

## Governing Body Report 2016 – 2017

All the Governors of Mareham le Fen Church of England Primary School have a keen interest in ensuring that the school is the best that it can be and that it plays an active part in the life of the community. This year we have welcomed two new governors; Mrs Elizabeth Knox and Mr Paul Cooley. We have also said goodbye to Mrs Margaret Johns who retired from the governing body earlier in the year after many faithful years of service to the school. We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Mark Taylor who is leaving the governors at the end of the year when he is re-located with his job. We would like to thank them both for their commitment and contributions to the governing body, we will miss them both.

As part of our role as governors we carry out various monitoring activities. The headteacher gives us lots of information about the progress of the children and we visit the school to see this progress for ourselves. The visits ensure that governors become more familiar with the learning that takes place and this enables effective challenge. We also ensure that the children are safe in school and when they leave the premises and that all policies and regulations are being followed.

The following are just some examples of the monitoring undertaken by governors this academic year.

Focus of Visit	Summary of Activities undertaken	Outcomes	Behaviour, Health and Safety, Safeguarding
Maths – Use of learning Objectives and Plenary	I met with the subject leader prior to the visit. All classes were visited and I looked in depth at the books of two of the classes. The LO was referred to several times during the lessons	In all classes there was clear evidence that the learning Objective had been introduced and children were working towards it. Questioning was directed at all ability groups, with good support from Teaching Assistants so all children remained focussed. There was good, challenging use of mathematical vocabulary. There were good relationships between staff and children and the small groups enabled staff to identify where extra support was needed. The work in books was neatly presented and marked up-to-date and there was evidence of challenge to move children forward. The Learning Objective was referred to several times during lessons and the plenary showed understanding of the lesson content.	The children in all classes were polite, well mannered and confident. The learning behaviour was very good with many children keen to discuss their work in an enthusiastic manner. There was a fire alarm practice during my visit. The whole school was evacuated in less than 2 minutes and all exited in a controlled and orderly manner and they lined up in silence.

<p>Literacy – Analysis of data, review of literacy report and book scrutiny.</p>	<p>Looking at data and pupil performance in reading and writing. Book scrutiny of writing across the school.</p>	<p>Tracking of pupil progress across all year groups was presented in an easily understandable format. It was possible to see the percentage of children who were making expected progress as well as those exceeding expectations. Scrutinising books enabled me to see progress throughout the year and the marking was up-to-date and adhered to the school marking policy. It was good to see examples of cross-curricular work.</p>	<p>The school was buzzing and in each class all children were engaged with the task in hand. Behaviour across the school was good.</p>
<p>To look at progress with literacy and phonics in Key Stage 1.</p>	<p>After listening to a story the children were asked various questions to show their understanding of the text. Children were then asked to write sentences about the story after ‘steps to success’ were talked about.</p>	<p>From their responses the children obviously knew the learning objectives of the lesson. Differentiated questions were asked so that all abilities were challenged. The sentences written showed that the success criteria was met. Books showed clear progress since the start of the year.</p>	<p>Behaviour in all classes was good and there were no safeguarding or health and safety concerns.</p>
<p>To look at progression and pace in Numeracy in Year 1 and Reception.</p>	<p>Both groups were observed being taught in different classrooms. One group were counting in two’s to 20 and back to 0, they also mentally added and subtracted to and from 20. They were making number patterns and writing number sentences. The other group were making number patterns and sentences to 10.</p>	<p>In both groups the children were focussed and on task. They understood their learning objective and were able to discuss their work showing that they knew what to do to be successful. Their learning behaviour was good and the questioning showed that they were continually challenged. There was good pace and the children moved forward in their learning. Both groups showed good reasoning skills. Clear progression was evident from the last visit.</p>	<p>Behaviour was very good and there were no safeguarding or health and safety concerns.</p>
<p>Monitoring RE</p>	<p>All classes were visited. One class was learning about St. Francis. There was</p>	<p>It is obvious that RE is enjoyed by the children. The lessons are put across enthusiastically and imaginatively by the staff</p>	<p>I thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the inventive ideas shown by teachers to put across the</p>

