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

Name: Caroline Cockerill	Date: January 18th 2024

Purpose of visit:

Online Safety

Structure/Timetable of the visit:

Meeting Mrs Louise Wood – Computing Subject Lead
Meeting with two groups of children – KS1 & KS2

Key Staff to see:

Position	Name	

Key Questions/Issues for Governors to explore:

General whole school online safety practices.
What are the children learning in computing and how is it being taught?
What do the children know about online safety? What do they know is right and good practice vs what they may do!

Governor's Observations/Evaluation

Meeting with Mrs Wood. Head Teacher / Computing Lead

- **Online safety is identified as one of our biggest 'Contexual Safeguarding' issues. Children attending Roberttown School typically have very high levels of tech access with mobile phones, games consoles, laptops and tablets.**
- **Computing (including online safety) is taught as specific part of the school's curriculum. Online safety is also a strand in PHSE. School uses the Evolve System. Evolve was chosen as it provides excellent content and structure for teaching across all year groups whilst allowing teachers flexibility on how and when to deliver it. Mrs Wood provided a demonstration of the system.**
- **The school has an up-to-date Online Safety Policy and additional Online Safety information on the website to support parents. Our children read, understand and sign (at home with parents) an Online Safety Acceptable Use document. Y5 and Y6 children (those who walk home or have a specific need for a mobile phone in school) additionally sign a Mobile Phone Policy. Staff also have a mobile phone protocol. Only the school 'Instagram Phones' are actively used in class, teacher personal phones are secured away within classrooms and would only be used for communication during an invacuation/lockdown procedure being activated.**
- **School uses the Smoothwall content filtering product to help protect children whilst they are using the computer systems. Smoothwall offers real time filtering and provides the school with notifications and reports. We reviewed some of these reports together (in the main words with double meanings had**

been flagged up). Whilst content filtering is in place all the children are made aware of the 'big red button' on their keyboards which can be pressed if they come across something they are not sure of or feel unsafe. The red button instantly puts up a warning screen and the children know to tell a teacher or trusted adult.

- School (for many years) is supported by and contracted with an outsourced IT provider, Global Solutions. Global Solutions are a very reputable IT company, dedicated to schools, supporting many schools in the Spen Valley.   Global Solutions regularly perform 'pen' tests (security exercises) to check we have no weaknesses or vulnerabilities in our school network/perimeter and computer systems which could be exploited. Global Solutions also provide all round general technical support. They are regularly on site in school.

Meeting with the Children

- I met with two groups of children. KS1 and KS2. In each group there were two children from each class.
- All the children across all classes were able to tell me about what they both learnt in computing and using the school's computers. It was clearly an area that all the children enjoyed, and they explained in detail how the laptops or tablets were safely collected and distributed by classroom monitors. When specifically asked about how they used the computers and things they did on them it wasn't long in the conversation before the 'big red button' was mentioned. All children without fault explained what the button was for, what it did and if it should ever be pressed telling a trusted adult happened thereafter.
- The children spoke about coding in school and coding after school club. They spoke about using the computers to make music, complete their TT Rockstars and use the internet for research purposes. The conversation naturally and quickly came round to being safe online.
- There was a notable difference in this visit to my previous visit, the children were considerably more clued up and articulate regarding online safety. They were also using lots of brilliant jargon.
    - I was told about 'content' and not 'sharing' it. In the KS2 group mention was made of 'consent' in relation to taking photos of friends.
    - I was told not to click on 'links' especially where they were offers to win money as they were too good to be true!
    - They told me about using an 'avatar' rather than real photos of themselves. Plus never to use their real name.
    - There was mention of 'fake' on social media and they knew they were not always old enough for social media apps.
    - There was also lots of talk about passwords and not sharing them.
- Since my last visit I also felt parents were a lot more knowledgeable. It was evident that more notice was being paid to online safety at home.
    - The Reception and Y1 knew about age related apps. One Y1 child told me all about his tablet that only allowed him to use apps that were for 'under 5's' and in the top corner of his screen '3+' or similar would be displayed so he know which were ok. Apparently, Mummy had set this up for him.
    - The Y5 and Y6 children in the group all had mobile phones. They described the rules around having phones in school, reading and signing the policy and the class basket where phones were collected up and distributed back from each day. They also talked at length about their phone rules at home. All the children were receiving their parents old

phones and this was often conditional on them behaving safely when using and looking after their current phone. There was also talk of screen time limits.

- At my last visit children spoke of using (either with or without parent permission) older siblings logins in order to access other games, (mainly Fortnite at the time). This was not evident this time. Children spoke about how their permissions were different to older siblings and it appeared very much accepted.

Culture observed in the school

I found the school, the teachers and the children to be incredibly welcoming. In the meetings with the children, they were all impeccably polite and very happy and keen to contribute. At the end of both sessions the older children automatically escorted the younger children back to their classrooms.

During lesson time school was very calm and quiet and during break time the play sounded wonderfully loud and happy. During playtime I was recognised and approached by some of the children (not only those I know out of school) and that was lovely after 6 years of being a Governor and visits to school.

Any Key Issues Arising for the Governing Body:

I have no key issues for the Governing Body.

Action Following Governing Body Meeting:

Signed: …………………………………………………………………Governor