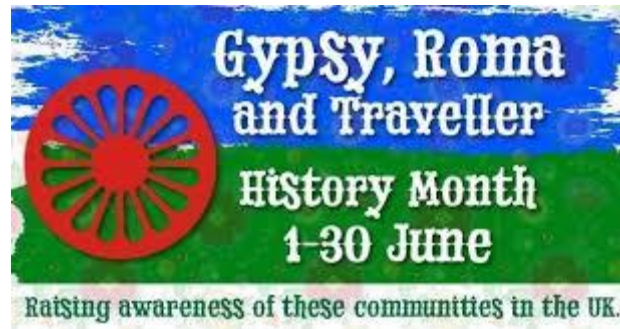


Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Month Teacher's Guide – Part Two (Family and Culture- freedom in your identity)

The national theme of 2024 is *What does family mean to you?*



Welcome to the second part of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month collective worship resources. June is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. In our first act of collective worship, we explored the topic – ‘What does family mean to you?’. In this resource, we will continue our series on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month by exploring the topic – ‘Family and Culture - freedom in your identity’. We are going to examine how a shared culture helps a family to exist. In doing so, we respect everyone’s individual identity but also cherish the sharing of values that make us a united group.

Act of Worship 2 - Family and Culture: Freedom in Your Identity.

Slide	Dialogue	Areas to be mindful of
1	<p>Welcome the pupils and introduce the topic of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month - Family and Culture: Freedom in Your Identity.</p> <p>Explain that we will talk about what family means and how our culture gives us the freedom to be who we are. Explain that this month is a special time to learn about and celebrate the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. Highlight that these communities have rich traditions and cultures.</p> <p>Remind children that the month of June is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. The reason we focus on some historically underrepresented groups is to ensure their voice and value to society is not ignored or forgotten.</p>	<p>Encourage and guide the conversation to be culturally sensitive and respectful when highlighting the rich cultures of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities without stereotyping.</p>
2	<p>What have we learnt so far about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller heritage families?</p> <p>Think >> Pair >> Share What can we recall about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller heritage families?</p> <p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families tend to be extended families living together. Family bonds are very strong and loyal within these families.</p>	<p>Ensure all discussions about families include different family structures.</p> <p>Avoid assumptions about what a 'typical' family looks like. Endeavour to use resources and languages that accurately represent these communities.</p>

	<p>Their heritage is often based on historic nomadic lifestyles. Each group has different customs and identities. They sometimes face discrimination from others in society.</p>	
3	<p>What is Culture? Explain the concept of culture in simple terms: Culture is the way we live, including the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the language we speak, and the traditions we have. It includes special things we do with our family, like holidays, songs, and dances. Every family has its own culture, which makes them unique and special. Give examples of different cultural activities and festivals and the food shared during these festivals.</p>	<p>Please be inclusive in your methodology and language. Use the culture wheel diagram on the slide to encourage students to explore a broader meaning of 'culture'. Emphasise that every family and culture is special and valuable. Reinforce the idea that all cultures contribute to the richness of our community.</p>
4	<p>What Does Family and Culture Mean to You? What special things do you do with your family? Why is it important to be yourself and celebrate your culture? Encourage students to think about their own family's culture without feeling pressured to share personal details. Celebrate the diversity within the classroom, highlighting that all cultures are important.</p>	<p>Create an inclusive environment where all students feel comfortable sharing by using body gestures and language that affirms their contributions to the cultures their families have. Encourage everyone to be respectful of all types of family structures and cultural practices. Be prepared to support students who may have sensitive family situations.</p>
5&6	<p>Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Families Around the UK and worldwide. Introduce the idea that Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller heritage families are spread all over the world due to their nomadic nature. Culture is a fluid concept. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families are diverse and live in different areas of the world. It is essential to note that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families are not a homogenous group. Although there are similarities and common shared values within and between communities, each community and individual is unique. Every family is unique and special! Every individual is unique and special! Explain to children that there are many parts to making an identity, and expressing different cultural links is a large part of that. Understanding and being influenced by the various cultures we live in helps us to be better global citizens.</p>	<p>Use diverse and accurate images to represent Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller families. Avoid reinforcing stereotypes; focus on positive aspects of these cultures. Discuss the beauty of diversity and how every family is unique. Note the different kinds of homes, traditions and skills of different GRT people. The video in 'further learning' helps give some context: Nowhere left to turn - A film about the erosion of nomadism in the UK - YouTube</p>
7	<p>Just like a bouquet of flowers has many 'parts' to make it more beautiful than a single flower, our identities have many varied parts that make us</p>	<p>Be mindful that the language love and identity can be triggering for some students. Be prepared to</p>

	<p>special to our family. We need it all, even the prickly bits.</p> <p>Look at the photos of the various Gypsy, Roma and Traveller heritage families.</p> <p>What skills do you think a child could learn from being within that nomadic family? (horse riding, animal care, carpentry, construction, repair, nursing, history, geography, music, art etc)</p> <p>Love one another is a command. We do not have to act, speak and be alike to love one another. What does it take for us to love each other even though we are different?</p>	<p>support students who may have unique or sensitive family situations and can be triggered by the language 'love' and 'identity' and, in some cases ', acceptance'.</p>
8	<p>Bible Story of the Week - Joseph and His Colourful Coat. Summarise the story of Joseph and his Colourful Coat. Joseph's coat was a symbol of his identity and how he was special in his family. Joseph was Jacob's favourite son. Jacob gave Joseph a special coat in many colours to show his love. This colourful coat made Joseph's brothers jealous. One day, they did something unkind to Joseph and sent him far away. Even though Joseph was far from home, he always remembered his family and stayed true to himself. Later in his life when he encountered them again, he demonstrated forgiveness and reconciled with his family. Joseph's story teaches us to stay true to who we are and always to value our families, even if we are apart from one another.</p>	<p>Focus on the positive message of staying true to oneself. Resolve the negative aspects (jealousy, unkind actions) with the outcome of reconciliation. Highlight the importance of family, even when apart or disconnected, and retaining cultural identity, even far from home.</p>
9	<p>Reflection - What We Can Learn from Joseph. Joseph's colourful coat was a part of his identity and made him special. Our family and culture are important parts of who we are. They give us the freedom to be ourselves.</p>	<p>Encourage students to think about what makes them special in their own families. Reinforce the idea that everyone's identity and culture are valuable. Create a safe space for students to share their thoughts. Be aware that some students might be unkind with their words. Please use your school's behaviour policy if students are unkind.</p>
10	<p>How should we treat Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller culture with respect?</p> <p>Talk through the positive ways we can learn about GRT culture and show kindness and respect; be clear about how we mustn't be unkind or discriminatory towards GRT people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage students to think about how they can show respect for others' cultures. • Reinforce the message of inclusivity and acceptance.

11	Gathering. Close with a prayer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarise key points about the importance of family and culture.