

## Minutes of Christian Distinctiveness Working Group

Held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Present:

Reverend Phillipa Maddox (Vicar)

Kiran Sumal (Worship leader)

Verity Edey (Headteacher)

Laura Markiewicz (Courageous Advocacy/Global Neighbours Leader)

Parents invited to attend (None attended)

Meeting opened at 9.10am following CDWP attendance in worship

**1. Apologies** – Ben Hodson (Chair of Governors)

**2. Minutes from previous meeting**

- Minutes approved and on website

**3. Actions carried forwards from the previous meeting**

- Worship leader to take 6 Acolytes to an excellent church school to evaluate worship impact. Difficulty lies with transport. Link up via teams has been organized.
- Do you have representations of Jesus that are ethnically accurate as middle eastern, as well as Mary? Kiran to explore with Vicar – Worship pictures of Jesus are not always depicting him as a white man. Representations of other characters are mixed.
- Digging deeper RE training – Contact has been made. Ryan Parker has been contacted. CPD has already taken place for staff to share knowledge for the units teachers will teach prior to them being taught. This has enabled us to address misconceptions from the year before and active learning within RE.
- Contact the catholic church to see if someone within the catholic faith can share their practice. – Kiran to talk to the Juniors about whether this is within their curriculum.

**4. A review of actions against SIAMS inspection targets**

- a) Refine current systems for monitoring the impact of the Christian vision, so that their findings explicitly inform the strategic direction for St Mary's as a Church school.
- A Teams channel has been created and everything is now in one place to support more effective monitoring and gathering of evidence towards SIAMS strands and SIAMS targets.
  
- b) Expand pupils' age-appropriate understanding of injustice in the world around them. This is so that they begin to see wider opportunities to make a difference.
- New allotment has been built to provide for the community
- Enrichment afternoons have focused on courageous advocacy

- There is a school in Brazil who is going to link with the school on a mutual project. Focus will be to find out more about the areas they live.
  - Working towards silver award documentation. Evidence is being collated on a new template for this.
  - Consider analogies for working with the plants from the Bible.
  - Contact local allotment society for seed donations.
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- C.) Continue to develop the RE curriculum through a further focus on key skills. This is for pupils to have a richer and deeper experience of the subject.
  - This will be a focus of the next CDWP

### **5. Worship**

- Many parents shared on their questionnaire that worship was on of the schools' 'best things.'
- The Junior school came to observe our effective worship procedures
- Further linking songs to values work has taken place between music and worship lead.
- More chimes to be ordered to signify stillness and reflection for each class.
- Exit music – different types of music to classical, contemporary.

### **6. Collaboration**

- Head teacher has provided 3 X CPD sessions to the Junior school SIAMS lead, including RE lead and Headteacher for spirituality, worship and subject leaders ensuring their subjects meet the vision of the school. CPD around awareness of vision and how to share this with children.

### **7. Stain Glass Window project**

- 12 frames depicting the big story of the Bible
- 1. Title
- 2. Creation
- 3. People of God – Noah's Ark
- 4. Moses – People of God (represents women also)
- 5. Johan and the Whale (School Vision)
- 6. Incarnation – Nativity scene
- 7. Gospel – Friends fishing – links to the sea
- 8. Gospel – Feeding the 5000
- 9. Gospel – Jesus and children
- 10. Salvation and Resurrection – cross and tomb
- 11 Ascension
- 12 Kingdom of God – St Mary's Infants

### **8. Next meeting: Spring Term TBC**

A huge thank you to staff and leaders across the school for their endeavours and for achieving the bronze award for being courageous advocates.