

## **TRAVELLER EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE**

### **Background**

Traveller pupils most commonly fall into one or more of the following groups:

- Romany Gypsies
- Travellers of Irish Heritage
- Showmen's Children (fairs and circuses)
- New Travellers

They may be living, or may have lived in any or all of these ways:

- On permanent county council sites
- On permanent or short stay privately owned sites
- On temporary unauthorised sites
- In temporary housing (public or private)
- In permanent housing (public or private)

Romany Gypsy, and Travellers of Irish heritage are recognised under the Race Relations Act as minority ethnic groups. There are no reliable statistics that indicate the population of Travellers within Surrey, however there are good reasons to believe that Romany/Gypsies form the largest ethnic minority group within the county.

The Traveller Education Support Service remains a centrally held service with Children's Service, working collaboratively with services for Children and Young People. The Service works with a wide range of agencies to raise awareness of cultural diversity and the implications for the education of Traveller pupils.

### **2002/03 Data**

TESS supported 627 pupils through the year in 86 primary, 20 secondary and 7 special schools + 2 Early Years settings.

58% of year 6 pupils transferred to secondary schools within Surrey. This figure does not take into account the numbers who transfer out of County or long term housed Gypsy/Roma or Irish Travellers.

During the course of the year 60% of highly mobile Traveller pupils were placed at the first school approached. The average response time by Field Officers was 1.75 days from being notified of the presence of the Mobile Travellers.

There is a 98% positive evaluation of the Service by schools receiving support from TESS and 100% positive evaluations of INSET delivered to schools and other agencies.

**Numbers supported by Types of Traveller is as follows:**

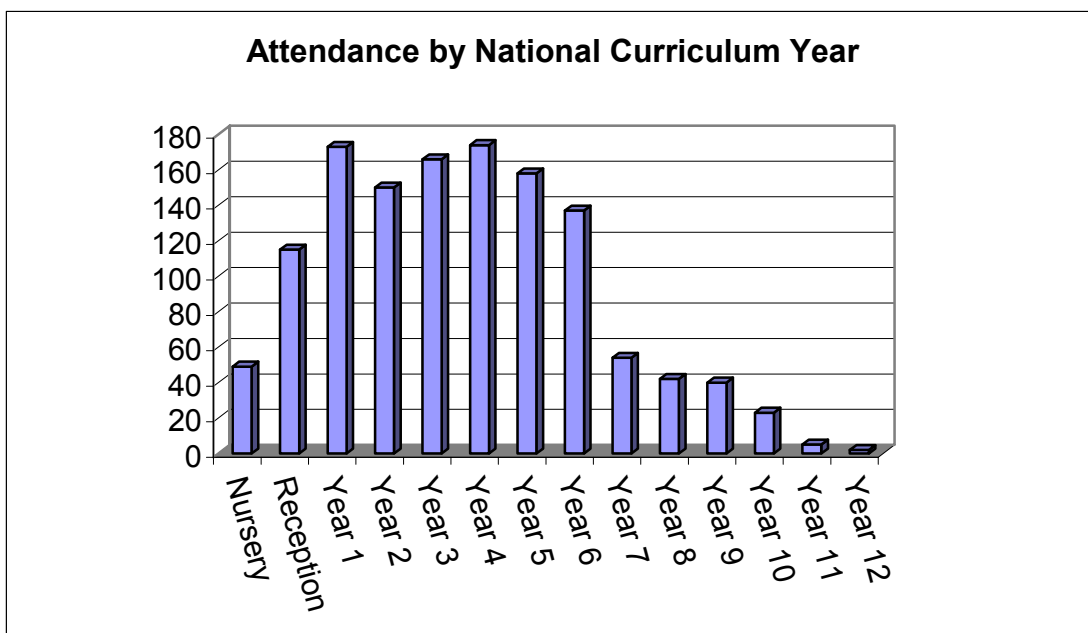
Phase	Count Of Child ID	Type of Traveller	Academic Year
Early Years	2	English	2002/03
Early Years	4	Highly Mobile	2002/03
Primary	9	Circus	2002/03
Primary	349	English	2002/03
Primary	40	Fairground	2002/03
Primary	26	Irish	2002/03
Primary	107	Highly Mobile	2002/03
Secondary	57	English	2002/03
Secondary	8	Fairground	2002/03
Secondary	2	Irish	2002/03
Secondary	3	Highly Mobile	2002/03
Special	5	English	2002/03
Special	2	Highly Mobile	2002/03

