

Story Telling Day with Michael Jones Quay Primary School,  
Bridlington 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008

As part of the activities for the Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, METAS asked Michael Jones, a popular storyteller from Oxfordshire, to visit three Schools within the East Riding OF Yorkshire Council. The purpose of the visits was to make pupils and staff more aware of the positive aspects of Traveller culture, and thus help to overcome prejudice and promote inclusion.

The first of these visits was to Quay Primary School in Bridlington. Michael spent the whole school day at the school, working with children and staff, and what a busy and exciting day it was! The highlights of the day were the two extremely entertaining morning



performances; ‘ Watch out for Badgers’, performed for the younger children, and ‘Frog and the Stranger’ for the Key Stage Two pupils.

Both of these sessions addressed the more serious message of inclusion in a very amusing and engaging way. Michael had put a lot of effort into finding the perfect props with which to adapt his stories to have a very subtle ‘Traveller’ theme. The children obviously thoroughly enjoyed the performances, and Head Teacher Lyndsay Baldock reported that the children could not stop talking about them for days afterwards!

The afternoon continued with interactive circle time activities, as well as lots of artwork and writing. The pupils were very eager to sketch some of the lovely artefacts that Michael had brought along for the plays, including a miniature Traveller ‘Bow Top’ wagon, and water carriers. This was a very worthwhile day. Michael, with his engaging stories succeeded in one morning, delivering the important message of inclusion.

Sue Wood