

Spring 2024

## National report highlights education inequalities faced by learners from Gypsy, Roma & Traveller backgrounds

A [\*report by Friends, Families and Travellers \(FFT\)\*](#) has laid bare the challenges facing GRT learners across the country. It demonstrates the inequalities and barriers experienced by these learners both in learning environments and more widely. GRT learners were found to have the highest exclusion rate of all ethnic groups in the UK, and the lowest educational attainment at all key stages.

Key issues highlighted included the following:

- Student drop-off rates are consistent through secondary education and are particularly high at key points in education, including entering secondary education, continuing to Year 11, and continuing to Years 12 and 13.
- Lack of inclusive teaching environments to acknowledge and celebrate Gypsy, Traveller and Roma cultures and histories.
- Large numbers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are bullied at school.
- Digital exclusion presents barriers to learning, where there is limited access to devices or sufficient parental digital literacy to assist with home learning.
- COVID-19 has further widened the attainment gap.
- Insufficient support and mechanisms for travelling families to access and maintain education.



The report goes on to make a series of recommendations. At a governmental level, these include the development and publishing of a cross-departmental strategy to tackle inequalities and geared towards meeting educational outcomes. Other recommendations include ensuring DfE Census data does not omit learners absent on Census Day (to ensure their visibility in data); providing school staff with suitable training to support GRT learners; ensuring GRT communities are better represented in school curricula and environments; and a greater focus by Ofsted on GRT learners and their attainment.

ACERT has produced a report highlighting the attainment of KS1 and KS2 learners from Gypsy/Roma and Irish Traveller backgrounds relative to all pupils. Turn to [page 3](#) for further information.

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## Meet Nigina Nazokatova!

Our new English as an Additional Language Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Hello everyone. My name is Nigina — thrilled to join CELLIE as a newly appointed EAL HLTA .

Over the past eighteen years, my journey in education has been diverse, spanning from foundational levels to Key Stage 4. My focus has been on providing invaluable support to children with additional needs, including SEBD, SEND, and those mastering English as an additional language.

Fluency in both Russian and Farsi has been an asset in fostering communication and understanding within diverse learning environments.

My enthusiasm extends beyond the classroom; I hold a deep passion for languages, history, and art, areas that continually inspire my teaching approach.

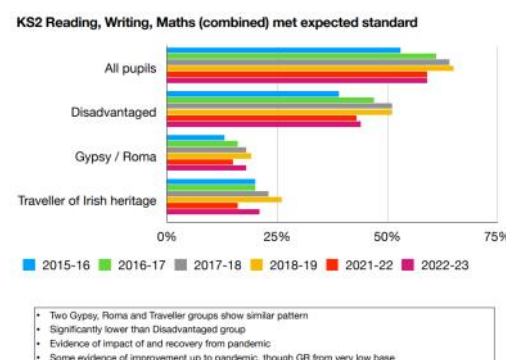


## ACERT report shows lower GRT attainment in primary schools

The Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and Other Travellers (ACERT) has generated [a report](#) from government data which highlights the disparity between the attainment of pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds and that of other pupils at KS1 and KS2.

Phonics screening at KS1 throughout the period 2015-2023 saw figures of approximately four fifths of pupils meeting expectations, though this figure slumped post-Covid to around three quarters and has still to recover. However, for GRT pupils this figure has not topped 45% in any year, albeit post-Covid attainment is at least as high as at any other time since 2015. Nevertheless, no significant progress has been made over these 8 years, and the gap to the overall number of pupils meeting expectations remains approximately 35% in deficit.

At KS2, the number of pupils meeting the standard for reading, writing and mathematics (combined) predictably dipped post-Covid. For GRT pupils as well as other pupils, this figure picked up in 2022-23; however, the proportions of pupils from these backgrounds meeting expectations remain close to one fifth, significantly behind other disadvantaged pupils, and well below half the proportion of total pupils meeting expectations at KS2.



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# Which first languages are most common among Lancashire learners?