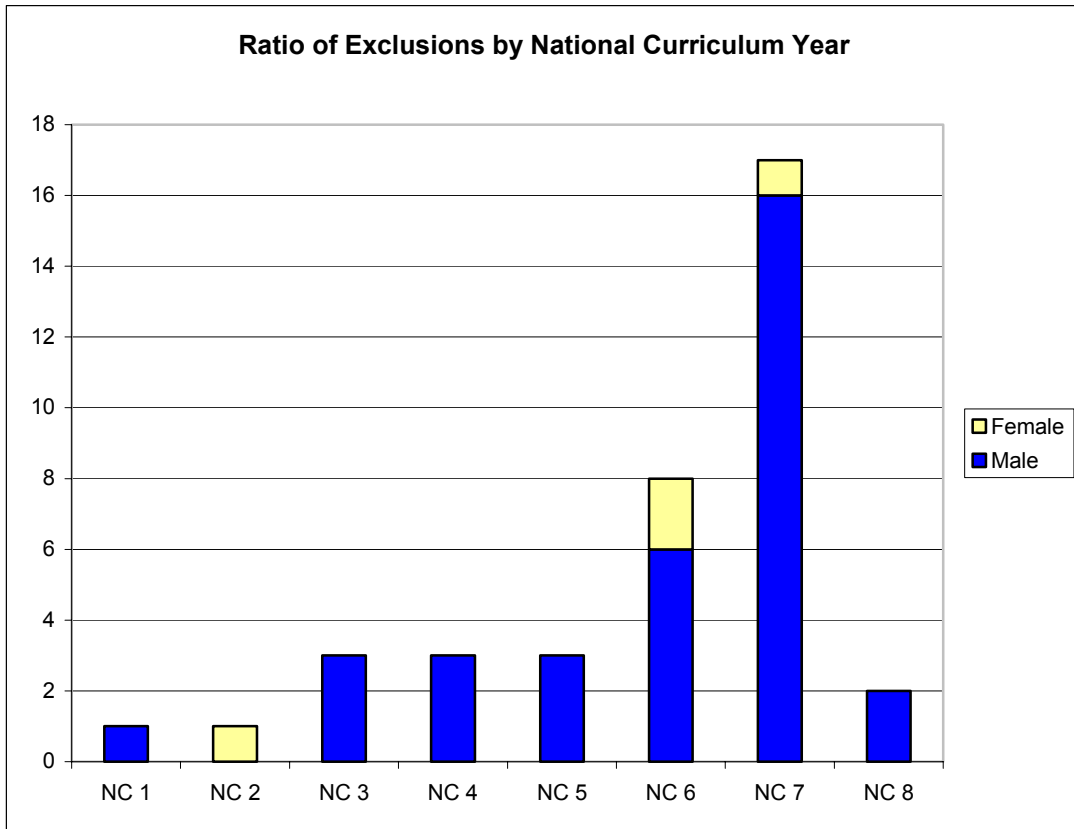
**Numbers of Traveller pupils supported by Borough**

Runnymede	125
Guildford	93
Waverley	89
Spelthorne	62
Tandridge	54
Surrey Heath	47
Reigate and Banstead	41
Elmbridge	36
Woking	29
Mole Valley	27
Epsom	24

### Number of schools supported by Borough

Guildford	17
Runnymede	16
Spelthorne	14
Woking	14
Surrey Heath	11
Reigate and Banstead	9
Waverley	8
Elmbridge	7
Mole Valley	7
Epsom	6
Tandridge	6





The rate of exclusions is inconsistent with the numbers of Travellers attending in each National Curriculum year

The number of children of school age residing / resorting to Surrey during 2002/3 contacted/supported by TESS

- English Gypsy Roma 929
- Fairground 123
- Irish Travellers 94
- Highly Mobile 403
- **TOTAL 1549**

### **Pupil Attendance percentages by phase of Education**

Phase	Percentage Attendance
Primary	76.6%
Secondary	67.4%
Special	73.9%
Overall	72.6%

## Comparative Data with previous years: Attendance percentages

Overall attendance across Surrey by Traveller children

Average attendance for year 1999/2000	71.8%
Average attendance for year 2000/2001	71.4%
Average attendance for year 2001/2002	71.5%
Average attendance for year 2002/2003	72.6%

## Transfer to Secondary

The table below compares the percentage of year 6 pupils who transfer to Secondary school. These figures do **not** include pupils who transfer and attend Secondary schools out of County or are housed for over two years.

July to September	Pupils in year 6 - Summer term	Pupils in Year 7 - Autumn Term	% transfer
2001	48	27	56.3%
2002	46	30	65.2%
2003	55	32	58.2%

## Long Stay Traveller pupils (Provisional figures)

The number of Housed Travellers attending schools in Surrey is 442.

There are 31% more in Primary than Secondary education. The shortfall in Secondary pupils is likely to be the unwillingness of parents and pupils to be ascribed as Travellers.

## Attendance of Long Stay Travellers

(The following data is based upon the Summer Term only)

Long Stay Travellers			
NC Year	Pupils	Total attendance	Percentage
Year 7	26	817	54%
Year 8	28	888	55%
Year 9	27	726	46%
Year 10	16	414	45%
Year 11	7	144	35%
Secondary	104	2989	50%
Primary	338	15469	79%
Total	442	18458	<b>72%</b>

## **Service Highlights/Developments**

- Improved data collection has identified an additional 400 long term housed Traveller pupils
- Production of non chronological Literacy Book for KS1 relating to Surrey Travellers entitled 'Mobile Homes' This has now been published and is being marketed to other LEA's
- Very positive LEA OFSTED Report on the inspection of the Traveller Education Support Service
- Approved Connexions bid to appoint a Personal Adviser to work with Traveller pupils across the County
- Training delivered to a wide variety of audience totalling 444 people, including school governors and elected members
- Collaborative work with 4S in relation to joint monitoring visits regarding statutory compliance in schools especially with regard to Race Equality
- Collaborative work with C & YP on Race Equality in schools
- Development of curriculum guidance at KS3

## **Key Challenges**

- Raising expectations and aspirations
- Increase number and retention of Traveller pupils in schools, particularly at secondary phase
- Meet National and LEA targets
- Mobility and continuity
- Access
- Attendance
- Achievement

## **The Ofsted Report 'Provision and Support for Traveller pupils' HMI 455 Nov.2003 states that:**

Traveller pupils make satisfactory to good progress in lessons. However progress is rarely sustained in the medium and longer term and many achieve standards that are well below the national average. The gap in attainment is widest at the secondary phase.

The vast majority of Traveller pupils linger on the periphery of the education system. The situation has persisted for too long and the alarm bells rung in earlier reports have yet to be heeded.