



All About Us



Butterfly Painting
by Lacey aged 8



Save the Children

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who took part in the "All About Project".
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Save the Children Alliance, the world's leading
independent children's rights organisation, with members
in 30 countries and operational programmes in more than
100.

Save the Children works with children and their
communities to provide practical assistance and, by
influencing policy and public opinion, bring about positive
change for children.



Introduction

“All About You”

is a Save The Children project working in partnership with the West Midlands Consortium Education Service for Travelling Children. It is funded by the Birmingham Children’s Fund.

The “All About You” project asked Traveller children in Birmingham for their views on what they would like and what they think would make life better for them in the City of Birmingham in 2003. The work took place in schools and homes across the city. The children are from diverse Traveller communities such as Irish Travellers; Fairground Travelling Showpeople; Polish Gypsy and Czech Roma. The clear message that the children are giving is that they want and enjoy creative activities, a space to talk about their lives and to meet with other Traveller children. They want to go to school and use leisure facilities without being ‘picked on’ and without the fear of being called names or harassed for being who they are.

The children expressed their views through painting, talking, poetry, clay modelling work and photographs - which are presented in this booklet.

They have also made a short “All About You” video where children speak for themselves and present their views and artwork.

For more information, copies of this booklet and the “All About You” video please contact the Save The Children Midlands office 0121 555 8888.





Textile Banner

by "All About You" Traveller Children
Birmingham 2003

All About Me

My name is Johnny
And I am 10 years old
And I like to use the colours
Blue and gold.
I like to use clay
Nearly every Wednesday.
I like to do drawing
Because when the teachers
Talk too much it's boring.
I like to play football with
My mates and cousins
I got so many it's like dozens and dozens.
I like to do swimming while everyone's chilling.
Don't call me a name
Because Boxing's my game.
I like to look at horses while
Everyone's driving their porsches.
I'm a travling child and I never Go wild.

Johnny aged 10



Traveller

- Irish Traveller

"I like being a Traveller"

Johnny aged 10

What makes you feel proud to be a Traveller?

"I like about a Traveller is my dad taught me how to speak like him. I love my nan."

"You can travel around."

"I wish I lived in Ireland."

Lacey aged 8

"Family"

Johnny 10

"Being a Traveller is different to being like other children. Being a Traveller is lovely but sometimes it can be bad. You get picked on...bullying"

Fiona aged 11

"I like playing with my brothers and sisters

Paddy, Bridget and Louise."

Philomena aged 6

"I love horses. I like moving. I like TV.

I don't like being called names."

John aged 9

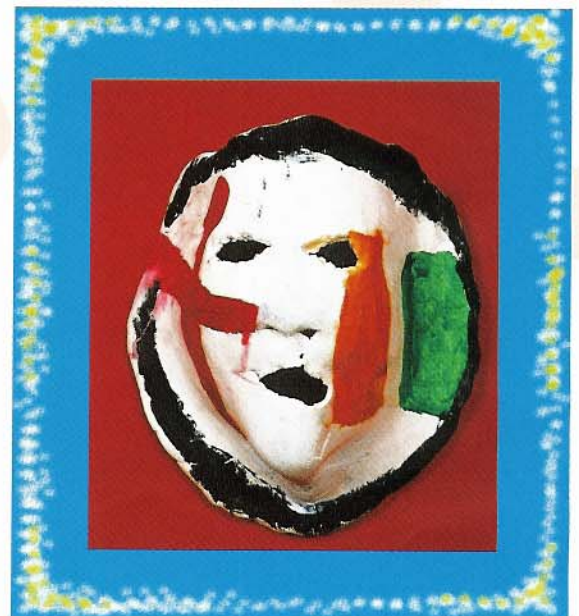
"I love going back to Ireland."

Ann aged 6

"Ireland. All my Family grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, cousins." John, Patrick, Tommy Lee.

Mask

by Johnny aged 10



Traveller

- Irish Traveller

"I love horses from my heart"

"I like travelling." Hughie aged 5

"Travelling. Family."

"Don't like it when people pick on us." Charles aged 9

"Everything." "You get to see other travellers" Fiona aged 11

"I like to play out. I like my accent." Michael aged 8

Hughie asks :

"Do you know what the best thing you need most in life?"

