

## Roberttown CE (vc) J&I School Governor School Visit Record

<b>Name:</b> Cathy Scott	<b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021
<b>Purpose of visit:</b>  In person visit to school focussing on the role of the Foundation Governor exploring what being a church school means for pupils and staff and the school environment.	
<b>Structure/Timetable of the visit:</b>  KS2 CW led by Mrs Glaves Tour of the school with Mrs Glaves re. Christian Distinctiveness Meeting with CARE Group Playtime Meeting with Mrs Glaves, Church School/RE lead Investors in Pupils Interview Meeting with Mrs Smith	
<b>Key questions/issues/key priorities to explore:</b>  Developing the Church School	

### Collective Worship

The morning began with collective worship for KS2. SG lit a candle and played a soft carol as the children entered the room. SG asked how the children felt and they echoed the same feeling I had; there was a wonderful calm and welcoming feeling. The CARE group were in charge of the presentation music and were clearly working well together.

The CW linked together earlier CW events of the week and brought in the meaning of the prophet and what it meant. Children of all year groups engaged keenly with the questions and the level of vocabulary was impressive showing excellent literacy skills and a deep understanding of the concepts.

A highlight of the CW was a single child who was able to name the Mobius strip – SG showed the assembly the strip and asked children and teachers if anyone could name it. Only a single child was able to name it and proudly explained not only the name but how a strip of paper was twisted and secured to form the strip and then if cut would return to a straight piece. The other children listened with respect and it was a truly magical moment.

Prayers at the end were a recap of the words the children had brought to a previous CW to fully bring the earlier sessions into this one.

Each class then took their class candle back to their classroom with the messages they had learnt in this morning's CW.

## **Tour**

SG showed me around the hall and classrooms highlighting all the initiatives that are running in school – there did seem to be a lot of boards that needed constant updating with changes in themes and prayers. Are these too onerous on the school? Would something simpler be more effective and easier to manage? I was particularly impressed with the poppy artwork that all the children had contributed to – each child leaving a red painted thumbprint for poppy heads. I thought this really reflected the togetherness of the children in school, this feeling was evident throughout my visit.

We looked around the outside space, lots of opportunities for children to come out and have thinking space in a calm and safe environment. SG told me about the CARE group idea to put thought bubbles around the trees in the side of the KS2 playground. It is clear that the space reflects the school and children's needs. The gate was not open so we had to access through the rear arch.

## **Meeting with CARE Group**

I met with the CARE group, 2 representatives per class from Year 1 to Year 6. The Key Stage 2 children spoke eloquently regarding their positive experiences of being part of the CARE group, giving them opportunities to work with children from other classes and the bond between the Year 5 and 6 children was clearly evident. They were passionate about the projects they were involved in and leading in the school – eg crisp packet collection. The KS1 children were more reserved, but as expected with such confident older children. When spoken to, the KS1 children were very proud of being part of the group. When asked if they liked being at Roberttown, there were lots of smiles and nods and one child even volunteered that 'they felt safe at school here' which was a very positive message to come through.

## **Playtime**

During playtime I observed lots of happy, playful children enjoying each other's company and the space for them to run about and let off steam. None of the children were using the quiet area – maybe due to the gate being locked at one end?

## **Meeting with SG**

SG and I looked at children's RE books, discussed the curriculum and also the Global Neighbours Award. It was clearly evident that a great deal of passion and thought goes into the RE curriculum not just in lessons but fed through the whole curriculum. There is opportunity here for subsequent foundation governor visits could explore this further.

## **Investors in Pupils Interview**

A rather intimidating and challenging session for me with the IIP children, all came prepared with questions of myself including how and why I became a governor and what was good about it! I didn't feel I was properly prepared but will provide some follow up material in a letter to them to pass on information about what being a governor entails in the coming weeks.

Again however, the children spoke confidently and were proud to be part of the group and in school. For a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, unprompted, a child said they 'felt safe at Roberttown'.

**Meeting with Mrs Smith**

The end of the day was a meeting with Mrs Smith to reflect on what I had seen and how that influences our next steps as Foundation Governors. I feel that there may be a need to reduce the number of demands on little tasks/boards to update to enable a clearer message to be communicated to all children and staff about what it means to be a church school.

**Culture observed in the school**

Being a church school was everywhere in school – from the boards around school, the care tables in class, collective worships and it's messages. Children had the opportunity to be involved in the CW assemblies, the CARE group and providing their own thoughts and feelings on the prayer boards. One example was the Peace train where children could add their own comments.

The atmosphere in school was calm and welcoming and the children were respectful of me as a visitor, and their peers around them – this was evident from the moment I entered the school and the parts I observed.

**Any Key Issues Arising for the Governing Body**

Foundation governors need to consider our role in supporting the school to develop the Church school at Roberttown.

**Action Following Governing Body Meeting:****Signed:**