

SCHOOL VISIT RECORD FOR DIOCESAN ASSOCIATE ADVISER /OFFICER (2018-19)

Mareham-le-Fen Church of England Primary School

Name of Diocesan Associate School Adviser or Officer: Charlotte Hickerton

Name of Headteacher: Avril Moore

Date of Visit: 13th June 2019

Summary from Adviser (including comments from tour and discussion with the Headteacher)

This summary should be no more 300 words

Firstly, I would like to thank the Headteacher for the time she dedicated to the SLA visit. During our time together we toured the school and then explored a number of key themes relating to the Christian character of the school. We identified a number of key strengths and agreed some areas which could further enhance the school's effectiveness as a church school.

Vision and Leadership

The school has a distinctively Christian vision and this is deeply embedded in the school's policies and practices. The current vision is due for a revisit during the next academic year, when the school will consider the new SIAMs/Ofsted framework, ensuring all members of the school community have clarity about the school's strategic direction. It is clear that the school works hard to collaborate with other schools and is an active part of the Kyra East Teaching School Alliance, as well as other partnerships and clusters. Governors, including Foundation Governors, are actively involved in the leadership of the school, supporting the Headteacher to evaluate every aspect of the school day. Currently, the school's leadership priority is working hard develop the whole curriculum. There is much work being undertaken to audit individual subjects and setting the vision in each area of school life. This will ensure the curriculum is rich and varied, with much opportunity for writing through a well-planned thematic approach.

Values

It was wonderful to see the strength of the school's values of forgiveness, friendship, respect, responsibility and perseverance that are woven through all aspects of school life. It is very clear that these values are highly embedded, they are visible, articulated regularly and clearly guide the actions of all staff and pupils. Examples of this are the lack of need for rules – the values are used to underpin all behaviour choices and expectations. It was noted on the visit that the pupils were extremely polite, well-mannered and were enjoying their learning, especially their "Pirates of the Curry Bean" play preparation!

Collective Worship

Collective Worship continues to be a central part of daily life at Mareham-le-Fen. Further developments have been made since the SIAMs inspection in 2017, with an increase in the variety of different speakers and also pupils' involvement in worship. The 'Worship Wardens' take an active role in all acts of collective worship, planning, delivering and evaluating, often suggesting what could be even better. The Bishop's Visitor takes an active role within the school, taking weekly acts of worship every Tuesday, as well as being Foundation Governor at the school.

Religious Education

RE provision has developed considerably this year. The school is now following a new long term plan (following the RE agreed syllabus) and Understanding Christianity is being used across the school. This is deepening the children's RE skills and knowledge, upskilling teachers to deliver high

quality RE sessions. The RE leader attends RE cluster meetings to keep abreast of any new developments.

Other Strands

The school is developing strategies to promote courageous advocacy. Examples of this seen were pupils choosing which charity they support during the year – for example this year has been ‘Dogs for the Blind’ and ‘Macmillan’. This has made the charity work meaningful and engaged pupils fully in the purpose of charity giving. The school is also starting to develop strategies to support positive mental health within school, for both adults and children.

Church School Links

Despite challenges, the link between church and school remains strong, with the Bishop’s Visitor providing a visual presence within the school. The school reciprocates by taking an active part in the life of the church, for example supporting the Mother’s Day service and taking part in the most recent flower festival.

Key Strengths Seen:

- A very dedicated Headteacher who cares deeply for her community, working flexibly with diverse families in order to provide the very best education for all pupils.
- Strong links to the church community and active Bishop’s Visitor.
- Committed and active Governing Body.
- Christian Values that bind the school community together and impact on the staff and pupils.
- Improvements from the 2017 SIAMs report already in progress.

Areas for Development include:

- Further training for staff and governors on the SIAMs framework.
- Review of the current vision statement to ensure it is deeply connected to the Christian story.
- Further development of the Understanding Christianity resources to further improve RE teaching and learning within school.
- Continue to develop the children’s understanding of Christianity as a World Faith through a range of different presenters within Collective Worship.

ACTIONS FOR THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION TEAM TO FOLLOW UP (if any)

- Diocesan Education team to provide support and guidance for developing RE in schools through cluster meetings.
- Further training for staff and Governors to develop their understanding of the SIAMs framework.

Signature of Headteacher :

Signature of Diocesan School Adviser:

Copies of visit record to the Headteacher and the Diocesan Education Centre