



**Andrew Adonis**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners

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Dear Colleague

### **Improving Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children**

Working towards and achieving good practice in the education of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people is the responsibility of everyone within the education system – the DCSF, local authorities, schools, teachers, governors, Traveller Education Support Services, parents and pupils. For a range of complex reasons these pupils are amongst the lowest achieving children in our schools. Parents and children from these communities still cite bullying and racial prejudice as endemic in their everyday lives.

Evidence is clear that when Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children can identify aspects of their history, culture and language in lessons their confidence and motivation improves. Subtle inclusion of this in the curriculum for all children can help to break down barriers and should assist schools in their duty to promote community cohesion.

I am therefore pleased to send you a sample of good quality resources that have been produced by Traveller Education Support Services. We are sending resources to nearly 700 educational settings. You will be aware that Traveller Education Support Services can also offer awareness training and advice to all staff about how best they can fully engage with parents from these communities.

The National Association of Teachers of Travellers (NATT) has agreed to evaluate the effectiveness of the resources in the spring term 2008 and I hope that you will take part in that process.

If you have any queries, wish to share your effective practice case studies or would like to discuss what more the Department can do to improve the life chances of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people please contact Sheila Longstaff, Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit at [sheila.longstaff@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.longstaff@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Adonis'.

Andrew Adonis