

## Minutes of Christian Distinctiveness Working Group

Held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Present:

Verity Edey (Headteacher)

Ben Hodson (Chair of Governors)

Katrina Nice (Curate)

Kiran Sumal (Community and living well together strand leader)

Athena Woodbridge (Mental health and wellbeing lead)

Parents invited to attend (None attended)

Meeting opened at 1pm

1. Apologies received and accepted from Wendy Herring

**2. Minutes from previous meeting held February 2022**

- Minutes were agreed as accurate.
- VE to arrange for CDWP minutes to be placed on school website.

Recent updates across SIAMS strands

**3. Update on school's plans for accreditation at 'bronze' level on the Christian Aid 'Global Neighbor's Award**

- It was agreed to commence a focus on the 'bronze' level accreditation this year.
- It was shared with the group what is involved, the difference between social justice and courageous advocacy. To do with persecution of people or exploitation of the natural world.
- Toilet and tap twinning was discussed as an approach to charitable giving for those in other countries. (This was defined as charitable giving as oppose to courageous advocacy.)
- It was agreed that the criteria for the bronze global award would be circulated for the group as well as the SIAMS strand for this from the SIAMS framework.
- All Senior leaders attended accreditation training to enroll onto the accreditation and begin the process.
- How does this link to the SIAMS framework? How do staff truly understand what courageous advocacy is? Discuss this further with new staff.
- It was asked, 'How does the schools' ambition for courageous advocacy link to the vision?' It does link but the school needs to take further action through the bronze award.

**4. Progress on the previous SIAMS inspection target of the Spiritual Garden and other areas which promote spirituality.**

- Our caretaker is leading a 'Gardening Club' for pupils across the year groups. This is proving to be very popular and includes caring for the internal spiritual garden.
- It was agreed that the Governors and staff should be clear on what spirituality means to us all.
- Some parents have been volunteering and planting daffodils ready for the spring in the Spiritual garden.
- The garden was open to all of our community to pay respects to our Late Queen Elizabeth II. Parents brought flowers, cards, prayers, candles here as a place to remember her by as many of our families couldn't take the journey to London.
- The garden is now open indefinitely to all parents during drop off and collection as a place for spirituality and reflection.
- Worship Leader has timetabled the use of the Spiritual Garden to encourage all of the staff to use it with their children.
- Head visited Chair of Governor's spiritual garden at St Mary's St Neots last term to gain ideas.
- Next to the spiritual garden we are considering the erection of a 'Values Shed' For pupils to reflect, be still, calm, write prayers etc and be used at break and lunchtimes.
- What opportunities in this shed might be given for those who don't identify as Christian? Are there big questions of the week or half term? E.g. why are we here? Why is the sky blue? How does a tree stand up? Ideas were shared.
- The spiritual garden has been vandalised several times this calendar year. The cross and lectern were both broken Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and our caretaker has been fixing these.
- How are all members of the community, including parents able to articulate their spirituality through use of the garden? It was suggested to invite parents to a class worship whereby different opportunities will be provided for the community to express their spirituality, self, God, world.
- Follow up with the Diocese around spirituality for all.
- It was agreed that the spirituality policy would be read by members of the committee by viewing this on the website.
- It was agreed that policies relating to SIAMS would be duplicated onto the vision and values area of the website.

#### **5. Progress on previous SIAMS inspection target, pupils leading worship**

- New worship teams have been elected for this academic year and badges awarded. Pupils gave a short speech as to why they should be voted as a Worship Acolyte and pupils voted.
- Pupils are leading in prayers, candle lighting, suggesting hymns they like to sing linked to values and engaging in role play.
- We are introducing evaluation pupils for each worship.

- How transformative is worship? Windows, mirrors, doors. Look through the window at the Bible story, reflect on self, go through the door as a better person and an advocate for change.

#### **6. Plans for monitoring RE over this summer term**

- RE leader has monitored the environment for RE within the classrooms in line with training last year. Verbal feedback and actions have been shared and addressed.
- RE leader and Head will carry out joint RE visits using a 'drop in' and learning walk approach Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- RE leader and Head have monitored planning to check the planning is in line with expectations and in line with 'Understanding Christianity'.
- RE leader is meeting pupils with their books next week and sharing book look feedback with staff during our weekly staff meeting.
- How are you ensuring that the children meet the statement of entitlement? Children are receiving an hour a week of RE.
- How are you ensuring the expectation in RE is where we want it to be in? It was agreed that a triad of moderation would be set up to quality assure the standard of RE.
- It was asked if Understanding Christianity training had been booked to enable staff to dig deeper into the theology. Response was that this has been booked for early next term.

#### **7. Plans for monitoring CW over this summer term**

- Harvest festival is being led by Worship leader and curate on 3<sup>rd</sup> October – CDWP member to visit?
- Week of 10<sup>th</sup> Collective class worship monitoring by worship leader.
- Pupil voice groups for worship will be evaluating the effectiveness of worship.
- Worship monitor monitoring Curate worship 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- Head can monitor KS worship week before half term.
- Worship leader to monitor singing practice before the end of term.
- Worship Acolyte network to be put in place to evaluate the impact of worship and learn from and with other acolytes.
- How are you ensuring that worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring and how are values embedded across the school?

This was discussed among the group.

#### **Update from the 'Community and Living Well together leader and Mental Health Lead'**

- Mental health lead shared the accreditation that she is focusing on
- Have the school read 'Valuing all God's children?'
- It was discussed how diversity was celebrated through the first half term literacy planning

- It was agreed that the mental health lead would carry out surveys of staff for their wellbeing and she would be invited to the next FGB to share findings and actions.

### **Living well together lead:**

- Spiritual areas are unique to each class
- Classes face the spiritual area to reflect on Jesus, his works, Jonah and the Whale and the vision and community.
- Vision is shared through actions with staff, parents and pupils.
- We are gauging pupil voice
- We have a clear restorative justice approach with clear links to the value of forgiveness.
- Zones of regulation has been implemented among children and staff. All staff have had training.
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> is mental health day. A worship will introduce Athena as a support person if you're feeling worried and zones of regulation will be introduced.
- 1:1 slots between pupils and staff to build relationships.
- Discussion was held around whether the lead of this strand link with the work of the SENCO around behavior? It was agreed that behavior incidents have drastically reduced this academic year.
- Nurture groups, forest schools area enabling wellbeing and nurture support.
- Positive open communication with parents is impacting on individual pupils, their mental health and learning behaviors.

### **8. Training Schedule Update**

- Staff had training during INSET on expectations for the implementation of worship
- Worship leader has led training for staff, modelling worship expectations.
- Head and worship leader ensured that the Harvest service was in line with the worship procedures to model for staff.
- Head trained staff on the SIAMS framework and strands.
- Head coached teachers to identify actions within their strands and the next steps to move the strand forwards.
- Leaders have met with staff regarding expectations and set these out clearly for spiritual areas which have also been monitored and reviewed with staff.

### **9. SIAMS training dates in Diocese**

- The leadership team have a date in the diary week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> October to meet with Ryan Parker to discuss spirituality, worship and our spiritual garden.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November worship leader is booked on a collective worship leaders' course with the diocese led by Ryan Parker.
- Worship leader is booked onto the Spiritual Café network 15<sup>th</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- RE leader is booked onto 'Understanding Christianity' training.
- Deeper Understanding worship 8/12/22
- Collective worship training 23/11/22

- We are booked onto Understanding Christianity Training 3 sessions for all staff.

**10. Dates of next meetings**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 1pm.**

Meeting closed at 3.30pm