



Primary RE Adviser Visit (Zoom Call)

School: St Peter's Leatherhead, Surrey.

Headteacher: Richard McKenzie

Diocesan RE Advisers: Sarah Feist and Emma Sharp

Deputy Headteacher: Marianne McDonnell

Curriculum Leader for RE: Hayley Hartfield / Ruth Hall / Jess Devlin

Date of zoom call: 25th February 2021

Date of most recent Section 48 Inspection - 1st November 2017 Outcome: Outstanding

Areas for further development from last Inspection: -

- Continue to build upon the creative elements of learning to enrich the RE curriculum and to add to the variety of work in pupil books.
- Include areas for development as 'next steps' within the school's self-evaluation.

Dear Richard, Marianne, Hayley, Ruth and Jess,

Thank you for inviting Sarah and I via Zoom, to discuss how we can continue to support you in the Catholic Life and RE teaching in your school.

Thank you for sharing all the wonderful things you have been doing and for the time you spent preparing a PowerPoint to give us a snapshot of your school community.

Catholic Life and Ethos:

It is evident that there is a very strong sense of community at St Peter's which has been reinforced by the unprecedented events of the past year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Headteacher shared how fortunate they have been to be able to provide every KS2 child with a Google Chrome Book to support their learning from home. During our conversations it was noticeable how caring and nurturing the Headteacher and his staff are, and how they have worked in partnership with parents to ensure all vulnerable children who should be in school are in school.

Whole school liturgy has moved online and is led by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher. It was agreed by all that the advantage of online liturgy has meant that parental engagement is very high, and they are keen for an opportunity to share in these moments of prayer. The normal prayer routine of the school has been sustained, whether the pupils are face to face with teachers or virtual and this is something to be proud of.

During the first lockdown period, the Deputy Headteacher explained how the school strived to make the liturgy interactive and as joyous as possible to connect with the pupils and families at home. They have Wednesday Worship, created by Jess, one of the RE Leaders. In addition there have been Feast Days and Rosary group video-liturgies with parents. This continued in September with Grandparents' day and Harvest, alongside other liturgies, allowing the whole school community to come together as one. The Deputy Headteacher expressed how they decided to live stream the Nativity plays which gave a very natural and realistic experience for parents.

The school was involved in the CAFOD penny pick up during Advent, which enabled each year group to buy different CAFOD gifts for developing countries.

Year 6 recorded an Ash Wednesday liturgy for the whole school, joined by the parish priest, which was sent out during half-term.

The Headteacher is proud of the way his staff has continued to display pupil's work and kept prayer areas in the classrooms up to date and in line with the liturgical year. These are used during times of class worship to reinforce learning.

It was reported that the staff too have worked hard to continue their own spiritual life in school with their morning meetings beginning with prayer and saying the Prayer of St Joseph daily with the school community marks the Year of St Joseph.

The school newsletter has continued weekly, with a Wednesday Word section, a reflection for families and a link to each celebration assembly. There have been more live assemblies as the confidence of staff has grown.

It was reported that the parental survey recently completed showed that parents welcomed all the work the school had done to ensure a sense of community and they commented that they still felt part of the school family.

The Headteacher feels that although this has been a time of challenge, there have been some very positive outcomes and successes, especially connections with parents thorough prayer and liturgy that will likely remain after COVID.

Religious Education

The RE subject leader described how the school has kept the normal teaching routine for RE during the past year. She explained how they had adapted the topics in EYFS to work better for the pupils whose experience of 'Church' will have been limited during the pandemic. It was lovely to see examples of their learning from their 'floor book'. In Year 1, the school responded to parental requests to have recorded lessons in order to be more flexible with their day. The learning in Year 1 and 2 has been recorded using Tapestry and we were able to see a lovely example of a little boy who had made breakfast as a gesture of sharing with his family. It was confirmed that parental engagement in RE has been very positive. In KS2, the provision has been a mixture of videos with recorded dialogue and live lessons. The learning platform has allowed the teachers to give feedback to pupils' work and mark according to the success criteria. The RE subject leader explained how they have strived to keep the continuity of lessons by keeping the same formats they were used to in class. All classes have also been continuing with their Spiritual Journaling during this time.

RSE & Health Education

The Headteacher established a working party for RSE with strong involvement from Ruth, one of the RE Leaders, and a Governor. The working party devised a curriculum map and started consultation in October 2020. She reported that the consultation meeting attracted a good number of parents and that all the information has since been made available on the school website for those parents who were unable to attend. It was discussed that the feedback from parents was very positive and that the consistent approach of having parents' meetings in previous years, for the Journey in Love programme, meant that parents already felt well-informed. The Deputy Headteacher confirmed that the RSHE policy had been ratified by the governing body. School staff and some Governors are planning on attending the forthcoming Diocesan RSE conference.

Headteacher comments

The Headteacher wished to express his thanks to Marie Ryan for the phone calls, letters and the ongoing CPD which has helped them to feel very supported.

A special thanks was also expressed for the financial support of Tesco vouchers and the Crisis Fund which has made a huge difference to some families. The Deputy Headteacher said that one family has said "it has been life changing."

Final comments

We wish to thank you for your time and for the preparations made to show us how hard the school is working to sustain its Catholic life, religious education, and ethos. There are many things to celebrate and to be proud of. We will pray for a smooth and safe return for all pupils and staff and look forward to when we can be together again in person.

Signed: E Sharp

Date: 1st March 2021

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