

Minutes of the Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust CSAW Committee Meeting



Tuesday 26th March 2019, in the MAT Conference Room.

ATTEN	NDING:			
Michael Bretton Donna Bryant Louise Jones Richard Lawrence Pam Miller Peter Sharpe Lucy Wandless Mark Lees [Interim Director of Schools - Diocese of Truro] Karen Teague				
APOL	OGIES:			
Andre	w Orme	AOr		
	Griffiths	SGr		
	Miller e Randle	DMi WRa		
	r Reed	DRe		
		ACTION		
3.	WELCOME AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST			
	PMi [Chair] welcomed all those present and attendees introduced themselves to other members of the group.			
	Under Declarations of Pecuniary Interests, no additional declarations were forthcoming at this time.			
4.	REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN			
	Section 3f of the Trust Plan, comprising how the C-SAW committee contributes to the spiritual wellbeing of pupils, was discussed by members.			
	Promote, provide support for the roll out and training on Understanding Christianity materials. A number of staff from non-Church schools were booked onto 'Understanding Christianity' training sessions so this was already extending beyond the Church schools. Lio had attended the earlier session in Exeter and was currently trialling the materials.			
	Action: Follow up where a school has not yet booked training.			
	MLe advised Committee members the Diocese of Truro had 'trained to train' staff who could run a smaller, local training event for those requiring training at a relatively low cost if this would be beneficial to the Trust.			
	Survey pupils in Y6 and Y7 about their experience of being in a Church school and which element of it they might / do miss on transition to secondary; ascertain how they view their opportunities to develop their spirituality at secondary school. It was suggested a network session for secondary RE teachers and Trust-wide RE coordinators be set up.	AOr		

The subject of the agreed syllabus arose. It was suggested Mike Heron [who sits on SACRE] and John Keast would be well informed in this respect. The current recommendation, however, was to not move away from this.

It was proposed an interesting piece of research could be done around the transition from primary to secondary. While this was not a key focus for the current term, it could be valuable to look at this in the summer term when more transition work would be taking place and then again in the autumn term following the transition. The possibility of involving another local secondary school from outside the Trust was also mentioned. MLe offered to enquire as to whether the Diocese would provide funding for two half days of research in the summer term and the additional time to write this up.

MLe

Provide a framework for monitoring the distinctive Christian ethos in the schools / its impact on children and promulgate best practice to other schools in the Trust.

As all schools were feeling very measured at the present time, locally and nationally, this would need further unpacking. The Diocese undertook visits at least once a year and these were coupled with external reviews and SIAMS Learning Walks by CSAW Committee members.

Key was to ensure the vision was underpinned by biblical text and that there were two key foci – the teaching of RE and theology. One of the priorities for the Diocesan Board of Education was the teaching of RE in Church and non-church schools.

This should be linked to the Church of England Vision for Education by either cross referencing this or incorporating a summary to draw in the four basic elements that run through the whole approach:

- Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Educating for Hope and Aspiration
- Educating for Community and Living Well Together
- Educating for Dignity and Respect

It might also link into or draw from The Small and Rural Schools Project, which was a funded opportunity supported by the Diocese to build links with other schools to address Community Engagement / Social Action and Leadership / Development of Teaching and Learning through the use of technology.

Introduce and establish a language for spirituality across schools in the Trust using Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candles motifs.

Breage. AOr had given his apologies for the meeting as his school were on pilgrimage to Truro Cathedral but he was to forward some useful additional information to KTe to be shared with fellow Committee members.

Cury. The motifs and associated language had been introduced to all staff during staff training. The RE co-ordinator was trying to more firmly embed the Christian values and ensure these were an integral part of everything the school did before the motifs were more fully introduced.

Grade Ruan. The emergent use of the motifs and associated language in prayer and worship had been coupled with the 'Roots and Fruits' collective workshop materials which ensured the Christian values were being more firmly rooted in Bible stories. This was still in its early stages but it was expected the Committee would be able to see incremental increases in each visit.

Wendron. This was becoming embedded in classrooms and growing. Questions were being used to encourage children to think spiritually and to develop a language for spirituality.

Non-Church schools. Spirituality in non-Church schools could also be developed through these motifs. For example, emphasising the candle as light and asking what candles mean to pupils – celebrating a birthday, wellbeing, peace, hope or quiet reflection.

Once the Committee had become more firmly established, it was agreed an audit of spirituality in the non-Church schools would be informative and helpful.

It was suggested AOr and C Hendy look at the shared motifs and their development

AOr

AOr / CHe

within schools, carry out reviews and feed back to the Committee.

Establish the theology of each Church School and ensure it is well communicated, known and understood by the whole school community.

Cury. A great deal of work was being done around Christian values so staff, children and the wider community would see these as fundamental to the life and ethos of the school. The next step would be tying this into Bible stories and into the curriculum as a whole. The shared language of Christian values and what these values look like was being explored and recorded through displays etc. An increased focus was being placed on the altar being a focal point and special place in the school hall. One of the six values was to be the focus for each half term so there would be a clearer structure going forward.

Grade Ruan. Displays reflecting the school's theology could already be found in classrooms and the school's reception area was being developed to further reflect this. An INSET day in September 2019 on curriculum intent was to incorporate weaving Bible stories into everything the school does and would allow the theology to be unpicked in more detail. The learning journey and the spiritual journey of each child was to be looked at and PSh was to support the school with the theological aspect of this. The theology was also to be linked into the school's expectations and Behaviour Policy.

Wendron. A SIAMS staff session on gathering evidence was to take place. The front of the worship place was being changed to reflect the theology of the school more attractively. Work was also being done around a theological statement.

