

## Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name: Revd. Marc Baker

Date: 7th May 2015

### Purpose of the Visit

RE Link Governor visit to meet with Jane Wheeler (School RE lead teacher) to discuss teaching of RE in relation to the 4 year overview and the Collective Worship Policy.

### Links with the School Improvement Plan

Re School Development Plan 2014-2015: Continued raised standards – English - Raise the profile of writing across the curriculum

### Governor Observations and Comments

Before discussing the Collective Worship Policy and the teaching of RE through the 4 year plan I visited the year five classroom to look at their work on the Yellow Christ, conducted before Easter and now on display. (The Yellow Christ is a 1889 painting by Paul Gauguin). The class had had opportunity to engage with the suffering of Christ through thinking about the painting. They had reinterpreted the painting in their own art work and written creatively about the events of Easter through Peter's eyes. The class wrote dramatic news reports and extracts from Peter's diary. The standard of the work displayed was very impressive showing engagement with the themes of suffering and sacrifice.



### Collective Worship

The school introduced a new Collective Worship Policy formally approved by Governors in January. We took time to review how the policy implementation was going, including the change in time of assembly, the regular visits from outside groups and those in the community, including the St Kea Church Open the Book Team, Wendy Barrows and others. New songs have been introduced in Collective Worship. The use of a candle also encourages both personal reflection, experience of stillness and provides opportunity for those pupils who wish to, to praise and reach out to God. It was felt the life of collective worship was developing well in light of the new policy.

### RE through the 4 year plan

We also had an opportunity to discuss the teaching of RE through the four year plan. Whilst the RE curriculum is taught through the year, the theme for the second half of each autumn term offers a more focused opportunity - Year One "Christmas in Europe", Year Two "Festivals and Faiths", Year Three "Places of Worship" and Year Four "Winter Festivals". The four year overview also contains the

significant dates in the religious calendar - i.e. Birthday of Guru Nanak, Ramadan, Good Friday etc. etc.

There is a very clear commitment at the planning stage to ensure RE is taught vibrantly. The syllabus requires a predominant focus on Christianity, whilst introducing children to the other major religions and this balance is evident. We discussed ways to encourage staff in sharing resources and ideas for teaching the syllabus.

I was encouraged both by the positive approach to this subject area and the desire to see the understanding and engagement of the children grow. On this occasion we did not have time to talk specifically about SACRE (Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education) and I hope that might form the basis of a future visit.

I was very grateful to Jane Wheeler for making her time so freely available and facilitating this visit.

**Any issues arising for the governing body**

Nil