

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills

**Joe McHugh, TD**

Department of Education and Skills

Marlboro Street

Dublin 1

Dear Minister

We write regarding the Department of Education and Skills emergency regulations informing education practices during Covid-19, including the closure of schools during the pandemic and matters affecting Traveller children.

In that context: The Irish Traveller Movement raise concerns here for Traveller pupils who don't have access to appropriate remote learning devices to continue with their studies and the potential for students without additional support for early school leaving and therefore be left behind and unable to access third level and or affect future employment chances.

We ask now Minister for a revision of the current regulations and provisions, to include special measures for Traveller students with a ring-fenced budget to provide for the appropriate technological devices that enable remote learning and support therein.

These special measures will ensure our young people receive the educational supports needed to get them through this national crisis. We acknowledge the present challenging time and commend efforts to support students throughout Ireland and look for your attention towards Travellers pupils as group particularly affected.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Joyce

Director