# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **June 2024 - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** |
| **DATE**  | **31 May 2024** |
| **BY** | **Lynne Neagle, Cabinet Secretary for Education** |

Since June 2008 people across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller

History Month. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about the richness of different Gypsy, Roma and Traveller cultures, and how communities have contributed to society here in Wales, in the UK, Europe and across the world.

The Welsh Government is embedding anti-racism into the education system and driving equity in education so that every child and young person feels valued in school and education settings. In 2024-25 the Welsh Government is providing £11m in total to our local authorities via the Minority Ethnic, Gypsy, Roma Traveller (MEGRT) grant to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people who experience barriers to learning, accessing the curriculum, or education in general.

It is essential that all children are encouraged to attend school and access the benefits of education and can progress to college, university or self-employment if they want to. However, too many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people in school experience bullying, discrimination and racism. This discourages attendance, adversely affects mental health and well-being, academic attainment and future life chances.

On 07 December 2023 we published “[Celebrate and Participate: education guidance to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people](https://www.gov.wales/education-guidance-support-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-children-and-young-people)”. Our updated guidance addresses several key areas where Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners and schools identified that more guidance is required.

I encourage everyone, not just teachers and education practitioners, to find out more about the diversity of rich cultures and heritage of our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Wales in 2024’s Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month.