



**Darlington
Traveller
Education**

Working Practices & Protocols



Travellers have historically been excluded from education. Although, now most Traveller children attend schools, Ofsted has noted that they are a group most at risk of underachievement in the education system.

Darlington Traveller Education (DTE), formerly The Traveller Education and Achievement Service (DTE), aims to promote access, inclusion, achievement, attainment and opportunities for Traveller families living in or visiting Darlington. DTE are an integral part of the services The Rydal Academy provides on behalf of the Local Authority for the benefit of all Darlington Schools, Colleges and Early Years Providers.

Darlington Traveller Education offers expertise, knowledge and support around work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils (GRT). The team is staffed by a specialist Teacher, Higher Level Teaching Assistant and Education Support Worker who have a wide experience of working with GRT communities across Darlington. The team works in close partnership with schools and families to improve the outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils across the town; to help raise their attendance, attainment and aspirations.

What support is offered by DTE?

Education settings, families and **other agencies** can approach Darlington Traveller Education directly to access the following services:

Education Settings

- Advice and information to raise GRT attendance and attainment
- Advice concerning admissions, induction and school transfer
- Tracking of GRT who are Elective Home Educated (EHE)/Children Missing from Education (CME)
- Tracking of dual registration pupils
- Inclusion and access advice, including support with transition between and within phases.
- Latest advice through networking with other agencies and providers by attending Regional GRT network, SENCo Network, Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and Ofsted Regional Reference Group
- Advice on educational and cultural issues relating to GRT communities
- Deliver GRT history and cultural training workshops/assemblies
- Tailored CPD training for school staff and governors concerning cultural awareness and diversity.
- Staff mentoring
- Curriculum planning and support
- Safeguarding advice

Families

- Support for families with pre-school age children to encourage early learning and uptake of nursery and school places.
- Signpost Children and Young People (CYP) and families to available services and agencies.
- Mentoring, advice and support for GRT CYP (0-25), including future education and training pathways.
- Provide information to families around attendance and travelling, including dual school placements.
- Assist newly arrived GRT families in finding a school place.

The Requirements for Outreach

Any education setting within Darlington can access the menu of services on page 2, however schools with a higher population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and greater need will be prioritised.

Outreach settings should:

- Complete and return a referral form to ensure the needs of the school are clear and that DTE personnel have a clearly identified contact person within the setting's Senior Leadership Team.
- Ensure an agreement contract exists for the work and agreed resources are provided.
- Ensure that the request for DTE support is communicated to those involved in or affected by the work of DTE. In line with best practice these staff are involved in the contracting process.
- Involve DTE in the planning of the work to be undertaken.
- Ensure that time is made available should staff require time with the DTE representative.
- Make assessment, attendance, exclusion and/or other relevant information available to DTE staff for targeted pupils.
- Complete and return a feedback form for the work undertaken.
- Share the DTE service offer with all stakeholders.
- Ensure the work of DTE is evaluated and that you provide feedback about the work commissioned.
- Ensure issues raised by the DTE team are responded to positively, taking necessary action to address the issues.

DTE Personnel should:

- Complete Ensure they know who the contact member of the outreach setting is and communicate effectively with this member of staff.
- Ensure an agreement contract exists before they start any work.
- Ensure that the teacher(s) involved or affected by the work are absolutely clear about the reasons for, purposes of and programme for the work.
- Report to the office on arrival and departure.
- Ask for professional support from the Headteacher of The Rydal Academy if any issues they are working on extend beyond their professional responsibility.
- Produce an 'Impact report' annually to share with Darlington Borough Council and Line Manager at The Rydal Academy.
- Support and promote settings policies and key messages.
- Work efficiently and effectively in line with work plans.
- Completing agreed records or reports.
- Ensuring outreach work agreement forms are completed
- Planning thoroughly and performing to high standards.
- Keeping records of work.
- Engaging in performance management.

The Rydal Academy should:

- Co-ordinate the outreach work of DTE.
- Maintain and communicate an accurate database of DTE support and outcomes.
- Match school requests to DTE personnel expertise.
- Provide and organise professional support, performance management and CPD opportunities for DTE personnel.
- Maintain accurate records of evaluations and provide appropriate summaries to other schools, The Trust and the Local Authority.
- Ensure DTE personnel have a line manager who is responsible for his/her deployment.
- Ensure DTE personnel have the resources to enable agreed outreach work to be conducted effectively and efficiently.
- Provide staff absence cover

Monitoring & Evaluating the Outreach Work of DTE

While working in any school it is important that the named member of the SLT is aware of the work being undertaken and can evaluate it on completion.

To support the DTE personnel both in terms of their own performance management and to quality assure their work it may be requested from time to time, that the school may be visited by a member of The Rydal Academy to monitor the work of DTE. This will only take place when agreed with the school.

Following a piece of outreach work at a school, the schools will be requested to provide an evaluation of the DTE's work. To reduce administration this will be available for completion online.

Evaluation should focus on the DTE's performance and impact, for example:

- Evaluation of changes in teaching and learning.
- Evaluation of changes in schools, organisation and team performance.
- Improvement of pupil progress and attendance.
- Staff, pupil feedback and effectiveness of support.

For more information, please email darlingtontravellereducation@rydal.nalp.org.uk


Alternatively, please don't hesitate to contact the service team

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