**S**chool Census data from 2023 provides a fascinating look at the first languages of our learners in Lancashire. While English is unsurprisingly the most widely spoken language throughout Lancashire, ranging from 97.7% of all learners in Wyre to 63.7% of those in Pendle, other languages feature prominently and/or consistently across our 12 districts.

Polish is one of the most widely spoken languages in all districts, second to English in Chorley, Fylde, Lancaster, Ribble Valley, South Ribble and West Lancashire, and not lower than 6th in any district. Only Arabic (which makes the top 10 in 10 districts), Urdu and Romanian (in 9), have a similarly ubiquitous profile across Lancashire. The largest numbers of Polish learners were found in Preston (692) and Lancaster (417).

The languages with the largest minorities in particular districts include Panjabi, which is spoken by almost 16% of all learners in Pendle and a little over 7% of those in Hyndburn. Urdu is spoken by 6.5% of all learners in Burnley (where Panjabi is also widely known), while Gujarati is second to English in Preston, known to 4.2% of all Preston learners.

	Burnley	Chorley	Fylde	Hyndburn	Lancaster	Pendle
1	English (75.88%)	English (95.16%)	English (94.74%)	English (81.37%)	English (90.05%)	English (63.66%)
2	Urdu (6.52%)	Polish (1.21%)	Polish (0.69%)	Panjabi (7.03%)	Polish (2.19%)	Panjabi (15.94%)
3	Panjabi (4.18%)	Urdu (0.43%)	Russian (0.64%)	Urdu (4.23%)	Arabic (0.78%)	Urdu (12.23%)
4	Bengali (3.39%)	Arabic (0.41%)	Ukrainian (0.45%)	Polish (1.77%)	Chinese (0.58%)	Polish (1.94%)
5	Pashto (2.56%)	Malayalam (0.31%)	Latvian (0.42%)	Arabic (0.46%)	Malayalam (0.56%)	Romanian (1.46%)
6	Polish (1.43%)	Romanian (0.18%)	Malayalam (0.35%)	Bengali (0.37%)	Bulgarian (0.39%)	Lithuanian (0.69%)
7	Bulgarian (0.63%)	Tamil (0.15%)	Spanish (0.16%)	Chinese (0.20%)	Urdu (0.38%)	Arabic (0.59%)
8	Lithuanian (0.51%)	Gujarati (0.14%)	Turkish (0.14%)	Malayalam (0.17%)	Tamil (0.24%)	Spanish (0.33%)
9	Romanian (0.43%)	Spanish (0.14%)	Bengali (0.13%)	Italian (0.15%)	Gujarati (0.22%)	Italian (0.31%)
10	Arabic (0.39%)	Ukrainian (0.14%)	Romanian (0.13%)	Latvian (0.15%)	Turkish (0.22%)	Hungarian (0.21%)

	Preston	Ribble Valley	Rossendale	South Ribble	West Lancs	Wyre
1	English (71.06%)	English (95.28%)	English (94.45%)	English (94.38%)	English (93.18%)	English (97.70%)
2	Gujarati (4.22%)	Polish (1.00%)	Bengali (1.61%)	Polish (1.07%)	Polish (1.22%)	Bulgarian (0.34%)
3	Urdu (3.70%)	Urdu (0.58%)	Urdu (0.72%)	Urdu (0.40%)	Latvian (0.96%)	Polish (0.17%)
4	Polish (3.22%)	Panjabi (0.58%)	Pashto (0.40%)	Arabic (0.36%)	Portuguese (0.66%)	Arabic (0.14%)
5	Malayalam (1.73%)	Gujarati (0.41%)	Panjabi (0.37%)	Chinese (0.30%)	Romanian (0.56%)	Tamil (0.11%)
6	Arabic (1.23%)	Ukrainian (0.25%)	Polish (0.34%)	Romanian (0.22%)	Bulgarian (0.36%)	Malayalam (0.10%)
7	Panjabi (1.23%)	Chinese (0.22%)	Chinese (0.31%)	Gujarati (0.21%)	Russian (0.33%)	Ukrainian (0.10%)
8	Romanian (1.09%)	Malayalam (0.13%)	Hindko (0.17%)	Hungarian (0.14%)	Hungarian (0.33%)	Spanish (0.09%)
9	Pashto (0.74%)	Arabic (0.13%)	Romanian (0.14%)	Malayalam (0.12%)	Malayalam (0.22%)	Romanian (0.07%)
10	Bengali (0.52%)	Mandarin (0.11%)	Arabic (0.14%)	Spanish (0.12%)	Ukrainian (0.21%)	Chinese (0.06%)

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the district with the greatest variety of languages is Preston, where at least 103 different languages were counted, including 14 users of British Sign Language, as well as speakers of Tigrinya, Marathi, Wolof, Konkani and Idoma.

