[School name]

[School address]

[date]

**Re: [Pupil name, year group, date of birth]**

Dear [Headteacher name];

I am writing in regard to the above child[ren] who is[are] registered as a Traveller at your school.

[Write what has happened if appropriate]

Please may I remind remind you of the Education Act 1996, where it is recognised that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families may have a valid reason to keep their children from school, particularly when travelling for economic purposes.

As the child[ren] are registered as Travellers, you are able to use the T-code to record the absence. The guidance states that schools should not necessarily ask for proof that the parent is travelling for occupational purposes, this should only happen when there is genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the reason for absence given.

The guidance also states: ‘The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.’

[Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024) (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance__applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf) – page 85

The charitable organisation Friends, Families and Travellers sought further clarification of the wording from the Department for Education, and the guidance must be interpreted as the mobile child being of no fixed abode **whilst** the parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place. They wrote:

**“‘No fixed abode’ means that someone either does not have a settled place where they can live full-time, or they have a place where they can live full-time but they spend substantial periods of time not living there. So a mobile child could be a child whose family travels all year round as part of their trade or business and has no permanent address at all, but it also includes a child who does have a fixed place to live (like a house) but does not live there for a substantial part of the year, if their parent is engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel from place to place. If the child is absent from school while travelling with that parent, then code T applies.**

**Schools and LAs must apply this definition when considering the provisions for a mobile child in the 1996 Act, the 2024 Regulations and the accompanying statutory guidance.”**

May I also remind you of your requirement to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty Act 2010, where [Romany Gypsy/Irish Traveller] is a protected characteristic as a legal ethnicity. A large proportion of Romany Gypsy and Traveller children are home schooled due to the difficulties faced in the education system, such as travelling for economic purposes. Therefore it can be demonstrated that there are large disadvantages in educational opportunities which need minimising. The act states:

**(3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—**

1. **remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;**

**(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;**

**(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.**

**(6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.**

We would be very grateful that you would exercise your duties under the Education Act 1996 and Public Sector Equality Duty Act 2010.

If you need any further information on the use of the T-code or the Public Sector Equality Duty Act, please contact the charity Friends, Families and Travellers on 01273 234777.

Kind regards,