

Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name	Sian Goddard	Date	29 th June 2016
Purpose of visit To observe PHSE Sex Education Sessions with Years 4 & 6			
Governor observations and comments I arranged the visit with Jane Wheeler (Yr4) and Katie Bray (Yr6) I visited Year 6 initially. Katie Bray reassured pupils about their feelings and responses to this tricky topic. The class were able to openly discuss their strategies for dealing with embarrassment. This was followed by a review of previous discussions about changes which will occur during puberty and adolescence, both in body and mind. The children clearly understood the difference between physiological and psychological changes. There then followed a discussion about coping strategies. The class session then moved onto a glossary of complex and broad terms relating to adolescence, puberty and sex education. At this point, I left as we had agreed that it would be unfair to the pupils to have a stranger in the room whilst covering this challenging subject. I found the children to be mature, attentive and well able to articulate the questions and challenges which occurred with this subject. I felt that the professional, open and very calm approach to this topic by Katie Bray enabled the children to deal with and learn the subject requirements without any apparent issue. Year 4 were learning about changes which occur to their bodies during puberty. The class group were split into boys and girls, each working through the same leaflet based on hygiene issues in puberty. I first visited the girls in Year4 with Jane Wheeler. The girls had already discussed some aspects around hair growth, periods and general cleanliness when I arrived. The girls asked sensible and mature questions relating to both imminent changes and also about life issues such as having children and how Mrs Wheeler thought women dealt with periods when modern day products were not available. I then visited the boys with Keith Cotterill. The boys were more challenging as a group when covering the same material and Keith worked hard to ensure that the inevitable chuckling did not get out of hand whilst allowing the pupils to work through the embarrassment. There were some very sensible questions based more around hygiene requirements of showering and clothing changes, than around the implications of the life changes being discussed. In general the subject of puberty was covered very sensitively with a mature approach which allowed pupils to ask questions and express themselves without allowing too much hilarity or conversely too rigid a format. General observations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As always, the children in school were polite and welcoming• The school classroom was tidy and the displays interesting• The lessons were focussed with a clear plan and direction from the start• The children in both groups were engaged and all participated in discussions			
Any issues arising for the governing body. Although we as a school are required to have a Sex Education link governor, I feel that the school is delivering on a significant PHSE agenda which we as governors may not be aware of. This work includes the THRIVE programme and many other topics which are covered in classes or in assemblies. I would like the governors to consider whether they would be happy for my current link governor role to cover PHSE as a whole rather than solely sex education. I have discussed this very briefly with Jane Wheeler and Katie Bray who feel this may be very beneficial in ensuring the governors are better informed of this area.			