

St Barnabas CE Primary School
Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting
Held at 4pm Thursday 9th March 2017

Present

Brian Lennon (Chair), Karen Boardman (Headteacher), Anne Rawlinson, Mike Grant, Sarah Curry

In attendance – Sarah Curry (Foundation Stage), Marie Entwistle (minute taking)

Apologies

Anne Williamson, Helen de Saram

1. Welcome

KB welcomed everyone.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 10th November 2016 were approved. No matters arising.

3. Improvements in the quality of RE Teaching and Learning

Karen Boardman explained the New Agreed Syllabus for York and Understanding Christianity Resource. KB and SC had both attended 2 full day courses on the syllabus. SC distributed an overview in preparation for implementing.

AC – How does this link in with other religions?

SC – This resource covers purely Christianity – we will be covering different religions too and can use some of the themes to link to different religions.

BL – Do you teach one thing then move on?

SC – Explained how the teaching works.

SC distributed the outcomes expected. This will help with assessment.

MG – How much time is given for Christianity compared to other religions?

SC – Not sure the percentage but SC said that she would find out. SC then distributed Core Concepts and Key Questions after explaining.

Governors all thought this was much more straightforward and it was clear to follow the progression.

BL – Do you cover any other religions?

KB – Yes all schools have to do this.

KB, SC showed the governors a frieze that matches up with cards. The governors were very interested and had a good discussion about the pictures and the bible stories hidden in the frieze. All the governors could see the brilliant lessons that could come out of this. KB also explained how children can do their own art work and put it in the hall.

SC told the governors that all the staff attended a joint staff meeting at Naburn Primary School. SC planned a unit together and hope to meet up next time to plan another unit.

The governors asked when school expect to start this syllabus. KB said that it would start in the Autumn term however school is trialling a unit in the summer term.

Meanwhile introduce concepts of the big frieze.

4. Worship Policy

KB explained the Collective Worship Policy has been updated. KB and the governors looked at each area of the policy and KB answered the questions from governors.

Governors asked if many children opted out of assemblies. KB said that if parents were considering withdrawing their children, they were invited to a collective worship and they see that is it inclusive. Most parents are then happy to have their child included in collective worship – some with the condition that the children aren't included in prayer.

KB highlighted some parts of the policy:

Candles are used to help understand The Trinity.

Stillness is an important part of collective worship.

Collective worship focuses on different value each half term.

Pupils are involved in planning worship – for whole school worship, the worship committee meet with KB to plan worship. Classes regularly lead Key Stage worship – they plan worship and decide how to communicate the theme and what to include.

Governors asked who came in to lead worship?

KB – The leadership group from church are coming in regularly to lead worship. In addition, YOYO and the Rock Church also come in.

Governors highlighted that it would be helpful to have a greater range of leaders including from other faiths for worship.

Governors asked about monitoring and evaluation of worship?

KB – Anne W has carried out observations of KB leading worship, KB has recorded observed EC leading whole school worship. Anne W has also held pupil discussion groups about worship and values.

AR made suggestions about further aims - The children feel valued and value the views of others.

The Worship Policy was adopted.

5. Marking and Feedback Policy

Action KB – To email Policy

AR asked how it was going. EC said it is working well and TA's and children are making improvements in response to the marking.

AR mentioned that when she held discussion groups she was impressed that children could talk about the learning and marking in their books.

6. New School Website

Governors liked the website and found it user friendly. KB explained that it is evolving all the time and that each class adds to the curriculum pages. The governors thought this new website showed the church school distinctiveness and values. They liked that the home school value sheets. Information and photos of class led worship still has to go on although this is on twitter

.

7. SIAMS self-evaluation

Governors brainstormed to reach a 50 word summary. How are we distinctive?

Holding the Christian values as the core of all our actions.

AOB

MG – raised the matter of a local school going into special measures and how this seemed to be linked to their data. Governors discussed how some children with social and emotional difficulties found test situations challenging. At St Barnabas we try to prepare children for the tests by going through practice papers and helping them to feel confident in a test situation so that they can do their best.

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 15th June at 4pm.

The meeting closed at 5.05pm