**Challenge:** Can you estimate how many worldwide speakers there are thought to be of these five languages? See page 5 for the answer!



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Which 1st Languages are most common among Lancashire learners?



## School Readiness at ELLIE and CELLIE

**M**any children and young people in Lancashire who are new to the country, or families that have relocated from elsewhere in the UK, have struggled to find school places due to high demand.

Our team has set up two centres for families to come to, in order to obtain help with school applications, Free School Meals applications, transport and appeals.

Our dedicated team are based at the East Lancashire Learning and Information Exchange ([ELLIE](#)) in Burnley and its Central Lancashire equivalent ([CELLIE](#)) in Preston.



Whilst children and young people are waiting for school places, they are offered school readiness sessions for up to 6 weeks in these centres. We have two fabulous HLTAs (whom you can meet on pages 3 and 5 of this issue!) who have been delivering sessions at these venues. The sessions are to support children in developing their English language skills and raising their self esteem in being able to communicate more



confidently and competently in English. The children and young people are able to develop Survival English Language (e.g. greetings, talking about oneself, numbers, days of the week, parts of the body, asking simple questions, food, and names of common school equipment). There is also the opportunity for them to develop phonic knowledge, reading and writing skills; our HLTAs are able to plan and prepare bespoke lessons

according to the needs of the children and their level of English.

If your school encounters any families requesting school places, please direct them to one of our centres where we can support them with applications and finding school places.

## Check out our EAL Resources!

If you would like to browse some ready-made resources to use with your EAL pupils, then please have a look at this page on our website: <https://tiny.cc/homelearning>.

During lockdown our EAL Tutors helped our team to develop a wide range of resources for children and young people new to English to use at home.

The images on the right provide a small selection of what you will find at the website—click on either to take a fuller look at what we have on offer!

### Food

- [Fruit and Vegetable riddles](#)
- [About Meals of the Day](#)
- [Meals of the Day activities](#)
- [Coins Matching activity](#)
- [Roleplay in the Restaurant](#)
- [About Food](#)
- [Food activity](#)
- [Food board game](#)
- [About Healthy Eating](#)
- [Healthy Eating matching and sorting cards](#)
- [Healthy Eating wordsearch 1](#)
- [Healthy Eating wordsearch 2](#)
- [Healthy Eating wordsearch 3](#)

### Holidays and Leisure

- [About Holidays](#)
- [On the Beach matching cards](#)
- [On the Beach picture cards](#)
- [On the Beach word cards](#)
- [On the Beach wordsearch](#)

### Sports

- [About Sports](#)
- [Activities for Sports](#)

### Transport

- [About Transport](#)
- [About Vehicles](#)
- [Transport activities](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Crossword answers](#)
- [Street Objects](#)

### Reading Comprehension

- [Helicopters and Jet Planes](#)
- [Motorway Accident](#)

### True Stories

- [Amineh](#)
- [Jehad and Becky](#)
- [J. K. Rowling](#)



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# Tots Talking in Lancashire

At the ELLIE centre in Burnley, we have been running **Tots Talking** sessions with some of the families from the local area. The sessions were delivered by Zainab Syed and Samantha Hoban in preparation for running a course at county hall for those settings who would find it beneficial for the families they work with.

**Tots Talking** is designed and developed by Speech and Language UK and aims at improving the talking and understanding of words in two-year-olds. It encourages the use of language and behaviours that support children's talking and understanding of words.

