

"I'm not allowed
to play with you
anymore"



A short story by the Traveller Movement
Illustrations by Liz Pope www.ejpea.com

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This short story is produced by the Traveller Movement in co-operation with members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and is based on real experiences. We would like to thank all those involved in creating this story.

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**Margaret and George
have been friends
since they both started
school and enjoy playing
together very much.**

**Margaret is an Irish
Traveller and George is
English; but to them they
are no different. They just
like to play together.**



George's dad is at the school gate to pick him up. He sees George and Margaret together, but he does not seem very happy.



“You are not to play with Margaret any more George. She is a Traveller and we do not mix with that sort.

“They are nothing but trouble. Keep away from them!

“Do you understand?” shouts Georges’ dad.

“Yes dad” – says George.



Margaret is waiting for George in the playground, as she does every day. She is looking forward to playing catch with him.



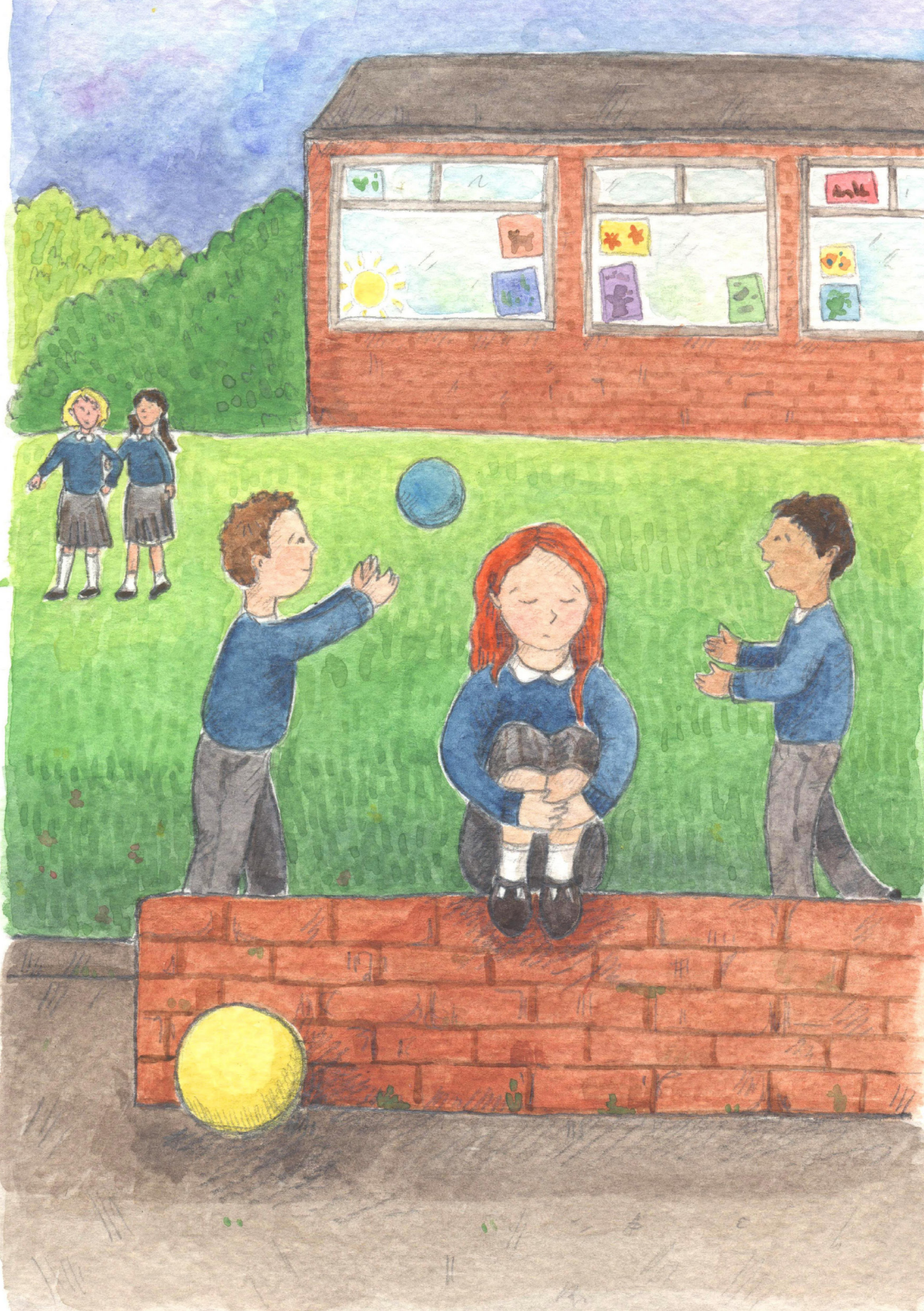
George looks angry when he is speaking to Margaret.

“I am not allowed to play with you anymore Margaret.” George yells.

“You are a Traveller and that means you are nothing but trouble”.



Margaret is really sad and just wants to go home. She does not understand what she has done wrong.



George is at home. He stares out of the window.

“I wish I could play with Margaret.” he thinks to himself.

“I do not understand why my dad says she is trouble. She is never in trouble at school”.



George's dad has taken him to a town hall meeting, where the local people are complaining about Gypsies and Travellers.

“Look, this Traveller problem has gone too far.” George's dad says to the crowd.

“We need to get rid of them. We cannot have them ruining our town. They are nothing but trouble!”



A few days later people are protesting against the local Gypsies and Travellers, led by George's dad.

They want to show them that they are not welcome anymore.



SAY NO
TO GYPSY
TRAVELLERS
SITE

GYPSY TRAVELLERS
SITE
NOT WELCOME

SAY NO!
TO GYPSY
TRAVELLERS
SITE!

NO
TO
GYPSY
TRAVELLERS
SITE

KEEP OUT
THE
TRAVELLERS

Margaret and her mum see the protest as it goes past their home.

“Look mummy, there’s George.” Says Margaret very sadly. “He is holding a mean sign. Why does he hate me so much now?”

“It’s ok Margaret, love”, her mum replies. “It’s not that he hates you. People like George’s dad do not understand our ways and our culture”.



GIPSY TRAVELLER
SITE
NOT WELCOME

NOT
WELCOME!

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TRAVELLERS
OUT!

NO!

TRAVELLER
SITE
NOT WELCOME



The next morning, Margaret is ready to leave for school but really does not want to go.

“Please mammy”, says Margaret. “I do not want to go to school. They do not like us there because we are Travellers.

No one will play with me anymore. Please don’t make me go”.



**70% of Gypsy, Roma
and Traveller people
have experienced
discrimination in
education.**

(research by the Traveller Movement)

**The Traveller Movement Education
Support Project provides support for
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller parents
and children and schools. They can
be contacted on 020 7607 2002 or at
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