Governor visits to RE and Worship

Questions for observers to bear in mind when attending worship

Are children and adults given the chance to grow spiritually through prayer, stillness, worship, reflection?

Are they helped to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways?

Are they helped to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and Christians' belief in the Trinity?

Are pupils and adults involved in planning, leading, evaluating in ways which lead to improvements?

Are local church community partnerships encouraged to support the school in developing collective worship?

Do the vision and values of the school shape the conduct and content of the worship?

What do the children say?

Thinking about one or more worships, do/can children:

- Talk about worship with enthusiasm
- Explain how it influences their lives in and out of school
- Comment on or evaluate the value and use of prayer and/or reflection in their own lives and those of others
- Take a significant lead in developing worship with their teachers, ministers, visitors
- Show understanding of the importance of the Eucharist in Christian worship
- Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of Christian festivals and of the ways in which they are celebrated.

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VISIT RECORD

Fill in the boxes which are relevant to your visit. Brief notes are ample.

Name and role: Sally Bull, Chair

Date of visit: 11th March 2022

Purpose and focus of visit (agreed in advance with HT, teacher, subject lead and linked to SIAMS action plan and/or SDP)
To share the school's celebration as a family community. This was the first time in some months that

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Trust	Truthfulness	Respect	Responsibility	Friendship	Forgiveness

such a visit had been possible and the younger children have had very limited experience of whole school worship so far.

A brief summary of the activities you saw and the resources used by the worship leader, teacher and pupils

Graham Kendrick song on screen and playing on entry and exit and as part of the worship
Purple altar cloth as a visual reminder of Lent
Opening greeting and closing sequence with pupils responding
Closing prayer from the Head
Celebration of a wide range of activities: football, cross country, writing, maths, independent work at home in lockdown, acts of helpfulness, kindness, friendship, perseverance. For each individual certificate awarded, the pupil came to the front, shook hands with the Head and stood with their certificate proudly displayed in front of them.

Details of pupils' involvement - including planning, leading worship, questioning or answering, drama, reflection.

Pupils were invited to volunteer to deliver the opening and closing sequences – 3 volunteers for each from a sea of hands. All joined in with the responses to opening and closing statements.

All those involved in the sport (a large number from such a small school) came to the front while their achievements were described.
Those winning certificate holders also came to the front to receive the Head's congratulations and applause from the whole school.

The impact on the children
(Evidence to come from what the children do, say, write, how they behave before, during or after a worship, activity or celebration)

The children spontaneously joined in with the song, played as they assembled, to the obvious joy of the Head. They happily sang it again as the worship started and joined in a third time as they left the hall, some inclined to linger to avoid missing the end as they left!

I spoke briefly to Willow class pupils who were responsible for setting out the benches and chairs. They were very clear that this is always a celebration worship and said how much they enjoyed it as a chance to share in success. They also said how good it was to meeting as a whole school once again. One child explained that praised writing was put on the wall for others to read.

The children were attentive throughout, applauding without being asked and focused respectfully on those at the front. There was a very strong sense of a community coming together to celebrate the achievements of others. Behaviour was beyond reproach throughout with singing the only sound on entry and exit.

Community links - of any kind

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The football and cross country teams had taken part in Stroud events.

Our Christian vision in action – any observations linked to the activity visited or classroom, hall displays, reflection areas, Forest Schools, wall displays.

The whole gathering was a lovely illustration of “one body” at work with a range of skills from the personal to the academic praised and clear guidance from the Head that it is the commitment and taking part, challenging yourself, that matters, not the winning. Staff were present and joined in enthusiastically on several occasions with further detail about achievements. The Headteacher’s words throughout revealed knowledge of what was going on throughout the school (eg that there had been lots of quality writing in Willow). The supportive atmosphere means that even the tiniest were happy to stand at the front with their certificates. It was cheering to see the sportspeople clapping each other as the school clapped them. Pupils were encouraged to tell their teachers about achievements outside school too so the whole person is acknowledged and celebrated.

Awards were given for behaviour and attitudes as well as academic achievement with perseverance, friendship, enthusiasm and helpfulness all celebrated.

A display on Peace (linked to Remembrance Day?) on the hall wall included some lovely descriptions of children’s “peaceful” places, a range of biblical quotations (they didn’t seem to have been given just one to copy).

Any points to be raised with the Ethos committee?

Share a very positive experience at the next meeting.
Organise a pupil voice session as soon as circumstances allow it.

Signature of visitor Date

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