"Water"

"No"

"Love"

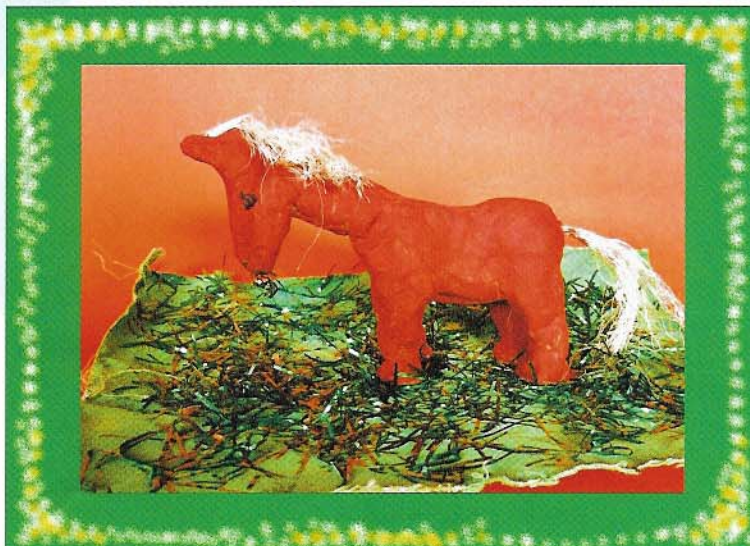
"Well.."

"What is it?"

"You need to get out Travelling."

Clay Horse

by Johnny aged 10

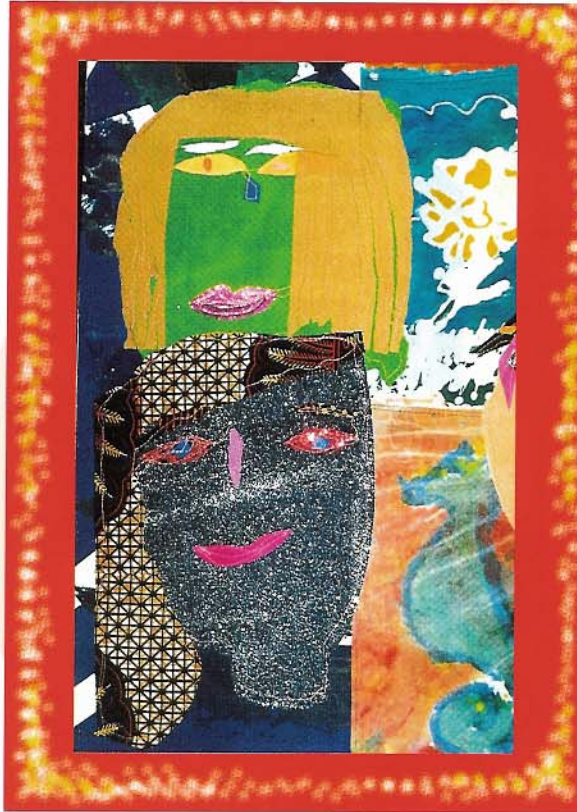


Traveller

- Polish Gypsy Asylum Seekers

Textile Banner

by Irlona & Daria



“I am very happy here in England”

“My name is Irlona. I am 14 years old. I am living in Birmingham.”

“My name is Daria Szukala. My date of birth is 1990-10-25. I would like to stay in Birmingham...and go to school here and meet lots of children..... and learn English.....”

“I like the mix of cultures. I like the Mosques, the Pakistani people and the way the Asian women dress. I have bought the same dress since I have been here in Birmingham.”

“I am very happy in England; it is nice and the shops are nice. I was very happy in London, I had many friends there, it is a nice town.” Daria aged 12

