

**Governor of the term Jan – March 2017 Term 3 Shirley Danby**

The purpose of my visits were:- To assess and evaluate where we are in relation to School Improvement Plan target 3 with a particular focus on working with Mrs Saville & RE/Worship leader Miss K Thomas to prepare for SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

My visits included analysing the SIAMS toolkit, working to the action plan, supporting Miss Thomas in evaluating where we are, and collecting evidence ready for SIAMS. My task also included conducting a learning walk with other foundation Governors, focussing on Christian distinctiveness and reviewing the development of the new outdoor spiritual garden.

Miss Thomas and the whole school have worked to grow our Christian distinctiveness. I have met regularly with Miss Thomas to asses where we are in relation to being outstanding in the criteria of assessment.

**What did I like?**

* Following the learning walk which Mr Tarr and I made, each class has a reflection area which includes Christian symbols, key phrases and Bible verses, some of which relate to our vision and some of which relate to our 4 key Christian school values. Some of the posters have been made, laminated and donated by Holy Cross church.
* Church Festivals are celebrated in school; the worship table cloth colour and symbols on it reflect the season and often I lead a collective worship for the new season. Lent was purple, with a heart, ash, stones, globe and tower to reflect what Lent reminds us of. School celebrated Lent with Fairtrade fortnight and 40 Acts which linked with the term value of justice.
* Visitors for RE and collective worship have included a lady of the Muslim faith and Barnabas in Schools coming in for a day, exploring Christianity across the world.
* The spiritual garden has been developed is now a lovely quiet space and includes Christian symbols and our 4 values in beautiful wood, a graffiti prayer board and water display. Children I spoke to value it as “it is peaceful”. “It’s a quiet place”.
* The children have grown in confidence in leading in collective worship both in class and in whole school. It is lovely to watch the enthusiasm of children wanting to lead the opening greeting, or to lead, from their heart, a TeaSPoon Prayer after a Bible story or collective worship thought and reflection time. (TeaSPoon prayer is one in which we say Thankyou Sorry and Please and many adults would be reluctant to lead. Our children are amazing).
* Class R’s lovely class worship was a joy to be part of, with the children enjoying the bible story of the Good Samaritan which they could relate to the term value of courage, realising to help a neighbour can demand courage. Hands went up when their teacher asked if anyone would like to lead a TeaSPoon prayer. I have also joined the school for Monday collective worship which is inspiring. I have also provided more opening greetings for the school.
* Of the couple of items for clarification, some staff would like the opportunity to learn more about what Christians believe.
* Miss Thomas has been sampling what some examples from children of when they have been excited by RE. My visits to RE (classes 6, 2 and 3) show children who are keen to learn and who asking many questions to deepen their understanding. The written work by children in class 6 showed exceptional thoughtfulness and children could articulate how the RE topic applied in their lives.

We continue together, to evaluate where we are in relation to SIAMS and on behalf of all Governors I would like to thank school for always welcoming me and to Miss Thomas, Mrs Saville and all staff and children for their hard work towards this SIP.

**Rev. Shirley Danby**

**Foundation Governor**