

WCEJS Learning Update – July 2024

Review and Look Forward



Building on the success of our SIAMS inspection in the summer term of last year, we set ambitious objectives to further improve our school. We have implemented most of what we set out to do and as a result, have had another successful year.

It was lovely to receive a very positive headline visit from our local authority school improvement advisor in June and to receive confirmation from the local authority that we remain an enhancing school.

Vision & Ethos

Our vision and ethos remains strong and this drives all we do in school. Our Christian values are the tools we use to achieve the virtues of



curiosity, courage and compassion. This help children to build solid foundations for the rest of their schooling and later life. Children talk knowledgeably about the three Cs and the four Rs and they use these to help themselves and others overcome challenge.

Worship & Reflection

Worship this year has focused very much on inequality and injustice. We have explored different places in the world and the lives of different people and groups. The importance of celebrating differences, learning from each other and disagreeing well have been revisited frequently. There have been many opportunities for us to reflect, to be grateful for all that we are given and to think about the changes that we could make to improve the lives of others. Weekly reflection time has encouraged children to grow spiritually as they consider how the worship theme relates to self, others, the world

and beyond (the bigger questions, such as why we are here). Many children have been inspired



to be advocates for positive change, organizing fund-raising events for local and national charities.

Having gathered much evidence this year, we will be applying for the bronze award of the Global Neighbours scheme, run by Christian Aid and working towards the silver award in September.

Curriculum & Learning

Our curriculum remains broad; children learn many different subjects and we ensure that an appropriate amount of time is spent on each area.

Reading Plus and DoodleMaths were introduced in September and have proved very popular. These online platforms support children in reading and maths as they complete the weekly activities set for extended learning. Children also use these resources in school to ensure that learning is fully embedded. Children have made high rates of progress this year.

We completed a full review of the curriculum this year, ensuring that every subject is as well thought out as the core subjects. Our new progression documents demonstrate that there is appropriate progression of knowledge and skills over the four years your children are with us. Improved WINKs (what I need to know)

Respect Reflection Responsibility Resilience

documents are used by children to review their learning. These will be available in the new academic year.

There have been many curriculum enrichment opportunities this year, including visitors to the school, (including ducklings!) visits to places of interest, extracurricular clubs, performances such as the Big Gig, our Strawberry Fayre and the two sports events that all pupils participated in. Thank you for your continued support that ensures we are able to offer these valued experiences.

Personal Development

There has been a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing in school this year. Our senior mental health and wellbeing lead has worked



with leaders to ensure that the RHSE (Relationships, Health & Sex Education) curriculum is suitably adapted for the needs of children and that our worship themes help support the important messages children learn in lesson time.

We have reviewed our whole school behaviour support and increased capacity by introducing an Attendance and Behaviour Lead. All staff have received further training to help support children with specific needs. The Zones of Regulation is used widely across the school, promoting emotional literacy and self-regulation. A Y3 nurture group was introduced, to help better prepare Y3 children for KS2, and we have worked closely with secondary schools so that our Y6 are ready for their next phase. Visits from local authority representatives have validated our judgement that we are doing a good job in supporting children to make good choices.

A number of activities run to support groups of children. These include Service lunches, Young Carers, EAL and a new group for children from displaced families. All provide a safe space for children to meet and support each other.

To support parents of children with special educational needs, we have offered frequent opportunities to meet the SEND team and other parents of SEND children. Based on parental feedback from last academic year, we have revised the process for SEND review meetings as well as the SEND review report.

Pupil voice has been strong again this year with children eager to hold positions of responsibility. Some of these roles are within the class and others are whole school responsibilities, such as the anti-bullying ambassadors, school council and eco-warriors. We are already planning how we can further improve the quality of these positions.

Partnerships

We have worked closely with the local church team to plan the half-termly worship themes and further strengthen links within the community. We have held a number of very well-supported services in St Mary's Church, including Harvest Festival and the Easter Service. Thank you to all the parents who have been able to attend these services and the other events.

Once again, the PTA have done a splendid job, not only raising money that directly benefits the children, but also providing enjoyable events such as movie night, bingo, the disco and the Strawberry Fayre. Thank you for supporting these events through donations and your participation. A number of parents are leaving the PTA this year as their children move to secondary – thank you for your commitment and hard work.

This has been a productive and eventful year and no doubt next year will be just as busy. Priorities will be shared with parents on the school website in September. In the meantime, thank you to all staff who have worked tirelessly and to everyone for the support and positive feedback that you have given them. It is greatly appreciated. We wish you all a restful, safe and enjoyable summer.

Gareth Kynaston
Headteacher.