**Gypsy/ Traveller Provision**

**Guidance for Parents**

**ASN Outreach Service**

**September 2020**



**Introduction**

Every child has the right to an education and it is the duty of the parent of every school aged child to provide that education either by sending the child to school, or by other means.

Mobile families take pride in the creative and traditional skills that have been part of their culture for generations and they see learning as a necessary, direct route to employment. As part of this Falkirk Council runs a small provision for Gypsy/ Traveller children who wish to take part in a secondary education.



**Contact Details**

The Cottage

85 Grahams Road

Falkirk

01324 501984

Gypsy-Traveller@falkirk.gov.uk

**Legal Context**

This guidance is issued in line with the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* and *Improving the lives of Gypsy/ Travellers: 2019-2021.*

This guidance applies to Gypsy/ Traveller families and the way in which local authorities can support Gypsy/ Traveller families.

Definition of a parent includes a guardian or any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities in relation to, or has care of, a child or young person as defined in Section 135(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

In relation to the child or young person themselves, there is a legal duty to consult with them in accordance with Article 12 of the *United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)* and the *Children’s Act 1995*.

The age of 12 is taken as the age of sufficient maturity for a young person to have the ability to form an opinion on decisions that affect them.

**Dress Code**

Pupils do not have to wear a uniform, but we do ask that no football colours or inappropriate t-shirts are worn.

**Absences**

Please inform us if you and your family are travelling and we will hold the place for your child open. If your child is ill please inform their teacher within the provision.

**Medical Emergencies**

If there is an emergency, parents or emergency contacts will be contacted immediately.

**Inclement Weather**

If the weather is unsafe, a staff member will call and inform you if the session is cancelled. If there is staff absence, we will attempt to cover the session. If there is no cover available, the session may need to be cancelled.

**Aim**

The aim of Falkirk Council’s Education Division Gypsy/ Traveller Provision is to provide young people from the Gypsy/ Traveller community opportunities to access education, social experiences and a sustainable positive destination.

**Sessions**

A bespoke learning plan for each young person is created which allows for individual tuition and or group learning situations. Rather than Parents’ evenings being held we encourage parents to contact staff on a regular basis to discuss their young person’s learning and achievements.



**Staff**

The Gypsy/ Traveller provision has a part-time teacher and a support for learning assistant. It sits within the line management of the ASN Outreach team.

**Location**

The provision runs 2 mornings per week between 9:00 and 12:00 and is based within The Cottage, 85 Grahams Road. One morning a week an outreach support service is provided for pupils in primary 7.