



Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla
Tusla Education Support Service

School Attendance Summit 2026

Delivering on a child's right to education

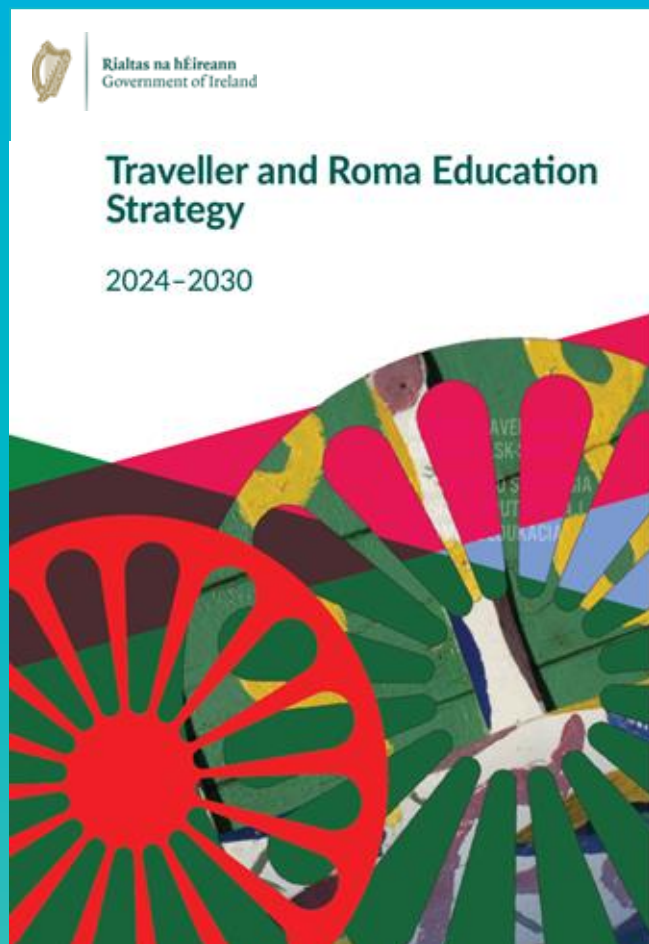
Traveller & Roma Education Strategy (TRES)

Presenters:

Clare Garrett - TESS TRES General Manager

Maggie McDonagh - Deputy Principal, Castletroy College

Sarah Jane Willis - Bremore ETSS



TRES is a key action within NTRIS ii

TRES is intended to provide direction for the whole education system:

- early learning and childcare
- primary and post primary school
- further, higher and lifelong education

DEY
DCDE
DFHERIS

Leadership

Partnership

Belonging

Inclusion

Traveller and Roma cultures
and ethnic identities are
acknowledged, visible and valued

Meaningful Participation



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TRES Role modelling and Monitoring
Schools as a role model

“The Why”

"Leadership is not about being in charge.

It is about taking care of those in your charge."

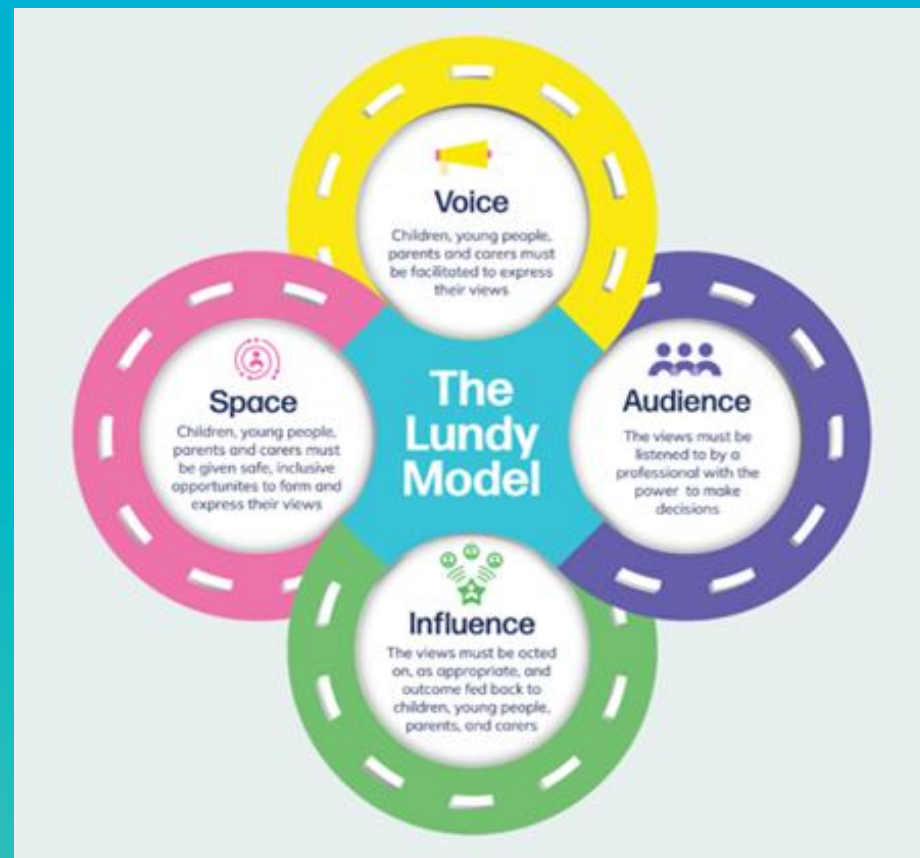
– Simon Sinek

Agents of Change: Where Do We Begin?

- ❖ Starting point - Relationships and a sense of Belonging
- ❖ A focus on 'Student Experience' - not solely outcome driven – participation and outcomes will follow!
- ❖ Leadership – equity and meaningful inclusion – Distributed Leadership Model
- ❖ Utilising what resources are available in the community for the benefit of the students – 'solution-focused'
- ❖ Continuous growth and development – self-improvement
- ❖ Values-driven

Delivering on a child's right to education

*"The seemingly
mundane really matters."*
— **Professor Laura Lundy**



Commitment to Action!

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School
Attendance
Summit 2026

Delivering on a child's right to education

**No One Can
Do Everything,
But Everyone
Can Do Something**

Balbriggan Travellers Project



School
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Summit 2026

Delivering on a child's right to education

- ❖ The Power of Partnership
- ❖ School recognised the value of a link with the local Traveller project
- ❖ Relationship grew naturally – no set programme or outcome
- ❖ Started with tea and chats – like all good things in Ireland!
- ❖ Martin and I became regular, familiar faces in the school
- ❖ Representation, culture and pride became part of the school
- ❖ Intercultural Day → student interest → copper art workshop
- ❖ Visits to the local halting site where we are based
- ❖ Grub Box Initiative – led by Traveller students and supported by teachers & community workers
- ❖ Real relationships created real opportunities.



'The Grub Box'





Graité
(Thank you!)