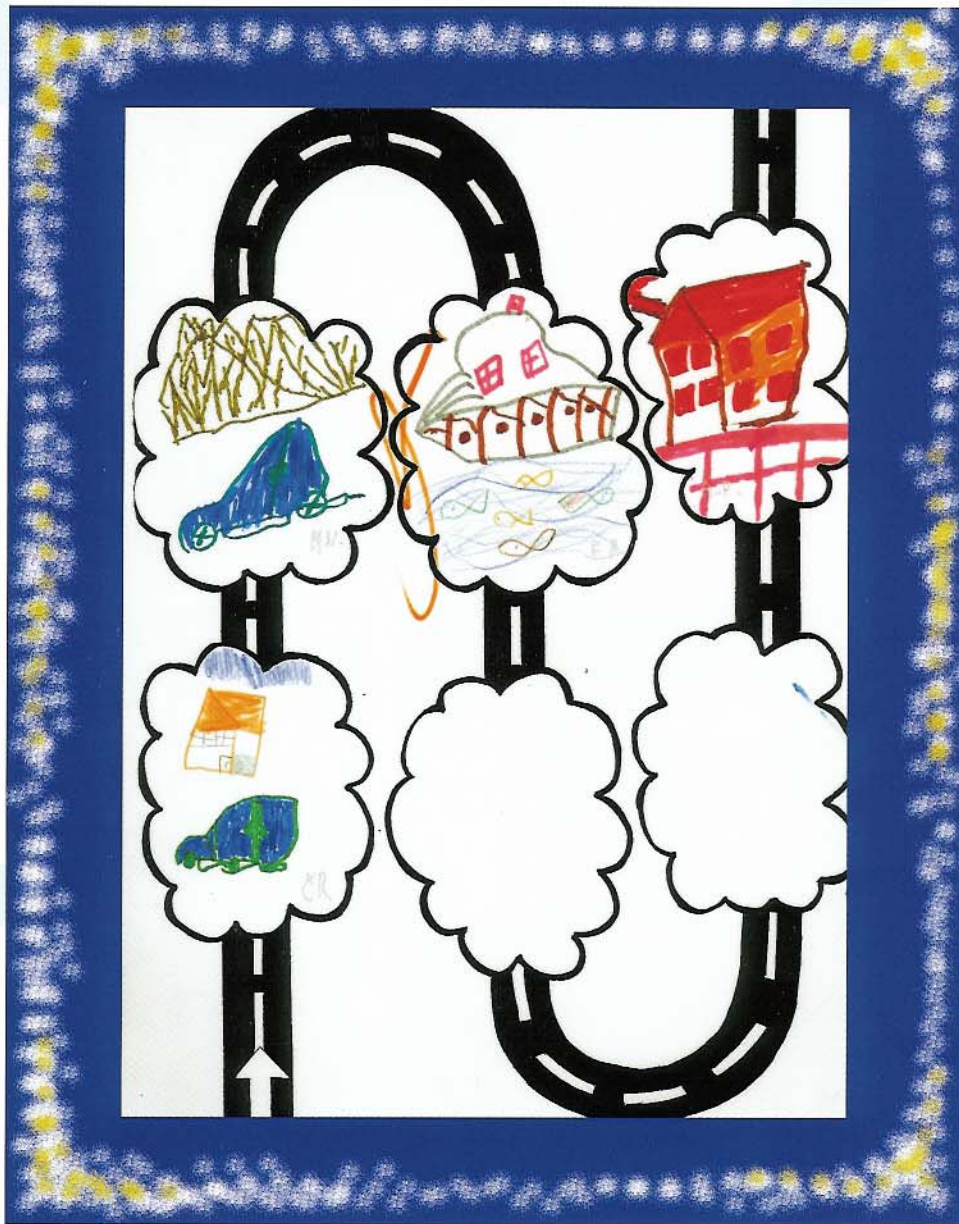


Traveller

- Czech Roma Asylum Seekers

Journey Through Europe

by Serena aged 10



“I’d like to go to school here... I like maths a lot”



Traveller

- Travelling Showpeople: Fairground

"My name is Mackenzie Jade Derry. I am 10 years old. I live on the fair. It is very fun on the fair because you get to meet new friends. Thank you for the little bear it is very cute. I hope you like that art I sent you. I loved it."

"My name is Maxie Jay Lewis. I am 9 years old. I have a brother called John James."

"My birthday is Christmas day. I live on the fair. I like it because I have loads of friends."

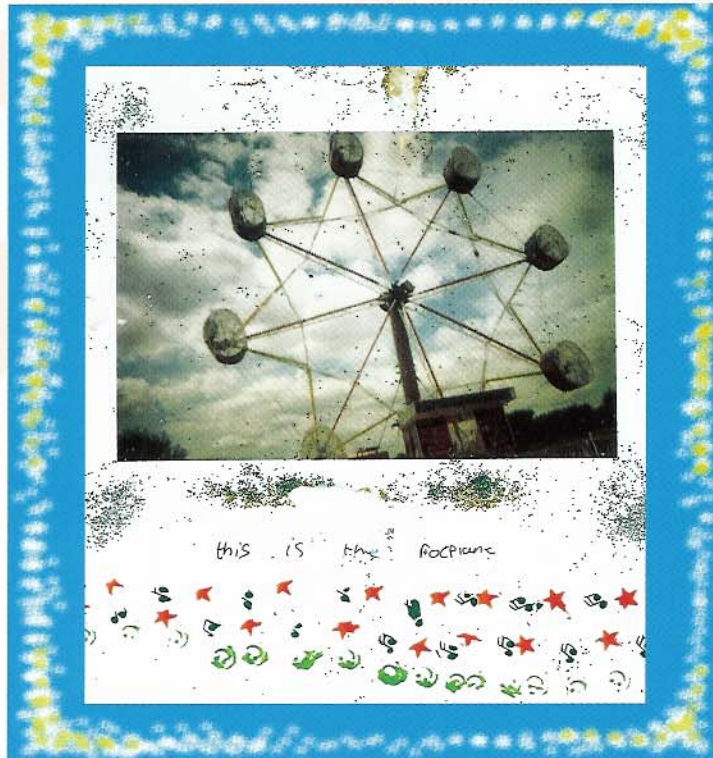
"They are so friendly..... Thank you. I hope you like the art I sent."

"This is my mum... I love her. She is so special to me because she's my mom."

