

Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name: Revd Marc Baker

Date: 21st January 2019

Purpose of Visit

Safeguarding Governor - pupil engagement
Visit to Year 5 as Link Governor

Links with the School Development Plan

Increased levels of determination, resilience and confidence in all children. Growth mindset strategies to be introduced and embedded throughout the school

To continue to develop respect and confidence amongst children when greeting adults in school.

20 Questions

3. Effectiveness: Are we as effective as we could be? Do we understand our roles and responsibilities?

14. How do we listen to and understand our pupils, parents and staff?

Governor observations and comments

During the autumn term I spent a lunch time and the first part of the afternoon talking with pupils, both in the playground, as they went to their afternoon classes and over their lunch tables. I was speaking informally with them about safety and wellbeing - giving pupils opportunities to informally express to me, as Safeguarding Governor, areas of anxiety or concern.

I found all pupils (without exception) willing to talk confidently with me. They delighted to tell me about their school (they have an obvious pride in their school) and they were also able to articulate in age appropriate ways their feelings about being in school. Although some were more reserved than others, they were clearly able to articulate their feelings and some displayed a significant degree of emotional intelligence.

My overriding conclusion was that children feel safe in the school. They are able to articulate a number of different strategies they might follow if something should happen to upset them or cause them concern. For example they were clear about what to do should someone hurt themselves on the playground or what they might do if someone was unkind to another pupil.

We spoke about the best things about school as well as any challenges the children might face. We explored the nature of friendships, moments when children might feel sad or lonely, as well as moments that are really fun and enjoyable. Some year six pupils expressed anxiety about being in year six and the realities of SATs. They also expressed a sense of privilege and responsibility that comes with being in year six. Pupils had clear self-esteem and older children were able to articulate strategies for self resilience and self discipline.

The groups sat round tables were often from different classes and there seemed to be a real openness to engaging with children of different ages in the school. One of the striking things was a number of pupils who were caring for other children, sitting with them at lunch to support them and in once case, helping another pupil with their lunch.

I was able to use a number of the "visit questions" from the document generated last year.

I was encouraged by the safe atmosphere and a high sense of wellbeing showed amongst the pupils.

Visit to Year 5 as Link Governor

At the end of my visit I went to Year 5 to be welcomed as the year 5 link governor. I was introduced to the class and able to join in their 'registration question'. I hope this will be just the start of my relationship with year 5 and I am looking forward to getting to know the class better this year.

Behaviour

All pupils were well behaved. There were clearly accepted standards of behaviour. There was a calm atmosphere in the lunch hall despite it being a large space with lots of pupils coming and going. Pupils acted appropriately within the clear structures governing the lunch procedures.

Safeguarding

This was the focus of the whole visit. See above.

Any issues arising for the governing body

I want to continue to encourage the whole governing body to keep safeguarding on their agenda when they are visiting the school for different purposes. We made great progress last year with the "visit questions" and the safeguarding question that is now included in every governor visit feedback. I hope we can continue this good work as a governing body.