

# EDUCATION

## Activity 1a

### Going to school

**Y**ou are about to listen to some Travellers talking about their experiences of school and education. The questions should help you to think more carefully about this element of their lives. Remember that you should always answer questions using full sentences, and explain your answers, too.



1.

**What different reasons** were given for not going to school?

2.

**Does it seem** as if Travellers value education?

3.

**Do you think** that the people who did not go to school feel as if they missed out?

4.

**What might help** Traveller people feel more confident about and comfortable with the idea of going to school?

# EDUCATION

## Activity 1b

### Going to school

**Y**ou are about to listen to some Travellers talking about their experiences of school and education. The questions should help you to think more carefully about this element of their lives.



**1. Can you** give four different reasons why Travellers might not have gone to school?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do you** think that Travellers think that education is important?

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**3. Do you** think that the people who did not go to school feel as if they have missed out?

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**4. Can you** think of four ideas that might help Travellers feel more comfortable about going to school?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_

# EDUCATION

## Activity 1c

### Going to school

**Y**ou are about to listen to some Travellers talking about their experiences of school and education. The questions should help you to think more carefully about this element of their lives.



**1. Can you** give four different reasons why Travellers might not have gone to school?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do you** think that Travellers think that education is important?

- I think that Travellers see education as **important/not important** because \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Do you** think that the people who did not go to school feel as if they have missed out?

- I think that Travellers feel as if they **have/have not** missed out on education because \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Can you** think of four ideas that might help Travellers feel more comfortable about going to school?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_



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## Activity 4, Page 1



**T**his is an extract from the fourth episode of the Romany Theatre Company's radio drama, Atching Tan. Ethan and Ambrose are both Traveller children. Ethan has been going to school for some time, but has not been open about his background and therefore has friends and is getting on well, but Ambrose's education has been sporadic and he struggles in lessons. Ambrose has already had a confrontation with Mr Straw when it came out about Ethan and Ambrose's Traveller identity.

### Sc. 8 Ext. The playground of Wytchingwell Primary School. Afternoon.

#### (We can hear children running around, and a football being kicked)

*ETHAN:* Pass me the ball! (PAUSE, AS A FOOTBALL IS KICKED AROUND) Oi! Can't you see me?

*SCHOOLBOY:* (IN A GIRLY VOICE) What was that?

*ETHAN:* I said can't you see me over here?

*SCHOOLBOY:* No. But I can smell ya.

#### (The football is kicked hard)

*ETHAN:* (QUIETLY) What?

*SCHOOLBOY:* I said I can smell ya. Pikey.

*ETHAN:* What did you call me?

#### (The other children have noticed something is happening and the playground quietens)

*SCHOOLBOY:* You know what I said.

*ETHAN:* Say it to my face then.

*SCHOOLBOY:* So you can do what? Go and get your sister? I reckon she's 'busy' with someone else.

*ETHAN:* (ANGRY, BUT UPSET) Take that back... Or...

*SCHOOLBOY:* Or what?

#### (Ambrose Buckton has been watching and he steps in between the two boys)

*AMBROSE:* Or you might get hurt.

*SCHOOLBOY:* Who are you?

*AMBROSE:* Do you want to find out?

*ETHAN:* Ambrose, it weren't nothing.

*SCHOOLBOY:* I ain't afraid of you, new boy.

*AMBROSE:* Then why you standing there talking?

#### (The schoolboy throws a punch at Ambrose and there is shouting as other boys join in. Mr. Colin Straw sees the commotion and arrives)

*STRAW:* (RAISED VOICE) And what on earth is going on here? Break it up. Now!

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## Activity 4, Page 2



**(The other children run off as Ethan stands by, and the tussle between Ambrose and schoolboy continues)**

*STRAW:* (LOUDER) I said now!

**(He breaks the fight up)**

*STRAW:* Well well. Ambrose Buckton of Bluebell Wood. Get in the school office now. All of you.

**(Cut to interior: the primary school office)**

*STRAW:* Well should I be surprised?

*ETHAN:* Sir, he called me a- (Pikey)

*STRAW:* (TALKING OVER ETHAN) Let me guess who started this.

*AMBROSE:* Do you know what he said to my mate?

*SCHOOLBOY:* We were just playing football, and then he came over towards me.

*ETHAN:* That ain't true.

*STRAW:* It looked like it to me.

*AMBROSE:* Sure it did.

*STRAW:* Don't get clever with me Ambrose. (TO SCHOOLBOY) Did you say anything?

*SCHOOLBOY:* I was only messing about.

*AMBROSE:* Say what you like, he'll believe ya.

*STRAW:* Have you got a point to make, young man?

**(There is a pause as the children all try to absorb what is going on)**

*STRAW:* I suppose you've been taught to fight words with punches.

*ETHAN:* It weren't just words.

*STRAW:* You've both admitted it was just 'words'.

*AMBROSE:* You don't care, do you?

*STRAW:* I wish you gave me a reason to.

*ETHAN:* But-

*STRAW:* I'm telephoning your mother, Ambrose. Go and get your bag. And you won't be coming back for a while. You two, go back to class.

*AMBROSE:* (MYSTIFIED) I'm the only one getting punished?

*STRAW:* Our school's getting punished. Turn up one day, leave the next, pointless scuffles in between? Is that how you're brought up?

*AMBROSE:* I didn't start nothing!

*STRAW:* Well I'm finishing it. Get out of my sight.



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Additional resources