Maxie aged 9

"this is the rocplane and my dodgem car"

by Kennedy aged 8



Traveller

- Travelling Showpeople: Fairground

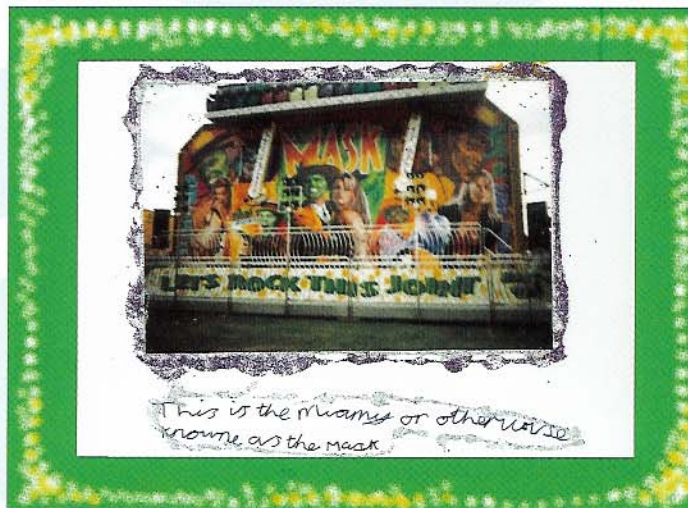
A dog

by Paris aged 11



“this is the Miami or otherwise known as the Mask”

by Kennedy aged 8



“Everything is ok as it is. Life would be better if we didn't get picked on”

Kennedy aged 8



Trailer

Trailer

by Michael aged 8



*"I used to live in trailers....
I like trailers, better to live in...."*

"It is fun and you can travel." Fiona 11

What do you like about life in a trailer?

"You can take it away" Maxie aged 9, Johnny 10, Mackenzie 10

"You can travel around"

"I like living in a trailer because I can just move away when I want to" John aged 10

"Nice, warm, cosy when I'm sleeping" Michael aged 8

"A trailer is good. You can play toys or something else. I love playing" Johnson aged 6

What do you not like about living in a trailer?

"You have to pack all the stuff away" Kennedy aged 8

"You have to tidy up all the time" Maxie aged 9

"You have to level it up" Mackenzie aged 10

"Because you can't get a full bath" John aged 10



Campsite

Flowers

by Maxie, Mackenzie and Kimberley



“Clean.” “Grass.” John, Patrick, Tommy Lee

“Clean and tidy” Fiona aged 11

What do you think makes a good site?

“Because my family will be there in Bermondsey Site and it had a shed with a kitchen and bath and sink and toilet.” Johnny 10

“I like living in a trailer in Ireland. Camp in a field and play football”

What do you think would make it better?

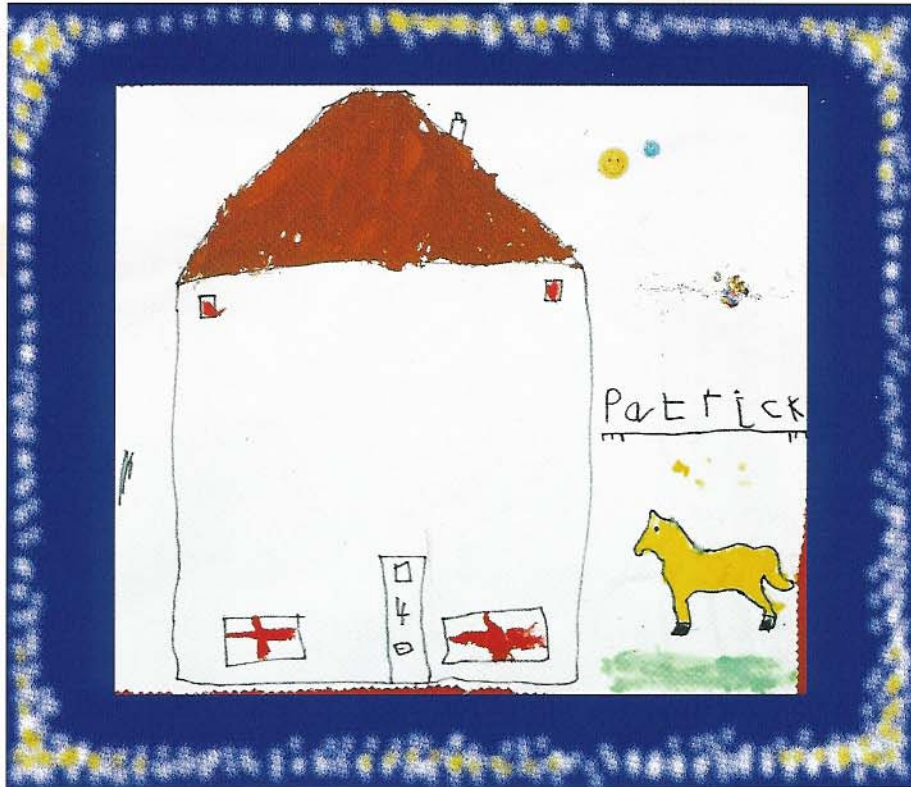
“If everyone calms down.” Charles aged 9



House

"My House"

by Patrick aged 7



*"Now I live in a house.
Sometimes like and
Sometimes don't."*

Charles aged 9

*"We were living in a trailer. Now we
live in a house. I want to have a car.
Porsche. Now we go to school....
When I grow up I want a house."*

"I want to have a dog."

