



## **Circular No. 0017/2011**

### **Circular to the Management Authorities of National Schools, Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools and the Chief Executive Officers of Vocational Education Committees on Revised Arrangements for the Provision of Teaching Supports to Traveller Students**

#### **1. Resource Teachers for Travellers / Teaching Hours for Traveller pupils**

This Circular provides information to schools on revised arrangements for the provision of teaching supports to Traveller pupils for the 2011/2012 and subsequent school years following the recent Budget.

Traveller pupils who are eligible for learning support teaching should receive this tuition through the existing learning support provision in schools. All schools should select pupils for learning support on the basis of priority of need. Resource Teacher for Traveller (RTT) posts/Teaching Hours for Traveller pupils will therefore be withdrawn, effective from 31 August 2011.

The principle of “individual educational need” rather than “Traveller identity” is central to *The Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy* and the key criterion underlying the recommendations of the report for the provision of additional resources to all pupils, including Traveller pupils.

If you have any queries with regards to provision under Section 1 of this circular please contact Special Education Section on 090 648 4188 /3760 /3922 /4153 /3858 /3762 /4093.

The following measures will be put into place to assist schools who have high concentrations of traveller pupils who were previously supported by Resource Teacher for Traveller posts or hours.

## **2. DEIS Primary schools currently in receipt of enhanced Pupil Teacher Ratios**

For the 2011/2012 school year, Traveller pupils will be included in the valid enrolment for the purpose of allocating additional staffing under DEIS.

If you have any queries with regards to provision under Section 2 of this circular please contact Social Inclusion Unit on – 090-6483773; 090-6483774; 090-6483772.

## **3. Alleviation Measures for all other schools**

For all schools, with the exception of schools catered for in Paragraph 2 above, alleviation measures will be put in place to assist schools who have a high concentration of Traveller pupils who were previously supported by Resource Teacher for Traveller posts.

Any proposed alleviation measures must be considered in the context of the limited resources which are available to the Department. As such, alleviation measures will be concentrated on schools which have 33 or more pupils who were previously supported by Resource Teacher for Traveller posts.

The relevant schools will be advised by further communication of the precise details of the alleviation measures which will apply and as to any criteria and conditions attaching to same.

As the precise nature of the alleviation measures for the next school year are currently being finalised, schools are requested not to contact the Department pending further advices to schools.

This circular can be accessed on the Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

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