



Submission on Priorities

To Inform the Second Action Plan for the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (2026–2028)

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Prepared by

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Introduction and Context

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre is a national Traveller and Roma organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers and Roma through a community development approach. Pavee Point combines local action with national policy and participation work to address the structural inequalities and discrimination experienced by Travellers and Roma across a range of areas, including education. With longstanding expertise in working to promote Travellers' and Roma's right to education, Pavee Point has a longstanding track record in this area, grounded in direct engagement with communities and informed by policy and advocacy work at local and national level.

Pavee Point, as a stakeholder in the Traveller and Roma Education Forum, was invited by the Department of Education and Youth Social Inclusion Unit to submit analysis and recommendations to inform the Department's successor TRES Action Plan (2026-2028). Pavee Point's submission is informed by existing and emerging issues and identifies priority actions for the next plan.

The Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES), developed in partnership with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma, presents an important opportunity to progress parity in educational participation, progression and outcomes for Travellers and Roma across the education continuum. The development of the second of its three Action Plans is particularly important in consolidating progress to date and identifying actions capable of delivering meaningful improvements in educational experiences and outcomes.

Progress has been made throughout the lifetime of the first Action Plan (2024-2026). This short submission acknowledges that the next plan for implementation and action should focus on consolidating and building on these advances to achieve improved educational access, participation, progression and outcomes for Travellers and Roma.



Key Recommendations

Pavee Point proposes that the next Action Plan prioritise the following key areas. These priorities bring together core recommendations and proposed actions for delivery by 2028, with the aim of improving Traveller and Roma children and young people's educational experiences and outcomes. In addition to identifying priorities, there is a need to strengthen the structures that support implementation, including a more structured and consistent approach to the Forum and a strengthened approach to the Oversight Group to support accountability, coordination and progress across actions.

Pavee Point has already submitted detailed consultation reports to inform the development of the second Action Plan and recognises that a number of the recommendations outlined will require strengthened existing resources and, in some cases, additional targeted investment to support meaningful implementation. The priorities set out below are intended to support both the substance of the next Action Plan and the structures needed to deliver it effectively.

1. Mainstreaming and Targeted Measures:

This should include strengthening anti-racism and Traveller and Roma inclusion across mainstream education structures through whole-school approaches, Initial Teacher Education, professional learning and school wellbeing frameworks. Priority actions should also include finalising and implementing DEI guidance for Early Years settings with explicit inclusion of Travellers and Roma; increasing curriculum visibility of Traveller and Roma ethnicity, identity, culture and experience; expanding targeted educational supports including homework clubs, literacy initiatives and after-school supports; strengthening language and communication supports for Roma families; and improving practical supports relating to transport, school meals and other financial barriers to participation.

2. Targets and Timelines:

The second Action Plan should establish clear and measurable participation, retention and progression targets across the education continuum. This includes:

- Increasing Traveller and Roma participation in Early Years education.
 - developing a baseline of Traveller and Roma enrolment in ECCE and Early Years Programmes



- Improving Junior Cycle completion and Senior Cycle retention, and increasing Leaving Certificate attainment.
 - Year-on-year increase in Traveller and Roma students progressing from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle and completing Leaving Certificate examinations of 5–10% per annum (at minimum).
- Progression to Further and Higher Education, and strengthening gender equality monitoring across educational participation and progression indicators.

Actions should be supported by clear implementation timelines, annual reporting and defined accountability mechanisms.

3. **Disaggregated Data and Evidence:**

Priority actions should include strengthening ethnic equality monitoring across the education continuum through co-produced and accessible approaches that promote voluntary self-identification among Traveller and Roma children, young people and families, support schools to build confidence and consistency in data collection processes, and ensure Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma are actively involved in promoting understanding of EEM and informing the interpretation and contextual understanding of data findings, including through the finalisation and publication of targeted resources for Traveller and Roma families.

4. **Participation and Partnership working:**

The second Action Plan should strengthen partnership working between schools, Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma to improve participation, engagement and educational outcomes. Priority actions should include developing a nationally coordinated framework for Community Link Workers; strengthening communication and engagement between schools and Traveller and Roma families; increasing Traveller and Roma participation across the education workforce; and ensuring ongoing participation of Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan and related educational policies and supports.

Educational experiences cannot be understood in isolation from wider structural and systemic factors, including racism and discrimination, poverty, homelessness/accommodation, transport, geography (rural/urban), language and communication challenges, and unequal access to supports. This reinforces the need for a whole-of-department and whole-of-government approach to Traveller and Roma educational inclusion. Improving equality of access, participation, and outcomes requires



coordinated action across relevant departments and agencies, alongside meaningful partnership with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma.

Conclusion

Pavee Point welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the second TRES Action Plan and recognises its importance in advancing educational equality for Traveller and Roma children and young people. The next phase of implementation provides an important opportunity to consolidate progress to date while strengthening the actions, accountability and partnership needed to address persistent inequalities and improve educational participation, progression and outcomes across the education continuum.

To achieve meaningful and lasting change, the Action Plan should continue to combine mainstream and targeted measures, supported by clear targets, robust data collection and strong implementation mechanisms. It will also be critical that Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma remain central to the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of actions throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

Pavee Point looks forward to continued engagement through the TRES Oversight Group, the Traveller and Roma Education Forum and to working collaboratively with the Department of Education and Youth and relevant stakeholders to support the effective implementation of the next TRES Action Plan and progress educational inclusion and equality for Travellers and Roma.