Martin aged 9

Guard Dog

by Jimmy aged 8



School

What do you like about school?

"I like school. I can read and I can play. I like to play skipping. I like to go swimming. I want to do loads of work." Ann aged 6

"You get good education and when we do art." Mackenzie 10

"Don't like getting pushed around or bullied. Get lunch." Charles aged 9

"Dinnertime" Tommy Lee aged 5

"Playtime." "Swimming" Patrick aged 7

"I like to write....but the best thing is making things. What I like about school is that they give you food and look after you."

"I like writing. I like swimming.

"I like playtime. It makes me sad when people push me over." Lacey 8

"I like school. I like the playground. I like maths." Michael aged 7

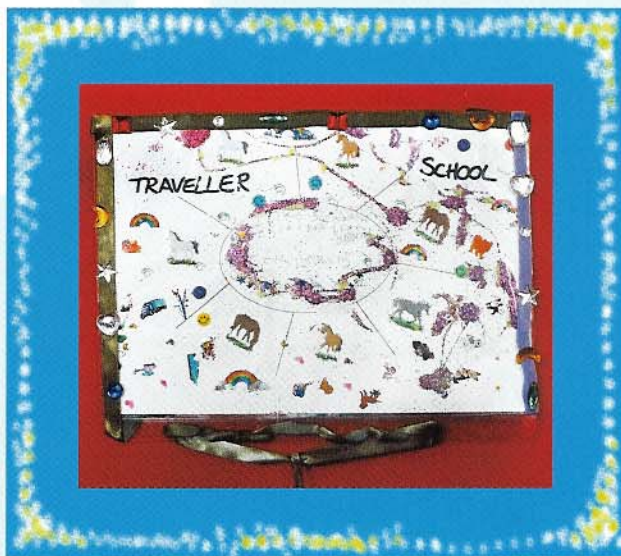
"Being a Traveller at school is difficult because when you need special equipment like year six you have to buy a sats book and I was sick that day and I missed out." And cost of trips are really expensive and when you can't afford it - it is really embarrassing in class." "School is ok." "Traveller children have problems because when there's things like Inspire some children's parents might not be able to go." "In school for Traveller children is a bit different because if other children find out they would talk behind your back."

"When you're at school Traveller children are treated fair but some children if they find out would talk about you. I don't want people to know because they'll make fun of you and get you upset." Fiona aged 11

"No one else in the school knows I'm a Traveller I don't mind if people know ... just don't want them to call me Gypsy and that." Johnny aged 10

All About Me

by Michael aged 10

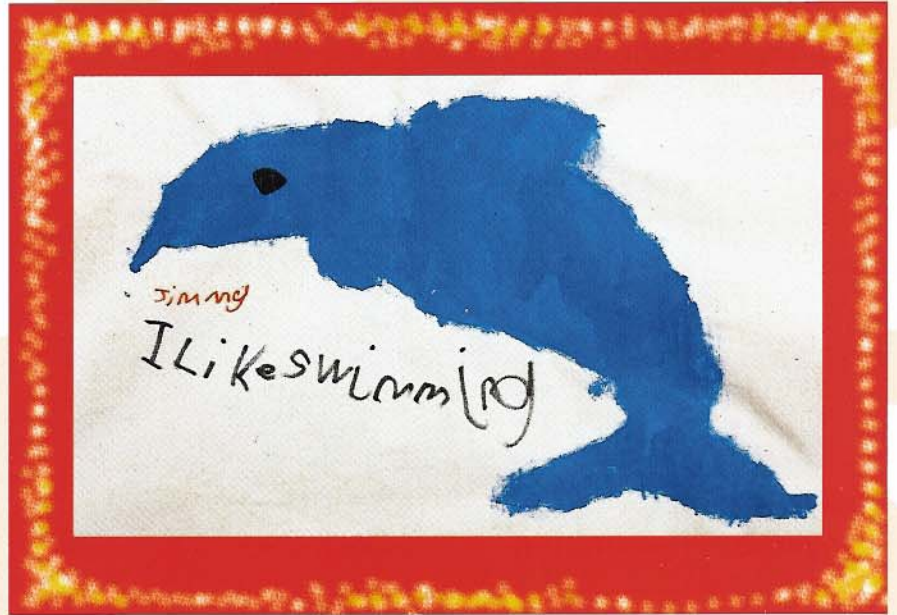


School

I like Swimming
Swimming pool
is cool
splash jump
go underneath
open your eyes
do some dives
by Jimmy 8

All About Me
My name is Lacey
And my favourite
colour is blue
And blue reminds
me of dolphins
I love dolphins
And I like to sing
And art is my favourite
I like it because
it is fun fings
by Lacey aged 8

All About My Brother
His name is Ainey
And he likes school
And his favourite colours
are red and black and blue
We love our dogs
Lady and Prince
And we love going on
holidays.
also by Lacey aged 8



Dolphins
by Jimmy and Martin aged 8



School

"I like school. I like work. I like writing. Binh is my friend. I like swimming." *"I have lot of friends at school."* Martin aged 8.

