# Using an ancient Viking tradition of democracy to share ideas and discuss issues – Nesting Primary School - Transcript

**Headteacher**: I think you just need to go outdoors in Shetland, go to the top of the hill or go to the beach or go round the loch and there’s this vastness of the sky, cos we’ve got no trees and this openness and this wonderful, amazing light and many people that come here, whether it’s on holiday or to stay, talk about this spiritual aspect of Shetland, how it catches them and holds them. But for the Shetlander themselves it’s a very special place and we have to use that as a school. We have to get out there. It makes us what we are. And it gives us so many opportunities to cover RME, to cover RO

**Headteacher**: We have a labyrinth but that’s just one aspect of our outdoor groundwork that we’ve put in place. Our whole idea was to recreate a Viking Ting site for the new millennium. Now a Ting was the parliament where the Vikings came to meet, to greet one another, to make law and the real centre of the Ting is the Skald seat and that’s our meeting place. It’s where we go to talk, where we go to have council meetings, where we can tell stories.

**Pupil 1**: It’s good because everybody in the circle is equal because there’s no head of the table, I’m the boss kind of thing. Everybody’s in a circle and facing each other so I can see everybody round the circle.

**Headteacher**: We also have the representations of the traditional stories so we have the trowie knowe, with the trowie door into the hillside and the trowie totem which very much represents light overcoming darkness. And that would have been when the trow was coming home from his mischief during the night, the sun came up in the east and caught him and turned him into dust.

**Pupil 2**: A trow is like the Shetland equivalent to like a really small troll.

**Pupil 3**: A Shetland elf! Pupil 2: Like Pupil 3: Very mischievous.

**Pupil 2**: The mischievous and big red eyes and causing havoc throughout the whole of Shetland.