



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Developing Church of England Education

Note of Visit by: MARCUS COOPER PRIMARY ADVISER SDBE

SCHOOL:	St Michael's C of E Primary School, Wandsworth
DATE OF VISIT:	23 May 2018
TIME IN SCHOOL:	9:30 – 3:15
PRESENT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marcus Cooper (SDBE Primary Adviser)• Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team• Members of the RE Faculty• Head Boys and Head Girls• Members of the Governing Body
ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comprehensive learning walk with the Head Boys and Head Girls• A meeting with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and RE Faculty• A work sample carried out jointly with the RE subject leader <p>Discussions were held with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the HT, SLT and RE Faculty members• a representative group of staff members drawn from a range of roles within the school.• a group of pupils as part of a round table discussion• members of the Governing Body at the school

PURPOSE OF VISIT

- To carry out a 'stocktake' day in partnership with the school.

ACHIEVEMENT

- The school is a high achieving school in Wandsworth and standards of attainment are above national measures at the end of each Key Stage.
- The school reports that the standard of achievement in Religious Education is at least in line with other core subjects within the school. Evidence from the visit would confirm this.

KEY POINTS FROM VISIT

Reception:

The Reception Class were concluding a unit of work entitled '*Who cares for this special world and why?*' As part of this unit the children were visiting the local church to link the importance of taking care of God's creation and house, with the gospel value of service. All of the children took an active part in the lesson.

- Pupils were able to explain why it was important to take care of both God's world and the Church. One pupil commented, '*we need to re-use, reduce and recycle, to make sure we keep God's world tidy.*'

- The effective use of iPads to record key tasks allows for pupils to reflect on their understanding of key themes and concepts.

The tour of the school with the Head Boys and Head Girls:

The pupils were confident and comprehensive in their tour of the school. They are clearly very proud of their school and were articulate in their commentary. There is a golden thread of Christian distinctiveness which runs throughout all aspects of school life. This is exemplified by the following:

- Pupils are confident in explaining how Collective Worship is at the heart of the school
- The Anglican traditions permeate not only in collective worship but also in other areas of the school life. For example, the use of the Lord's Prayer as a sending out at the end of the day and the use of the Grace prior to lunch. However, this is not confessional and all pupils of other faiths are made to feel part of St Michael's. As one of the pupils commented *'We are accepting of everyone in our school and we all get on along very well.'*
- Strong links exist with the parish church and pupils speak confidently about the core role the clergy and other members of the parish play in the life of the school. For example, in the Lord's Club.
- The school recognises the needs of all of the pupils. For example, the SAS (Social at School) Club which meets to support the pupils of service children.
- Pupils have a clear and personal understanding of spirituality and what it means to them as an individual.
- Reflection areas in communal areas are of a high quality. They provide pupils with a space to reflect, be still and pray. The use of prayer boxes throughout the school allows pupils to have their prayers recorded and if appropriate shared with the whole school community.
- Pupils are proud that the school is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and the central role this has in the life of the school in reflecting the rights of the whole school community.
- Care for pupils is strong, as one child commented; *'I have always felt safe at the school, it is like my second home.'*
- Pupils from the school were involved in the appointment of the new worship pastor for the parish church.

Discussions with the Children:

- Pupils are proud to attend St Michael's and know that this is a Church of England School. The comments included;
 - *'A church school helps you learn about God and some non-Christians can get to know more about him too.'*
 - *'The school is a great place to be, it is about us, it is more than just a building.'*
- Collective Worship is at the heart of the school. Children speak highly of the centrality of this within school life. Pupils were confident to talk about Pentecost and the meaning this holds in the life of the church. Pupils appreciate the time to reflect which is a core feature of worship at the school.
- Pupils have a good understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and can articulate his central role within the Christian faith.
- The vision at the school has recently been reviewed and the children know that there will be a launch after half-term.
- Children enjoy school life, as one pupil remarked, *'Teachers make it fun and I really want to go to school when I wake up'*
- Pupils engage in a wide range of fund raising activities related to courageous advocacy. Children are keen to share how they work hard to raise money for various charities during the year.

