

Minutes of Christian Distinctiveness Working Group

Held on Thursday 25th May 2023

Present:

Verity Edey (Headteacher)

Katrina Nice (Lay Minister)

Kayleigh McGrath

Kiran Sumal

Marian Cowdrey

Parents invited to attend (None attended)

Meeting opened at 1pm

1. Apologies received and accepted from Ben Hodson who will be having a separate meeting pm 25.05.23 to look over minutes. Wendy Herring sent apologies.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

- Minutes were agreed as accurate.

3. Actions from the previous meeting

Pink = achieved

Orange = In Process

Green = To grow and develop further

- Spirituality policy shared: What is this to all members of the community? (Currently being reviewed in response to training)
- Values shed to be considered and opportunities for all, big questions. In process. Grant through diocese applied for.
- Parents to be invited to a class worship. Spring 2nd half term for Mothering Sunday
- Evaluation plans for worship – Scribed by adult. Worship Acolytes are doing this.
- Use of windows, mirrors, doors to ensure worship is transformative – RE lead on reflection walls. worship lead have resources in place and a meeting booked with Ryan Parker to talk through ideas. Embedded within the structure of worship.
- Triad of RE to be set up to quality assure judgements – Connections forming and next half term this will be organised.
- Understanding Christianity training to be booked for all staff– Booked for January x 3
- Monitoring of Collective worship Yes– acolyte network to be put in place - Emailed
- We are booked onto Understanding Christianity Training 3 sessions for all staff.
- Promotional board set up for Global Neighbours
- Consider how we can link topics e.g. science to courageous advocacy
- How has dignity and respect and Valuing God's children been monitored through the use of CPOMS? Have there been prejudice related issues and how is this trend compared to last year. Half termly behaviour monitoring and updates of behaviour policy.
- Send valuing God's children to CDWP party

- Robes ordered for pupils. Still trying to source. Church don't recommend younger than Y6.
- Other festivals are covered as assemblies separate to worship.
- Are children invited to lead prayer?
- Worship leader to take 6 Acolytes to an excellent church school to evaluate worship impact. Difficulty lies with transport. Link up via teams.
- Visits investigated to places of worship.
- What examples are there of pupils and staff flourishing? Social care and support for all families that need it. Food bank, safeguarding in general. Reading all pupils are flourishing and staff flourishing in delivering this. Language acquisition for EAL pupils. Staff flourishing socially too. E.g. food always available for lunch.

Recent updates across SIAMS strands

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

- Plastic waste planning in place for September.
- Discussions have been taking place around areas to raise awareness of what we are doing to be global neighbours and sharing this with our community.

5. Update on community and living well

- Linking dignity and respect into regular worships. This is a difficult concept and Marian was interested to know how this is taught. Strand leader explained that in Reception, knowing the vocab and what they mean is then built on into KS1. Cyclical process.
- Meetings have been held between strand leader and worship lead to discuss appropriate links.

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

- Classes visit every week as part of the worship schedule
- Parental involvement adding to the spiritual area
- Looking into ways of incorporating it to be more desirable for children at lunchtime. Re-launch reasons of intent for what is in the spiritual garden.

7. Progress on previous SIAMS inspection target, pupils leading worship

- A lot of pupil involvement leading worship in class to gain confidence. Now transfer to more whole school worship.
- Acolytes to be given another prominent role to be visible when children lead into worship

8. RE over this term:

- Liaised with St Mary's St Neots regarding Understanding Christianity
- 2 of a 3 part Understanding Christianity course and shared with staff delivered by Diocese

- Progression of skills and teaching is matching up with tasks for understanding Christianity
- Working on creating a tighter intent for the Judaism units to ensure the right learning intention and task in sequence.
- Displays in Y2 consistent with friezes
- Year 1 have vocab for each part of the frieze to know what they are teaching.
- Looking in books, can see tasks now match learning intention more tightly.

9. Plans for Collective Worship over this term

- Twinning with another school to evaluate worship
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10. Training Schedule Update

- Another twilight session booked in with the Diocese for spirituality and class worship.

11. SIAMS update

- School receive new SIAMS framework training this term.

12. Next meeting: 11th July 9am

Focus of this meeting will be to share the new SIAMS framework

A thank you to staff and leaders across the school for their endeavours.

Meeting closed at 10.30am