

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Children and Young People

The bowls NGB's recognise that children from GRT groups are considered more vulnerable and could face discrimination.

The Children's Society states:

"Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) people whether they are nomadic or live in settled accommodation are among the most discriminated against groups of people. The EU Commissioner for Human Rights has argued that "Gypsies would appear to be the last ethnic minority in respect of which openly racist views can still be acceptably expressed," and this kind of discrimination makes GRT children especially vulnerable to having their rights compromised. The bowls NGB should be informed of any racist bullying based on someone's ethnicity, that has not been dealt with by the club. All forms of bullying will not be tolerated.

Some people will call themselves Gypsies, others Romany, it is best to use the umbrella term of 'Traveller' and then ask the child or parent/carer what they like to be known as. Some Travellers want to be known as Romany while others prefer Gypsy or Traveller.

If you are sending written information to parents, or posting on social media, bear in mind that some, but not all Traveller parents/carers may have difficulty in reading and writing. If you are unsure of whether the information is being read, you could always reinforce this message by speaking directly to the parent/carer and dependent on the age of the child, tell them what the information is and any action that needs to be taken.

Going to away games/trips.

Some Traveller parents/carers are happy for their children to go to away games in organised transport. Others will not. Ensure that you inform the parents/carers that they can take their child to any event that you have organised by using their own transport. If you plan a residential trip, the parent/carer may not wish their child to attend and stay overnight. Sometimes they may choose to take the child to the day sessions and take them home in the evening. Another way around the issue of a child not missing out, is to invite the parent/carer to go on the residential as a parent/carer/helper.

New Travellers have made a lifestyle choice and do not have ethnic minority status.