

Title of Report: De–Delegation Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)

Report of: Helen Fergusson, Strategic Director, Children’s Social Care and Lifelong Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update on the background and service delivered by EMTAS so they can consider de-delegation for the financial year 2025-2026.

Background

2. The Service consists of:
 - Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA) (FTE 2.0) one of whom supports educational outcomes for pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities and another who is multi-lingual.
 - 2 x Bi-Lingual Specialist (FTE 2.0).
 - Up until 31st August 2023 the Service had an Equality and Diversity Officer (FTE 0.2) who supported wider themes including community cohesion and monitoring and responding to hate crimes. This post is currently vacant.
3. The core Service offer is:
 - Assessment of language skills for pupils with English as an additional language.
 - Targeted support for pupils with English as an additional language or from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
 - Where appropriate, advise on English as an additional language development, good practice and specific provision for underachieving children that fall within the remit of EMTAS service.
 - Work with school staff when requested to develop policy.
 - Support colleagues to develop their knowledge of the linguistic and cultural backgrounds of children and their families that fall within the scope of the EMTAS service.

4. Funding for the Service is through de-delegation and is available to all mainstream maintained Primary schools. Academies and special schools can buy into the services through Northeast Services to Schools.
5. January 2024 census data shows that Gateshead has seen a decline in ethnic minority and Gypsy Roma and Traveler children attending our schools: down from 15.6% (January census 2023) to 13.6% (January census 2024). The most recent census equates to 3726 pupils out of 27327 pupils.
6. Although there is an overall ethnic minority and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller % of 13.6% (January census 2024) there are wide variations between individual schools. Every school now has more than one pupil who identifies as belonging to an ethnic minority. As in previous years, the schools with the highest percentages of pupils from an ethnic minority background are those in the centre of the borough.
6. The single largest ethnic group after White British is Black or Black British (1047 pupils), followed by Asian or Asian British (980 pupils); any other ethnic background (877 pupils) and mixed/dual background (822 pupils). The number of pupils identified as mixed/dual background is up from 759 pupils last year.

Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed/Dual background	Any other ethnic group
980	1047	822	877

7. The number of pupils from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background has stayed stable from the previous census (37 pupils). The highest numbers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils are in Kingsmeadow. This is followed by Brandling, Caedmon, Emmaville, Kelvin Grove, South Street and Thorp. However, 16 schools, including three secondary schools and two special schools, have pupils from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background.
8. The census 2024 data shows that pupils identified as having a first language that is other than English is 10.2% (January census 2024) of the school population in line with 10.29% identified last year (January census 2023). This equates to 2821 pupils in the January 2024 census (2,829 pupils January 2023). There are at least 19 different languages spoken as a first (or home) language. The most common languages spoken are all dialects of Arabic, followed Kurdish. 7 pupils have identified British Sign Language (BSL) as their first language, this is like last year (6 pupils).

2023-2024 EMTAS service

9. EMTAS have offered assessment, advice and support to pupils who are asylum seekers from the Embassy Hotel and those arriving through home office refugee programmes: ARAP, UKRS and HfrUK for up to 4 weeks. EMTAS supported approximately 47 of these pupils.
10. Mainstream maintained primary schools with more than 20% EAL pupils have ongoing contact with an allocated EMTAS officer. The Service supported 11 schools in this way. Mainstream maintained primary schools with less than 20% EAL pupils use the referral form to request the core services.
11. We have received 177 direct referrals from school.
12. Over the same period 2 secondary academies and one maintained Secondary have maintained an annual SLA with the Service. A further four primary academies have bought into the service.
13. Headteachers and EAL leads have had access to information and resources on the educationGateshead Hub and work was progressed to develop a more sharply focused set of assessment tools from KS1-KS4. The team have also developed a network across the local area.
14. A member of the Education Support Service, in which EMTAS sits, continued to monitor and offer advice and guidance to schools around hate incidents. These were reported via a dedicated section of the Council's on-line system.
15. EMTAS remains part of the National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum (NALDIC) and attends the northeast regional interest group meetings.
16. EMTAS has assessed 30 students to access GCSE, GCE qualifications and 'A' levels in their heritage language. They were supported by the EMTAS through this process.

Results 2024:

Language in GCSE	Grade 5+	Grade
Arabic	10	
Bengali	1	
Chinese	4	
Persian/Farsi	2	
Portuguese	1	
French	1	
Spanish	1	
Tamil	1	
Greek	1	
Turkish	3	
'A' Level Arabic	5	3 A*, A, B

Proposal

17. To enable EMTAS to continue providing these services to schools, children and young people in Gateshead, schools should de-delegate funding.
18. The de-delegation model is more closely linked to English as an Additional Language funding. This funding is anticipated to increase for 2025-26 £595 per English as an additional language pupil.
19. It is proposed to maintain the de-delegation levels from 2018-19 of £3.00 for all maintained mainstream primary school pupils with an additional amount of £250 for each primary English as an additional language pupil, which is a reduction of £10 from 2024/25.
20. These levels of de-delegation have been calculated on the basis that all primary schools both maintained, and academy schools buy into this service.

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the work undertaken by EMTAS to support the educational achievement of ethnic minority and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils in Gateshead schools and approves the de-delegation of funding for EMTAS at the rates of £3.00 (£3.00 2024/25) for every maintained

mainstream pupil and £250 (£260 2024/25) for each primary maintained mainstream English as an additional language pupil.

For the following reasons:

23. To note the work undertaken by EMTAS to support the educational achievement of ethnic minority and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils in Gateshead schools.
24. To approve funding for the Service to continue supporting pupils and schools in Gateshead.