



How can I be prepared so that my child doesn't miss out on educational opportunities?

- Contact the school/s that your child is attending and ask them how the cuts will affect the supports to your children and are there costs that you may have to pay this year that you didn't have to last year.
- Ensure that remaining **Traveller capitation funding** IS spent on Travellers Education by schools by looking for accountability on how it will be spent
- Contact your local Visiting Teacher if you need support around making contact with the schools.
- **Lobby your local TD's & Politicians against these cuts as well as to make sure supports/funding for Traveller Education is ring fenced.**
- **Contact your local Traveller Organisation and or link with the ITM's Education Working Group to support ITM develop responses to these cuts**

Start saving now! YOUR CHILD NEEDS YOU TO INVEST IN THEIR EDUCATION

- **Join the credit Union, contact details:**
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- If you are already a member of the credit union, ask them about setting up a 'school savings scheme'.
 - Start saving through the local **Post office**
 - Contact local Money Advice Budgeting Service (MABS): Helpline: 1980 283438

For Extra support contact:

Local Traveller Organisation

Visiting Teacher for Travellers (VTT)

Local Vincent de Paul:

Community Welfare Officer:
Schools/Other

The information in this leaflet may need to be updated as more cuts/changes are introduced. For further info on other Ed cuts and or to feed into ITM's Education Working Group contact ITM education worker Paula Madden at educationitm@gmail.com 01 6796577

Irish Traveller Movement

Education

= Way Forward for Travellers!



ITM Education Working Group June 2009

INFORMATION LEAFLET for Traveller Parents on impact of the BUDGET CUTS on Traveller Education

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Tel: 01 679 6577

What will the impact of the Budget Cuts have on Traveller Education?

The cutbacks in the recent budget will have an impact on how your local school can support your child. The funding to schools to support Traveller children has been reduced (Traveller enhanced capitation fund cut by 50% in Oct 08 budget) which may mean that there are less supports available for Traveller children.

This funding was used in different ways by schools. Some of the ways it was used included: supporting Traveller parents around enrolment costs, contribution towards money for uniforms, books, school outings, extra tuition etc. As schools use the money in different ways it is important that you find out if the cutbacks have affected



your schools and the supports for your children. As a parent getting the right information can help you plan for unexpected costs.

What about aid/grants for school books

Grants/Aid for school books will be continued in schools that ARE in a DEIS area but have been cut to schools that are NOT in a DEIS area. A school that has DEIS status is one that the Dept of Education considers to have a very disadvantaged school population. This will mean that if your children are in a school not in a DEIS area the school will no longer be able to provide a free book scheme. There will therefore be extra costs for you as a parent so you will need to plan ahead how you might meet these costs.

Has funding towards the back to school clothing & footwear allowance been affected?

To date the payment remains the same as it was in 2008: €200 for children between 2 and 11 years, and €305 for children between 11 and 17 years, paid annually. To apply, you must fill in a Back to School Clothing & Footwear allowance form. These are available from 1st June through your CWO at your local health-centre

OTHER EDUCATION CUTS

As well as the specific cut to Traveller enhancement capitation grant, there are many other cuts/changes in the area of Education that will impact on all children including Traveller children. They include

- FREEZE on recruitment of Visiting Teacher's (VTT), Home School Liaison (HSLC) & School Completion programme (SCP) staff. This means that if for example a Visiting Teacher retires, resigns and or goes back into the classroom they will not be replaced.
- The Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers (VTT) as well as the HSLC & SCP programme from Sept 09 will all be brought under the management of the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB).
- While this has the potential to bring better co-ordination, ITM EWG are concerned that this alignment could negatively impact on Traveller Education. The NEWB's main brief is focused on school attendance & retention from 6-16 yrs,
- Will the VTST continue to be able to provide a holistic dedicated service to Travellers & their parents under the management of the NEWB and continue to support educational attainment & outcomes for Travellers as well as early school education, alternative, further & higher education?