When we delivered the activities at the ELLIE centre, we did have the children there also as the families we were working with struggled with childcare and most were new to the country. The sessions are usually delivered just to parents/carers but we adapted this according to the needs of the group. We had so much fun with some of the activities and they enjoyed doing them at home too!

The course will be running at County Hall (Preston) on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and included in the price will be the intervention pack, which has a value of £150, for your school or setting, featuring:

- \* a facilitator guide to help run the sessions
- \* access to the Tots Talking App
- \* child engagement measure

For more information, please visit [tiny.cc/totstalking](http://tiny.cc/totstalking)



**Lancashire Languages** answers (from page 3): according to a 2011 census, there are over 83 million first language speakers of Marathi in India alone (and a further 16 million know it as an additional language). Tigrinya has around 7 million speakers, while Wolof has 5 million and Konkani has 2 million. Idoma is a little behind the others, with "only" 1 million speakers in Nigeria, according to a 2020 estimate. By comparison, Welsh has fewer than 1 million speakers.



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Tots Talking in Lancashire

# Meet Tracy Townsend!

## Our new English as an Additional Language Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Hi, I am Tracy, the new HLTA at the Faith Centre, Burnley and The Zone, Nelson. My role is to teach English to children new to the country and get them school ready.

I took early retirement from teaching in March 2022. I was a teacher for 20+ years and before that was a Nursery Nurse for 12. Before taking early retirement (note I keep mentioning that it was EARLY retirement) I was in a large primary school in Nelson and had the role of Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator and intervention teacher for many years.

I have nineteen year old twins and a German Shepherd who is bonkers.

I am still finding my feet in this new role but am loving meeting and working with the children from such diverse backgrounds and it is absolutely brilliant when they are offered school places.

My colleagues have made me feel so welcome, thank you.



## DON'T FORGET TO REFER EAL PUPILS FOR YOUR FREE VISIT

Our service offers funded advice visits for all international new arrivals, including asylum seekers and refugees, which are free to Lancashire maintained schools.

To arrange support, please complete the referral form under EAL on the Schools Portal.



## CONTACTS FOR PREVENT CONCERNS

**Lancashire Schools** – Prevent Lead - [afrasiab.anwar@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:afrasiab.anwar@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Website - [www.lancashirepreventpartnership.org.uk](http://www.lancashirepreventpartnership.org.uk)

For support, advice, training and all other enquiries relating to Prevent or Channel please contact the Lancashire Prevent Team

If you spot any stickers, graffiti or leaflets, please take a picture and send it to our mailbox.

01254 585260

[prevent.team@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:prevent.team@blackburn.gov.uk)

[www.lancashirepreventpartnership.org.uk](http://www.lancashirepreventpartnership.org.uk)

Lancashire Police Prevent Team [concern@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:concern@lancashire.police.uk). If it is urgent dial 101 or 999 and ask for the Prevent Team.



"Working together for safer communities"



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## Congratulations to Browndedge St Mary's RC High: our new Lancashire School of Sanctuary!

At our latest School of Sanctuary network meeting in October 2023, we celebrated **Browndedge St Mary's RC High School** becoming a School of Sanctuary, a special status awarded for developing a culture of inclusiveness and support.

The school was presented with a certificate in recognition of their achievement by Jeff Morgan (The City of Sanctuary National Trustee) on behalf of the national *City of Sanctuary* movement.

They joined our Lancashire cohort of Schools of Sanctuary as the twelfth school receiving this status.

Schools awarded this status help pupils, staff, parents and the wider community to understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary. They also extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community.



From L-R: Jeff Morgan, *City of Sanctuary* National Trustee; Rachael Bowe, Lay Chaplain, *Browndedge St Mary's RC High School*; Izabela Zalewska-Ratajczak, Education Improvement–Equality and Diversity Team.

Welcoming displays around the school which help new arrivals to settle in are present in most of Schools of Sanctuary. All schools have induction programmes for newly arrived children and a buddy system that meets the needs of children seeking sanctuary is in place.

Negative myths surrounding refugees and asylum seekers have also been dispelled in these schools. Each school engages in positive and enthusiastic activities involving their own pupils and parents, and others from all over the world.