"I like doing homework. Everything." Johnson 6

John aged 9:

"Teacher" Swimming" "I like being a Traveller it is alright but I don't like people knowing because they'll make fun of me and talk about me. I don't like school because people call me names when we go swimming."

"I like this school the way it is. I like the school because I have got friends. I think that this school should have a climbing frame for the older children."

"I have got a lot of friends. It isn't better than my old school. Everyone knew me there, they were good friends with me, cousins were in there with me." Johnny 10

"Play games. Learning to read, playground, playing with my friends."

Don't like: "Classroom. Too much writing."

"I like spiderman. Amar is my friend. I like reading with Cate." Jimmy aged 8

"I would like school to be less hours with more breaks because you're stuck in a classroom too much. You spend more time in school that you get to see your parents." Fiona 11

Who do you learn from most?

"Family and teachers"

"What do you learn from most?"

"Morals and stories." Fiona 11

"Mum, dad computer." Girl 8

"Parents and teachers" Mackenzie 10, Maxie Lewis 9

What do you think makes a good teacher?

"Kind. Someone who can push you to do something." Boy 8

"When you finish she will give you more work"

"Experience and kind" Fiona 11

"Help me work." Michael 8

"When she doesn't shout at you and when you do something naughty they give you a warning."

And a teacher who is not good?

"Very lazy" Mackenzie 10

"Shouts at you" Michael 8

"When they shout at you and tell you off when your just talking."

"When someone else does something she blames it on you." Johnny aged 10

"Cruel" Fiona 11

"Doesn't help you" Charles aged 9



School

Ann Ward

*I like the sunshine
I like pink flowers
I love GOD
I love Mary
I like St. Joseph's school.*

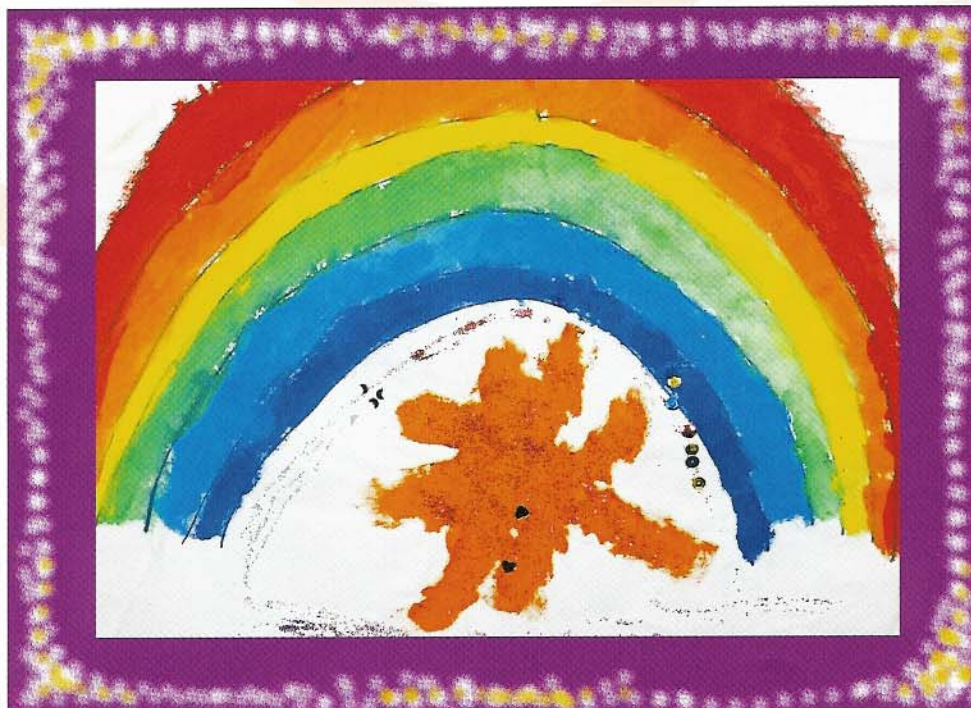


All about myself

*I am Michael Ward
I Like Playing
With My Friends
And My Family
I like To Sing With
My Brother And
My Friends And
My Mother Too
And Help Dad Too*

All About You Rainbow

by Lacey aged 8



What do you think

- would make life better for Gypsy/Traveller children in Birmingham?

