

Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name Tracy Baker	Date Autumn Term 2017
Purpose of visit To assist with the supervision of pupils in Years 3 and 4 during their swimming sessions at Truro Leisure Centre each Tuesday afternoon.	
Links with the School Improvement Plan/ 20 Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To increase Governor awareness of school activities.• To monitor progress of teaching and learning over a period of time.• To give informed feedback to Governors regarding an activity that presents a direct cost to parents	
Context within the National Curriculum: <i>Swimming and water safety</i> <i>All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2.</i> <i>In particular, pupils should be taught to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres</i>• <i>use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]</i>• <i>perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations</i> <i>From 2017, schools will be required to publish how many Year 6 pupils have met the national curriculum requirements relating to swimming and water safety. Sport and PE premium money may be used to ensure that children achieve this requirement.</i>	
Context for Kea School Swimming lessons take place every Tuesday afternoon for all pupils in years 3 and 4 throughout the Autumn and Spring term. This represents a cost of around £50 per pupil per term for parents. The lessons last 30 minutes, with classes waiting by the pool when it is not their turn. Each class is split into 3 ability groups, with flexibility to move between groups when needed.	
Governor Observations and Comments Mrs Drzymala has an excellent grasp of what is required to achieve results this area. She is focused upon ensuring progress and rewarding achievement. She maintains a good relationship with pool staff, regularly liaising with them to ensure that they are focused upon student's targets. Her continual vigilance with pupils results in high levels of motivation and achievement.	

Mrs Drzymala keeps a record of which swimming group the children are in and she continually checks how they are progressing. She notes and rewards any particular achievements by individuals.

Swimming is very well organised and timely. The pupils enjoy the lessons. A very few children had practically no experience of being in a pool before beginning lessons in September. Initially these pupils were fearful and hesitant but now they love being in the pool and are making solid incremental progress, which is continually encouraged by all staff. The change in attitude that has been witnessed is testament to the value of these lessons.

Almost all children in years 3 and 4 are now able to swim at least a few strokes independently; some are incredibly proficient. For the majority of pupils, steady progress in levels of stamina and technique is being achieved.

Behaviour

Staff have high expectations of pupil behaviour and this is maintained throughout the afternoon. Under the leadership of Mrs Drzymala, 4 or 5 TAs supervise the pupils on the coach trips, across the car park to the pool, whilst changing and during the lessons and waiting times.

Pupils show respect to the Pool Staff during lessons and are encouraged to behave well whilst not in the water. They often have books to read, with Mrs Evans listening to individuals read where time and opportunity allows. Pupils are also encouraged by Mrs Drzymala to assess the progress of other pupils with a view to rewards being given for effort or achievement upon return to school.

Behaviour in the changing rooms is actively managed and children are chivvied regularly. Staff are quick to respond to any issues if they arise. The changing area is continually monitored to ensure that children are kept safe and on task.

Safeguarding.

Staff are organised and vigilant when supervising children across the roads and in the college. They are always present in the changing areas and poolside.

Where two individual children have required extra support, they have each had a designated TA to work alongside them in the pool. The TAs are to be highly commended for this!

There is always a member of staff qualified in First Aid in the group and a first aid kit is used.

Any issues for the governing body

The provision of these lessons is of undoubted value to pupils.

Where pupils already excel at swimming and would exceed the required level for proficiency, it may be desirable to assess the implications of undertaking an alternative activity, but this may have far reaching effects upon organisation, staffing and social and individual development.