It was acknowledged that spirituality was a difficult concept to describe and quantify in one single way. It was agreed the proxy for spirituality at the present time would be a special connection beyond human connections - which, in Church schools, was the connection with God. Schools would have different ideas of what this might look like and how it could be expressed.

Make links with other Church schools outside the Trust for mutual benefit and establishing sound practice.

See Item 5 below.

Support schools within the Trust in the development of effective Collective Worship. This aspect was to be developed a little further down the line.

Support, develop and strengthen courageous advocacy across Trust schools including linking with SKIP activities.

Examples of a letter from a pupil, a petition and other proactive responses by pupils – either individually or as groups - were shared with the Committee.

DBr was to update this section of the Trust Plan in light of the discussion that had taken place during the Committee's meeting.

DBr

5. REPORT FROM VISIT TO ST FRANCIS

LWa reported their hosts had been very generous and the visit to St Francis truly inspiring. Having this opportunity to talk about the process of inspection, the work that was done beforehand and how the Christian ethos could be practically demonstrated was extremely helpful. Examples of good practice cited included:

- One Bible story [and the message this gives] per year group.
- Areas for worship and reflection built into classes, including reflection logs.
- Puppets children write to puppets and puppets to children from Reception.
- Displays around the Christian year.
- A value per half term.
- Board of different celebrations the children had taken part in.

There was very clear engagement at every level and the practices, while not difficult to implement, were clearly having a massive impact.

The school had also kindly shared some of its documentation. Eg. a collective worship

DD.

	action plan, including worship ambassadors; a Spirituality policy / progression of spirituality. In addition to this visit, a networking meeting of Church school leaders had taken place at St Uni. AOr had been in attendance and was to feed back on this shortly. AOr was also to host the next meeting of this group.	AOr		
6.	REPORT FROM GRADE RUAN VISIT			
	A report of the recent visit was shared with the Committee. Committee members reported the SIAMS Learning Walk had been both positive and exciting. This had evidenced a good sense of direction, expertise and enthusiasm within the school.			
	LJo acknowledged that, while the visit had been intense, it had also been very useful and having key points to work on was really helpful from the point of view of headteachers new to Church schools. It had also enabled her to find much more evidence retrospectively.			
	Discussion was briefly had around the best time for the next visit to take place and it was proposed that this be in 6 months' time.			
	MLe offered to send the Diocese inspection notes from the Autumn term to LJo for her information but noted the actions were already being worked on or had been completed now.			
	MLe advised the Committee SIAMS visits for the Church schools were due to take place as follows:			
	 Wendron - Summer 2019 Cury - Summer 2020 Grade Ruan - Summer 2020 Breage - Summer 2022 			
7.	REPORT FROM DIOCESAN VISITS TO WENDRON AND CURY			
	Reports from the Diocesan visits to Wendron and Cury schools in January 2019 were shared with Committee members.			
	MLe commented on how impressed he had been by the children at Wendron and the school's RE co-ordinator during his last visit there.			
	He added that the challenge for all schools was to make sure that everyone was on message and that a clear evidence base was being built. A precis document for all staff could be created to ensure clarity in this respect.			
	Eucharist: Pre-confirmation workshop / service. It was reported the Reverend Simon Cade, Diocesan Director of Education, was keen to see this introduced into local Church schools and could offer help with developing this, as it was important from a SIAMS perspective that this be included. There was a package for schools which AOr was about to introduce at Breage. Details of this were to be forwarded to KTe so they might be shared with Committee members. A children's Eucharist service for leavers in the summer term was one idea that had been put forward. The children could simply be blessed if they had not yet been confirmed and adults could take full communion in front of the children.	AOr		
	Governors. Committee members were advised there was a need for experienced governors at Cury and were asked to advise LWa of any suitable persons who might be interested in undertaking this role.			
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8.	REVIEW OF LEADERSHIP FROM SIAMS FRAMEWORK			

	 How well the school has developed and implemented an inclusive and distinctive Christian vision, monitoring its impact to ensure the school's original foundation is maintained. How well the school lives out that Christian vision in relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders. 		
	This item was to be carried over to a future meeting.		
	It was suggested it would be useful to look at the SIAMS Self-Evaluation Forms across all four Church schools to see if there were aspects they might address together so this was to be followed up.	DBr	
	Committee members agreed it would be interesting to see how close Wendron's own judgements were when able to be viewed against the SIAMS inspection judgements.		
	RLa was to forward a copy of a report from another school that had recently been inspected under the new framework so this could be confidentially shared with the minutes of the current meeting.		
9.	CONSIDERATION OF THE SECONDARY PROVISION FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN		
	See Item 4 above.		
10.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING		
	Membership. It was agreed the appointment of clergy representatives with voting rights would be delayed until more clergy were present for reasons of fairness.		
	Terms of Reference. The Committee's Terms of Reference were to be taken to the full Trust Board for approval.	DBr / KTe	
	Foundation Governors. A query arose as to who could become a Foundation Governor. The Committee was reminded potential Foundation Governors must be in sympathy with the Church of England's Vision for Education but need not necessarily be Church persons per se, though they were still to be approved by the Parochial Church Council / Parish Priest.		
	Headteachers noted it was a pleasure to feel less isolated as headteachers new to Church schools and to feel the collective support offered by fellow Committee members / headteachers.		
11.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
	Visits to the Church schools. These were to take place as follows:		
	Cury – 11 th June 2019 at 1.00pm.		
	This was to coincide with a visit at that time by MLe. Attendees were to be MBr, PMi, AOr and PSh. AOr was to complete the SIAMS Learning Walk record on this occasion.	MBr, PMi, AOr, PSh	
	Breage – To be confirmed.		
	No further matters were forthcoming at this time so the meeting was brought to a close.		
12.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS		
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Chair's Signature	Date	