

Parents Forum

The March C of E School – 19 May 2016

Topic – R.E Policy

Attendees:

Chair – Mr Jackson (Deputy Head).

Governor Attendees – Rev Karen Young, Rachel Bryan.

Parent/Carer attendees – Sally Taylor, Louise Seacombe.

Minutes – Rachel Bryan in the absence of Gael Emmett.

- **Feedback from previous meeting:**

The previous meeting had covered wrap around care and changes to the school uniform. There were no matters arising from these issues, and no comments on these or any other topic had been received in the suggestion box, despite a reminder being sent out.

- **The R.E Policy:**

Mr Jackson introduced the newly revised policy and drew attention to the vision and mission statement on page 2.

The attendees read through the aims on page 2-3. The last bullet point of the 'aims' was felt to be important: *'to have respect for other people's views, and hence to celebrate diversity in society'*. This should create a greater 'grounding' of tolerance.

The attendees read through the remainder of the policy a page at a time with chance to ask questions and discuss issues at the end of each page.

Teaching and learning (page 3) – SJ informed the meeting that he has been using pieces of artwork & paintings to teach R.E in year 6. One particular piece had proved to be quite powerful, provoking much discussion in class. SJ felt that this was very beneficial to the learning and understanding amongst the children. KY is coming into school to talk to the children about the Trinity next Monday. Discussion took place around creative and visual ways to support learning and understanding.

R.E and the creative curriculum (page 5) – The importance of children's understanding not being measured in just their writing is noted. Their understanding can be expressed in art, music or simply just in talking.

KY asked for clarification on whether prayer should be covered in this policy, or if it falls within the Collective Worship policy. SJ confirmed this falls within Collective Worship, however the children do write prayers and this can be a creative expression of their understanding of R.E.

Assessment (page 6) – This is now on a key stage basis rather than yearly, so areas can be revisited if need be. There is an emphasis on knowledge being built up gradually rather than ‘raced through’.

Community cohesion (page 6) – It was noted that families that don’t attend Church will still readily sign up to the school’s Christian values. This became particularly apparent during the discussions around the new Altar.

The school’s SIAMs inspection is very likely to be this Autumn. The last time the school was inspected we were judged as ‘good’. It is hoped that this time we will again be ‘good’ with elements of ‘outstanding’. The school is confident it has improved, however it is now thought to be much harder to get judged as ‘outstanding’. The inspection is likely to be a one-day assessment and will include looking at all relevant documentation, at the planning and evaluation of Worship, and at the teaching of R.E. Mrs Metcalfe and Miss Coyne are currently working on the SIAMs self assessment tool kit in preparation for the inspection.

Year 6 will have their leavers service in the Cathedral on 20 June at 1.15 pm. They will be doing a dramatisation for this based on Acts 12.

A question has been put forward by a pupil in year 5 asking if the school could run First Communion classes at school. This question has been posed before in school, as there is a need particularly relating to a parish that is in interregnum, and has been for four years. KY advised that it would be possible in theory. Simon Holland would need to talk to the PCC at St Peters, as it would be offered from that Church. There maybe some discussion on how this would be interpreted for children who then wanted to take communion back in their ‘home’ Church afterwards, but it is feasible. SJ agreed to talk to Simon Holland.

- **AOB:**

ST asked for greater clarity on the assessments and the new tests children have been sitting recently. SJ advised children are grouped in two year groups together, for example years 3 and 4 will be assessed, with year 3 being assessed as ‘working towards’ (as they are only half way through their two year period) and year 4 should have ‘met expectations’ by the end of this academic year. For the tests being taken by years 2 and 6, we won’t get the levels yet. It is likely to be a standardised score out of 100 (100= expected). The children’s results will be in their reports that get issued towards the end of the summer term.

- **Date of next meeting: Thursday 23 June 2.00 pm.**

Topic for next meeting: The new biennial School Improvement Plan (S.I.P).

Parents are reminded to place any questions or proposed topics for the Parents Forum into the suggestion box by the school office.