"Life would be better for Traveller children in Birmingham when people stop blazing us."

Michael aged 8

"All you have to do is be Kind to people."

"Pick people up when they fall."

"And be kind to the children on the camp too."

Philomena aged 6

"I would like for Traveller children to be treated like the other children."

Fiona aged 11

"If country people could understand and learn Traveller's way of speaking - because some people don't understand you because you don't speak like them." "I would stop people making fun of Traveller Children." "If Traveller children were treated the same as normal children - in schools and out of schools." "If there was one school just for all Travellers - then they would be treated the same."

Fiona aged 11

"If there were more Travellers and people didn't pick on them."

"If Travellers picked on country people and so let them feel the pain."

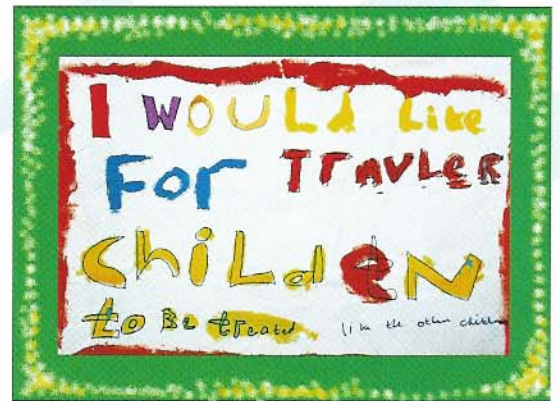
"Don't like people picking on people"

John, Patrick, Tommy Lee

"Be good and play." Charles aged 9

"If they can do whatever they want."

Lacey aged 8



What do you think

about "All About You"?

All About You

by Patrick aged 7

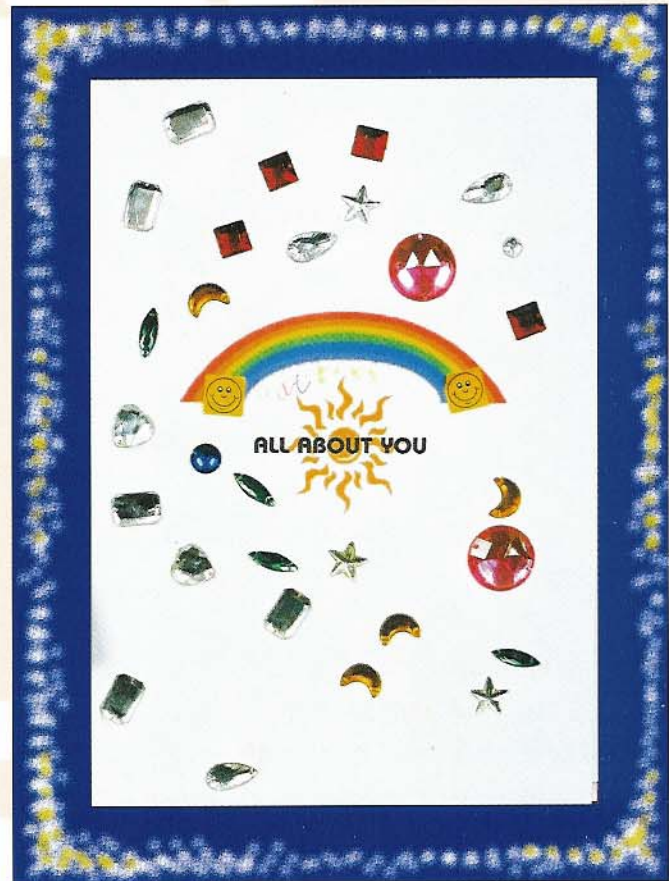
*What do think about
All About You Project
and What do you think
about us?*

*"You give us a chance and helping us
....you are nice."*

"Everything."

"Drawings."

*"I like doing artwork with ye and ye
really help me to do some things."*



"This helped me to....."

.....become more confident and that we have a chance."

"Do good art work and helped me to make more friends."

"...have fun."



What are your dreams for the future?

"When you die they make a machine that brings you back to life"
"I hope nobody dies." Patrick aged 6
"I'm scared of death."

