

**Letter from KCC GRT outreach officer**

**March 2016**

**Supporting statement for Ofsted**

I have worked in KCC for more than 20 years, working with Gypsy Roma Travellers and feel recognition of good practice should be acknowledged and celebrated within Ulcombe Primary School.

These are a few points that change lives of young students and work towards breaking down barriers to enable future generations to achieve and thrive.

Emma Hickling (Executive Head) has taken steps over and above her general duties to welcome, include and celebrate the Gypsy and Travellers of Irish Heritage communities. Parents from the local Traveller site are anxious to ensure their children have a place at Ulcombe due to the trust and inclusive attitude of the school which has been established over the last few years.

Steps have been taken to increase the school pan to accommodate the demand from the GRT community for school places.

The school curriculum had been altered to include more kinaesthetic learning which is reflected in the lifestyle of the Traveller community.

Decision to allow any pupil to repeat year 6 (if appropriate) to ensure that each child has the maximum years of learning who would otherwise finish at primary school.

When appropriate, to allow flexi schooling with a plan to integrate the child in school full time.

Acknowledging cultures and lifestyles of all communities.

Linking with another Kent School and a school outside of the area who have similar percentages of GRT to share good practice.

Regular meetings are held within the school to raise the attendance and address all GRT issues and work collaboratively with outside agencies.

I hope these points are useful.

Kind regards,

Chris

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