live near each other and help. My Mum cares for my Granny and Granddad, just like they did for her grandparents. It’s just the way it is for us”

“Gypsies can live in trailers, caravans, houses and mobile homes, they will still be a Gypsy because it is their ethnicity.”

“I am proud to be a Gypsy because I am different to non-Gypsy people and I can tell them about my way of life and they can learn we are interesting and nice.”

“You can’t stop being a Gypsy its in your blood.”

“Before she used to hide the fact that she is a Gypsy but now she is open and proud.”
(teacher)

“I felt really scared to speak but once I got started it was good”

GRT Service Website and Self-serve resources for schools

- [One Minute Guide](#): Who Are Our GRT CYP? Links to national websites, videos
- [GRT Bite Size Briefings](#) : Celebrating GRT History Month Video, Gypsy Roma Traveller Lifestyle, History and Culture; Gypsy Roma Traveller Attendance and Using the T Code
- [GRT Toolkit](#): Thematic toolkit padlet and [Whole School Approach](#) to GRT in schools
- **GRT Cultural Awareness Training for Schools and Settings**
sendandinclusiontraining@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **Inclusion Phonenumber 0333 313 7165**

**What can
Schools do?**

Celebrating

GRT History month

QUESTIONS?



Norfolk
County Council

Please take 2 minutes to
provide us with some feedback

