

Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name Tracy Baker	Date 21st February 2018
Purpose of visit	
To attend the school visit to Pendennis Castle for years 3,4,5 and 6.	
Links with the School Improvement Plan/ 20 Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To increase Governor awareness of school activities.• To have an insight into trips off the school premises.	
<i>Context of this trip within the National Curriculum:</i>	
<p>A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions and weigh evidence.</p>	
<p>The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.• understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts• gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.	
<p>In Key Stage 2 they should:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history➤ select and organise relevant historical information➤ understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources	
<p>They should be taught about: a local history study</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066)• a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.	

Governor Observations and Comments

This is the first time that this trip has been run by Kea School for all of KS2. All four KS2 teachers were involved with the planning and running of the day, accompanied by a good number of teaching assistants.

Before the trip left the school, Mrs Green did an excellent job of setting the scene for all the students in the hall. All pupils were fully engaged. Mrs Green used a 'pupil timeline' to put Pendennis castle into historical context and introduce the activities ahead.

Once at the castle, the children were placed in mixed year groups, typically with 2 from each class and they worked in these groups of 8 as 'historical detectives'. The children explored the castle and completed our prepared worksheets, with year 6 pupils as the responsible leaders in the groups. This was a very effective way of ensuring that the pupils themselves looked for clues and worked out possible answers. Following a guided path of enquiry, the children were learning independently and acting as 'historical detectives' for the day.

The teaching staff had prepared the activities well to support learning about relevant historical periods. The sheets were well put together, using photographs and open questions to aid enquiry and engage pupil of all abilities. Adults were always available to help and guide where needed, but independent learning and teamwork were encouraged.

This trip was very well supported by parent helpers. The teaching staff utilised the helpers to great effect, positioning them strategically around the whole site. Pupils were in view of an adult at all times. The parent helpers were very well briefed by Mrs Wheeler, highlighting the risk assessment and ensuring everyone was included and informed. Parent helpers were excellent at supervising students and areas. One even engaged the groups entering the castle room with interesting details and torchlit clues! The parent helpers all seemed to enjoy the day. Mrs Dryzmala ensured that the helpers and staff were offered hot drinks at lunchtime! This was very kind – it was quite chilly!

After returning to school, and a much-needed play time, Mrs Green lead Year 3 in a great plenary, inviting adjectives to describe the castle with contributors chosen using the highly effective lolly stick method. An impressive range of words was gained, showing that the children had gained a great deal from the day. The pupils were fully engaged throughout this session – quite an achievement at the end of a tiring day.

Staff are to be congratulated on their planning, organisation and execution of events, especially as this is the first time that this trip has taken place in this format.

Behaviour

The behaviour of the pupils was very good. Year 6 students took the role of group leaders with great alacrity and enthusiasm. They kept their groups of 8 together and focused their attention on the task in hand.

Staff were vigilant and maintained control of those few pupils who required extra support. Staff were keen to praise good behaviour and have excellent relationships with pupils. They are

extremely knowledgeable about the pupils in their care. Pupils respect all staff and were polite and actively interested in the activities throughout the day.

Safeguarding.

Safeguarding had been very rigorously considered. At all times the children could see adult supervisors and the supervisors could see them, despite the wide-ranging nature of the site.

All children were advised sensibly about talking to adults not in the school party, who they may meet on the trip, in the morning preparation session.

All staff were well briefed and communication was effective throughout the day with staff contacting each other on phones where necessary, limiting unnecessary movement and maintaining excellent levels of supervision throughout.

Staff were organised and vigilant when supervising children to and from the coaches and sat the site. Children were accompanied by an adult if they had to return to the washrooms.

Some individual children had Teaching Assistants allocated to their groups to ensure safety and effective learning.

There were several members of staff qualified in First Aid in the group and first aid kits were present.

Any issues for the governing body

I could see no issues for the Governing Body to consider. The provision of this trip is of value to KS2 pupils. It fits well with the curriculum, and extends and develops the children's learning, inspiring their curiosity to know more about the past.

Pendennis Castle allowed the trip to take place free of charge, which was very kind, and Kea School friends funded the transport so there was no cost to parents for the trip.

Overall a very successful event, with positive outcomes for all involved. Congratulations!