Inclusion issues

Including the travelling community in our educational system

Introduction

- Brief description of the history of the travelling community in Ireland.
- Definition of the term inclusion
- Inclusion issues that effect travellers.
- How parental distrust hinders the opportunities for a traveller child's education.
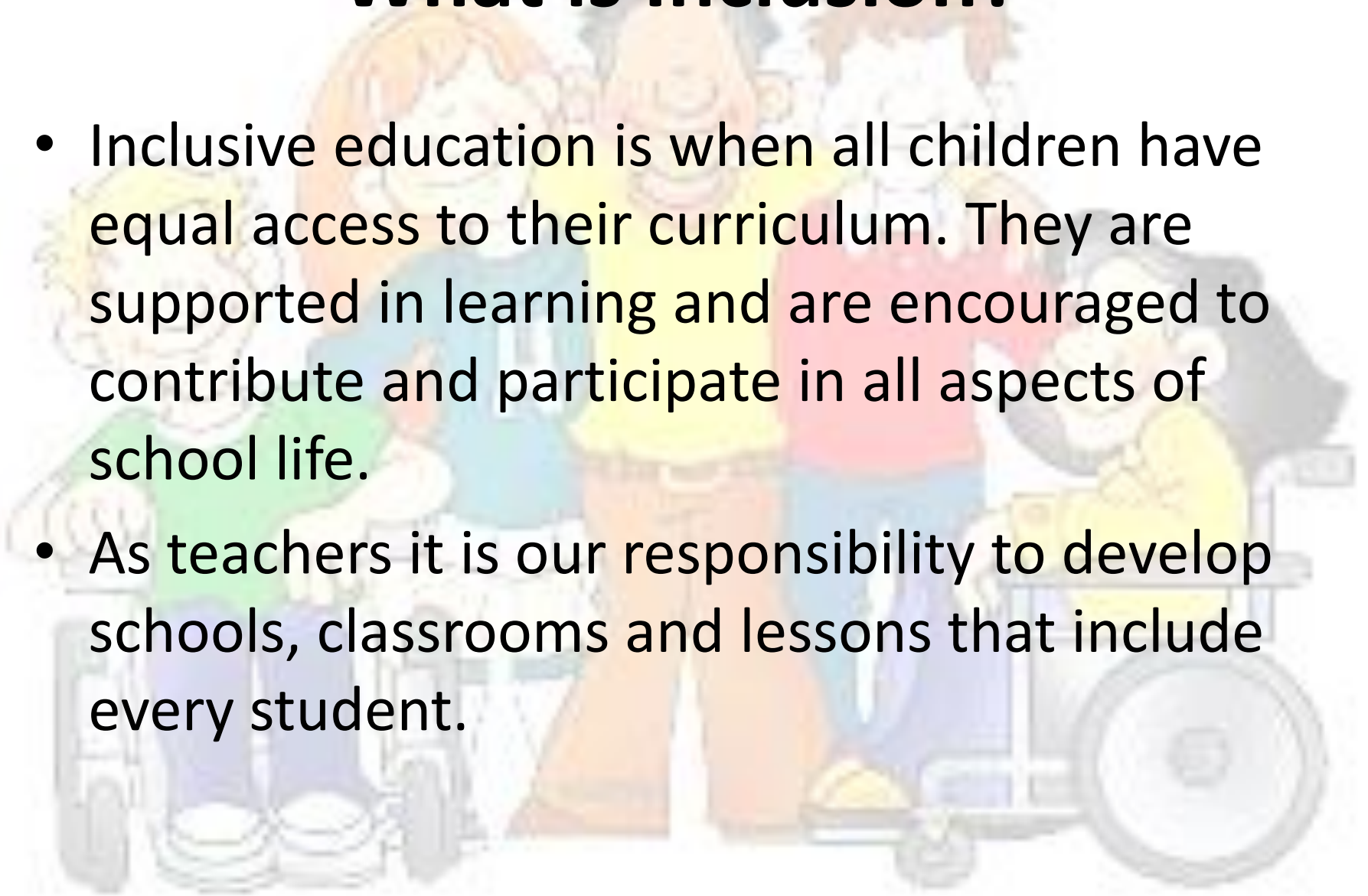- Conclusion

The travelling community

- Travellers are a nomadic Irish ethnic group. They have a different identity, culture and history, although they are as fully Irish as the majority population.
- They live a mobile lifestyle moving from place to place in caravans.
- Have own dialects Shelta and Irish traveller chant.
- Most discriminated ethnic group in Ireland perceived as "misfits" and "drop outs".

What is Inclusion?

- Inclusive education is when all children have equal access to their curriculum. They are supported in learning and are encouraged to contribute and participate in all aspects of school life.

- As teachers it is our responsibility to develop schools, classrooms and lessons that include every student.
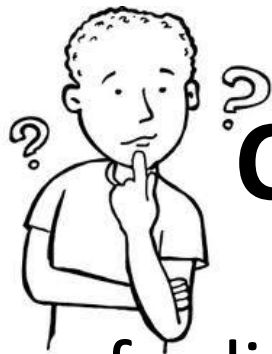
Inclusion issues that effect travellers

- Attendance
- Prejudice and labels
- Different perspective
   on education
- Language barrier
- Social behaviour
- Lack of education on the travelling community
- Poor relationship and lack of trust between parents and teachers.

Lack of TRUST between parent and school

- Parents view teachers as a threat. Teachers have the authority to notify the social services of incidences which can result in the child being taken out of the family home.

- Don't understand each others lifestyles.

- Parents past experiences of prejudice and discrimination in the school system.

- School/teacher may receive no educational background on the child or personal information.

- School is unsure of educational commitment . No reassurance that the child will remain in the school.

- Uncertain of parent educational support ie. Homework and school attendance.

Conclusion

- Thank you for listening. We would like to leave you with an open question.

"Is it enough for schools and teachers to tackle the issue of inclusion, we must ask ourselves do travellers want to be included?"

"Does there need to be more open communication between schools and the travelling community about their educational wishes?"