- Pupils greatly appreciate the reflection areas within the school and describe how they use these in their own response to faith. These areas are of a very high quality and are used by many pupils. Children speak confidently about the purpose the reflection areas and how this supports them in prayer, and their own faith journey. One pupil described them as being, *'A place (the reflection area) where you can relax, reflect and pray to God, it is very peaceful.'*

Book scrutiny:

A joint work scrutiny was carried out with the RE subject leader and SDBE primary adviser. RE is regarded as a core subject within the school and this was reflected within the work seen.

- Pupils are motivated and challenged by RE. There is a balance of content which develops pupil's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. Children's work is presented in a range of ways, including photographs and art. For example art work representing Easter in Year 2 reflected their understanding of the Easter story whilst another example in Year 6 recorded pupils' responses to the artwork 'The Light of the World.'
- The children benefit from a wide range of visiting speakers which enhances the school provision and provides richness to the curriculum.
- Pupils engage in the reflection opportunities provided throughout units of work, for example, one pupil in Year 2 responded to the reflection; *'How is prayer important to you?' with 'I feel calm and relaxed because I can say it to God.'* This has become more consistent since a new system was introduced whereby pupils are encouraged to reflect at the end of each lesson.
- Pupils' work provides clear evidence of the progress being made.
- Marking is in line with the school agreed assessment policy. However, marking was not always as comprehensive when pupils had recorded their responses on worksheets.

Next Steps in pupils work:

- Ensure that all of the next steps marking is acknowledged by the teacher once it has been carried out.
- Continue to embed the recording of pupils' reflections within pupil work.
- Ensure the standard of presentation is reflective of the presentation in other areas of the core curriculum.
- Continue to ensure a range of recording strategies are available for pupils to express their understanding.

Self-Evaluation discussion with the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team and the RE Faculty:

- Leadership at the school is continuing to embrace the new SIAMS inspection framework and is preparing to ensure all evidence is robust and reflective. This work is given a high profile within the school and draws upon the expertise of the various school leaders, for example the assessment leader.
- The website of the school is comprehensive and dynamic and is constantly evolving to reflect the Christian Distinctiveness of the school community. This includes contextual information alongside a wide range of examples drawn from within the school.

Discussion with the staff from a range of roles within the school:

- Staff have a great sense of pride in the whole school community and are dedicated to supporting the spiritual and academic lives of the pupils within their care. One colleague commented that *'Our Christian distinctiveness is embodied within the school in the way we teach, the way we speak and the way we respond to the needs of the children. St Michael's is a wonderful place to work.'*

- All of the staff appreciate the vital role they play in ensuring the school lives out its Christian and inclusive ethos.
- Many staff are active in both the school and Church. They are passionate about supporting the needs of the school and local community.
- Kick London is a central element of the whole curriculum at the school. Teachers spoken to commented on how the Kick London approach to the curriculum, underpinned by the strong Christian values of teamwork, commitment, forgiveness and hard work had a positive impact on pupil's understanding of both physical education and Christian values.

Discussions with members of the Governing Body within the school:

- Governors are highly committed to and knowledgeable about the school. Governors report that meetings open in prayer and business is conducted with Christian Integrity.
- Members of the governing body engage in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) governor training programme. The skills audit is used as a starting point to target colleagues for appropriate training opportunities. This ensures there is a suitable breadth of experience and expertise across the governing body. Members of the governing body will often attend INSET days at the school.
- The Governing Body are looking to take part in the SDBE Bishop's Certificate in 2018/19.
- The Governing Body are keen to ensure they stay up to date with educational developments within the Church of England. They are currently exploring 'Valuing all God's Children 2' and 'Fruits of the Spirit'. The learning from these documents will be used to inform the next steps of development within the school.
- The Governing body make effective use of key information, for example, Analyse School Performance (ASP) data from the DfE. As one governor commented, '*we slice and dice the data to raise questions and ensure the correct interventions are put in place.*'

ACTION REQUIRED BY SCHOOL:

- *To continue to focus on ensuring the SIAMS self-evaluation document fully reflects the full breadth of Christian life of the school.*
- *To consider carrying out a full review of the RE policy in schools to ensure it fully reflects the current practice in school.*
- *To consider implementing the recommendations following the book and work scrutiny.*

Signed: <i>Narciso AL Cooper</i>	Date: 6.07.18
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