We hope that there will be many more schools in the future able to demonstrate this ethos of fostering a welcome environment to all new arrivals, and keen to be recognised as a place of sanctuary.

Our service can help your school to achieve this. We can support the school with staff training and awareness around asylum/refugee issues and EAL aspects; signpost to local community members and organisations supporting inclusiveness; and connect your school with another school who can help you through the process.

Please contact [izabela.zalewska-ratajczak@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:izabela.zalewska-ratajczak@lancashire.gov.uk) if you would like our help in developing a School of Sanctuary initiative at your school.



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## ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE NETWORKS FOR SCHOOLS

We hold termly cluster meetings for EAL co-ordinators that provide guidance on good practice, give policy updates and serve as an opportunity to raise concerns, seek advice and network with other EAL staff.

# EAL Cluster Meetings

## EAL CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS SPRING 2024

Updates • Briefings on policy and research • Network • Share best practice

**March 2024**

**Focus: EAL Resources**

All staff with responsibility for improving standards for EAL learners are invited to attend an EAL Coordinators meeting this term. This meeting will be an opportunity to network with staff from other schools, share ideas and be inspired by each other's experiences.

Our Coordinators Meetings this term focus on resources available to schools, both those provided by our service and through the wider EAL community. Delegates are encouraged to bring their own suggestions and recommendations to the meeting for the benefit of colleagues. Diane Scarborough, School Library Service Manager, will also be present to discuss resources available to schools.



Face-to-Face Primary & Secondary EAL Network	The Exchange (County Hall), Preston	<b>Monday 4th March</b> 2.45—4:15pm
Primary & Secondary EAL Network (Limited to 24 participants only)	Online	<b>Wednesday 6th March</b> 3.45—5.00pm
Primary & Secondary EAL Network (Limited to 24 participants only)	Online	<b>Monday 11th March</b> 3.45—5:00pm
Face-to-Face Primary & Secondary EAL Network	The Exchange, Burnley	<b>Thursday 14th March</b> 2.45—4.15pm

*The fee is £50, but each LCC school may reserve **one place free of charge**.*

To book your place, visit <https://tiny.cc/EAL2024>



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# ETHNIC MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS

We run a program of courses for school staff in conjunction with LPDS. There are courses for all key stages and staff groups. Please follow the links below to book.

Visit <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lpds/courses/?subject=EAL> to see all available courses!

## 2024 Courses

Course Title	Date	Time
<u><a href="#">Equality Network Meeting</a></u> (Dunkenhalgh Hotel, Accrington)	08/02/24 15/05/24	1315— 1600
<u><a href="#">Leading EAL Provision Across Your School</a></u> (5-part online course) [dates amended]	30/01/24 19/03/24 16/04/24 21/05/24 & 25/06/24	1300— 1600
<u><a href="#">Using the Early Talk Boost Intervention to Boost Children's Language Skills</a></u> (Inspire 2, The Exchange, Burnley)	06/02/24	0930— 1500
<u><a href="#">Improving outcomes for EAL children in Pre-School Settings and Reception Classes</a></u> (Early Years Centre, Fairfield Nursery School, Accrington)	22/02/24	1300— 1600
<u><a href="#">Using Talk Boost Key Stage 1 Intervention to Boost Children's Language Skills</a></u> (County Hall, Preston)	07/03/24	0930— 1500
<u><a href="#">Teaching and Learning Strategies for all EAL Learners</a></u> (County Hall, Preston)	12/03/24	1300— 1600
<u><a href="#">Getting EAL Parents and Children Reading Together (Primary)</a></u> (County Hall, Preston)	21/03/24	1300— 1530
<u><a href="#">Developing Academic Language for Advanced EAL Learners</a></u> (2-part online course) [date amended]	22/04/24 & 29/04/24	1600— 1730
<u><a href="#">How to Integrate and Teach International New Arrivals Including Refugees and Asylum Seekers</a></u> (County Hall, Preston)	30/04/24	1300— 1600
<u><a href="#">Improving Grammatical Accuracy</a></u> (online course)	07/05/24	1530— 1730

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