	<p>some engaging drama leading to discussion about him.</p> <p>Another class was looking at several everyday objects, they discussed their purpose and this led to their thinking about how these might represent the character of Jesus.</p> <p>The third class was working on the theme of 'Beautiful World'. There was much interaction and discussion and these led to their thoughts being bottled in a picture.</p>	<p>and all lessons were well prepared and suitably challenging. The children were engaged in their work and there was a positive mood throughout. In one class there was a real buzz as I entered the classroom. There was group work going on and some children were showing themselves to be natural leaders making sure that everyone had an opportunity to answer questions. Scribes were very busy. The groups moved round the classroom nicely to look at the next focus and it was a good indicator of their ability to work independently. The plenary summed up the lesson well. In another class it was good to see that children felt confident to ask for further explanation and help. The project needed independent thinking and they were developing the skills to work on their own.</p>	<p>subjects. The children were confident and happy in their environment.</p>
<p>To look at the teaching of Science across the school.</p>	<p>I observed science lessons in all classes.</p> <p>In one group they were investigating the properties of materials to gauge whether or not a material was suitable for a task. Children discussed and then predicted the results before carrying out an experiment to see if they were correct.</p> <p>Another group were investigating respiration to find out how the heart rate affects the body and how the blood pumps around the</p>	<p>The visit was a pleasure to undertake. The children were friendly and relaxed and excited to explain their lesson and findings. There was a good relationship between pupils and all staff which ensured that questions could be asked in a relaxed manner and that the learning environment was supportive. As children answered questions they were asked further questions to gauge their understanding of the lesson. The more able children were challenged still further.</p> <p>Most of the lessons seen were very practical, children were enjoying these and it was obvious that this approach was enabling all children to fully understand what was being taught.</p>	<p>Good learning behaviour was insisted upon in all classes with mention of school values. As you walk around the school or in classrooms everyone greets you with a friendly and respectful manner. The school has a calm feeling and everyone appeared happy and relaxed. The emphasis of the Church School environment is clear and the principles it enforces are apparent.</p>

	<p>body.</p> <p>The third group were investigating the ‘best’ way to clean a kitchen at a music festival by testing the cleaning properties of various materials.</p>	<p>It was good to see that the children were encouraged to learn with varying degrees of responsibility and independence over the years, ensuring a smooth and well equipped transition to secondary school.</p> <p>It was very interesting to speak to the subject leader about the vision for the future of science delivery in the school.</p>	
<p>To see how children are challenged at all ability levels.</p>	<p>The first group were working on fractions of numbers and quantities and simplifying fractions.</p> <p>The second group were using their knowledge of tables to show the correlation between multiplication and division.</p> <p>I then observed a Foundation Stage Class in a phonics session where they were learning new sounds and using these to build words.</p>	<p>In all the classes there was clear differentiation and when children answered questions they were then challenged to extend their thinking and come up with other solutions. Children were happy and comfortable to suggest solutions to problems and all ability groups were included. They were given such instructions as: here is the answer, what could the question be? They were then asked to come up with another one.</p> <p>They were constantly encouraged to think about what they knew so that they had the knowledge to solve a problem.</p> <p>I spoke to several children and they were all keen to share their work. One boy, in particular, explaining to me in great detail how he was solving his problems. They were all a credit to the school.</p>	<p>During my visit I saw examples of how school values are embedded at our school, with all staff and children promoting and demonstrating good behaviour, kindness, valuing each other etc in line with the school’s ethos and policies. In all classes the children were focussed and attentive.</p> <p>I was very impressed with the way that many of the children made visitors feel welcome with their friendliness and good manners.</p> <p>There were no safeguarding issues.</p>

As we come to the end of this year, the governing body would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and commitment to the education of the children at Mareham le Fen Church of England Primary School. We, as a governing body, will continue to make every effort to ensure the success of the school and the well-being of everyone in it.