What do you think happens to you when you die?
"You go to heaven"

Do you believe in heaven?
"Yes"

So there's nothing to be scared of.
"Yes, but then I think what if there is no heaven?" John aged 9

"To become a nurse/doctor. To have child support and good education. Make school be less hours please" Fiona

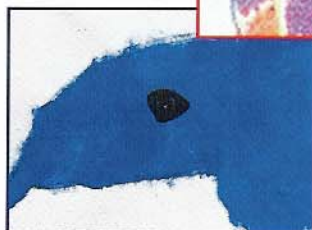
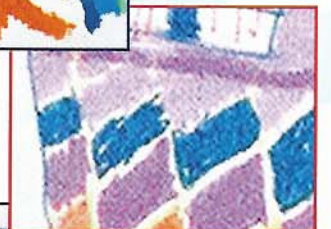
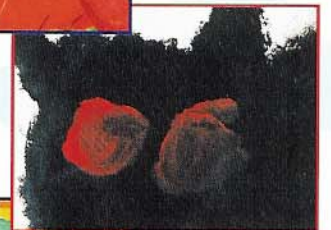
"I want to bring children up on holiday where ever they want to go and get them whatever they want." Johnny 10

"Getting a big swimming pool with loads of features in it." Kennedy 8

"Singer" Lacey 8

"Minding my dad's machine and having a massive swimming pool." Maxie 9

"To have 4 horses..." Mackenzie 10



All About Myself

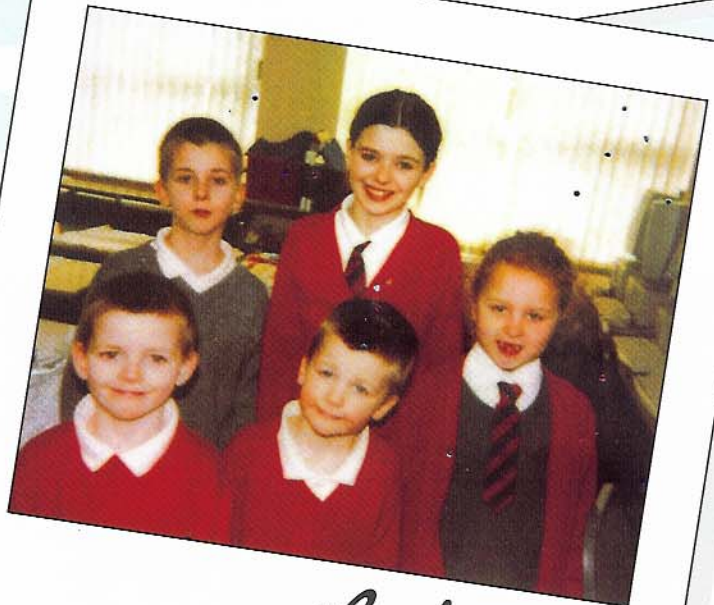
I am Charles
I was 9 yesterday
I like gold and red
But I don't like to get out of bed
I like to watch TV
I like to go travelling
Because I like to be free
I like the sunshine
And I like the trees
I like the lights in the sky
I like to box
Don't ask me why
by Charles aged 9



The Children

Patrick Conron
Hughie Coyle
Johnny Coyle
Paul Dante
Henry Dante
Machenzie Derry
Jimmy Doherty
Martin Doherty
Sabrina Doherty
Michael Glasheen
Tarley Glasheen
Maxie Lewis
Johnson Lyon
Paris Lyon
Ainey Pulisciano
Lacey Pulisciano
Fiona Stokes
John Stokes
Patrick Stokes
Tommy Lee Stokes
Daria Szukula
Irlona Szukula
Serena Tartarova
Ann Ward
Charles Ward
Michael Ward
Philomena Ward
Rachel Ward
Samantha Ward

Kimberley Wilson
Joseph Wilson
Henry Wilson
Nicholas Tartarova
Lukaz Tartarova



smile!



Schools who supported the project:

Lakey Lane Primary School

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School

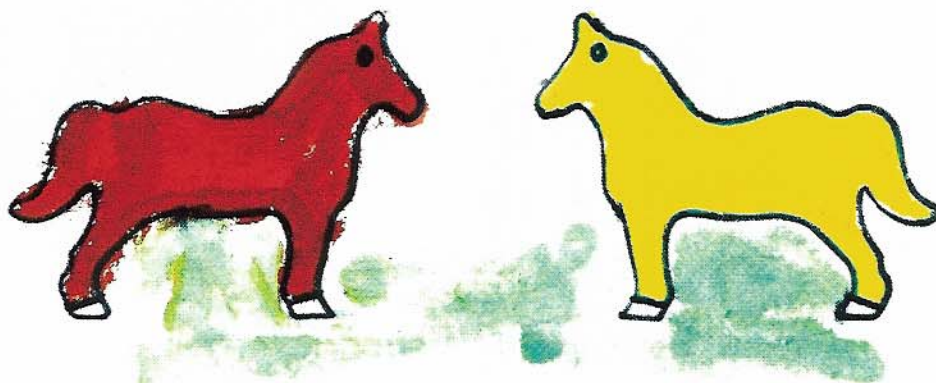
St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Watville Primary School



all about us

I love horses



John Stokes



"All About Us" presents the views and opinions of Traveller children, aged 5-13 years, who took part in the All About You consultation project in Birmingham 2003. Through poetry, artwork and conversations the children represent themselves and their lives. In particular they share their experiences of school and what they think would make life better for Traveller children in Birmingham.



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