

Diocesan Annual Visit

Willoughby St Helena's Church of England Primary School

Thursday 12th November 2020



Present:

- Sue Belton (Headteacher - HT)
- Ruth Russell-Jones (Foundation Governor)
- Paul Thompson (Diocesan Deputy Director of Education - DDDE)

Sources of information:

- SIAMS School Evaluation Form
- SLA visit form from the previous year
- Discussion on Zoom with the head, foundation governor and DDDE.
- Due to Covid restrictions, it was not possible for the meeting or a tour to take place at the school.

The following key points were discussed:

Contextual changes –

- The number on roll has increased to 136 with 12 in the Nursery.
- There is a new Chair of Governors called Margaret Fulwood
- There are two new Foundation Governors.

Progress since the last inspection –

The HT reports that the school has addressed the two key areas for development noted on the inspection report.

There is now a well-established Christian values led approach to teaching and learning. There is an ongoing promotion and celebration of values-based learning behaviours. Pupils are supported in being 'respectful' learners and 'enduring' learners across the curriculum and they are presented with 'values' badges in collective worship. The HT reports there is an effective Code of Conduct based on the 8 values. There is also a weekly reward system which has sustained these good learning behaviours. This work has had a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning.

For the second priority, the school has enabled pupils to get a deeper understanding of Christianity as a global faith. The key driver for this has been through teaching 'Understanding Christianity – UC' within Religious Education. The HT reports that the UC training and resources have really improved the quality of teaching in RE. She has made thoughtful decisions on how best to use the resources across the school – the decision to produce class sets of the pictures rather displaying them permanently on the wall was explained with clear rationale.

The HT is confident that there is sufficient evidence to show these two areas for development from the last inspection has been addressed.

Agreed Strengths

The HT has invested a lot of time in producing a SIAMS SEF for the school. The document is aligned to the current SIAMs schedule and provides a clear picture of the school's strengths and areas for development as a church school.

There are many strengths noted in the SEF which are to be celebrated. One is the quality of **collective worship**. School leaders evaluate collective worship as outstanding. It is clear that collective worship is an integral part of daily life in school where adults and children have rich opportunities for spiritual development. The HT reports that it is really unfortunate that Covid restrictions have prevented the whole school coming together for worship. The HT however has ensured that worship has continued everyday – albeit in class bubbles. She has ensured that teachers who are less confident in leading worship have had the resources and planning aids to deliver effective worship. The HT worked with the clergy to lead Harvest Festival through Zoom and the HT has considered leading whole school worship by streaming herself into every class via zoom but the virtual platform is not the preferred method for worship in this school. The school misses the warm connections and interactions that you achieve through whole school worship in the hall together. There is no doubt that high quality worship is very important to the school and the HT has strived to ensure the quality of worship has not been compromised during Covid as best as she can.

It was agreed that the school has developed a **clear vision** (informed by the CofE vision for education) that provides hope, wisdom, dignity and a sense of community. The HT has shown in the SEF how the vision is being lived out within the different strands of the SIAMs schedule. (The HT acknowledged the great support she received from the Diocesan RE adviser).

The HT reported the strongest features of the school include:

- The Christian values – which are embedded in the daily of the school.
- The adults and children who are able to enjoy a thoughtful relationship in collective worship.
- The quality of RE enriched by highly developed pedagogy and a well formed philosophy.

The foundation governor (Ruth) noted that another key strength is that the HT is very good at finding solutions and empowering others. She appreciated Sue's positive and optimistic outlook on matters. The statement. 'I am not good at that yet' shows we are all learners.

Governor support for the HT's well-being

The HT reports that the governors support her well. She meets with her Chair and Vice chairs on a weekly basis and without fail they enquire about her well-being. She receives kind and affirming gestures from governors. The HT also noted she enjoys positive working relationships with other HTs. She finds these supportive and uplifting. The HT also remarked that she appreciated the support from the diocese.

Areas for Development

It was agreed that there were two key priorities to further develop leadership:

- To support and develop the new RE champion so that she can strengthen her capacity to lead the subject throughout the school.
- To support and develop the new Foundation governors so they are able to undertake their roles and responsibilities effectively.

In addition to this, the HT intends to develop the staff's knowledge of the SIAMs framework next term. They will have opportunities to discuss the different strands of the SEF.

Diocesan support available.

The HT is very well engaged with the diocese and is aware of the support the diocese can provide for the two areas noted above.

For RE support, please contact Gillian Georgiou Gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org who is able to provide training, support and resource ideas for the new RE champion. The HT said it would be fantastic if there was an 'Understanding Islam' resource for schools. This has been indeed noted at a national level and we endeavor to provide the support schools need for teaching Islam effectively.

For governor support, please contact Sam Stewart Samantha.stewart@lincoln.anglican.org who is able to deliver training on Roles and Responsibilities for governors.

The diocesan website provides a wealth of support for developing church school effectiveness as well. The training menu is available at www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com

And finally...

Thank you to Sue for all the great work she does to lead a very strong school.

Thank you to Ruth and the other governors for the support and time they provide.

I wish the school all the very best for this academic year.

Paul Thompson

Diocesan Deputy Director of Education