

Toddington St George Church of England School

Parent Forum 2017

Monday 6th March 215pm

Focus: SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School).

Apologies:

Present:

Question. Are you aware of the schools church of England status?

Parents are aware of the schools 'Church of England' status due to all the signage at the school and also information on the school website. In addition, through indications that are throughout the school and the school RE newsletters and from the information and the environment within the school itself. Parents also get the feeling of the links with the Church of England school from some of the trips and visits that their children have attended. Finally from attending parents evening at school the schools church status is evident from displays in the reception area and other areas in the school.

Question. Are you aware of the schools Christian distinctiveness?

Yes, from the information discussed above and also through the schools teaching of values and the emphasis placed on these and other information given in parents newsletters. Parents are aware via both the school website and also the newsletters of what value as an emphasis each month. Parents are also aware from trips and the involvement of the school with the local churches and through other aspects such as 'Open the book'. Parents are also aware of the schools Christian distinctiveness through the emphasis of teaching Bible stories at Christmas and other key event throughout the Christian year. For example activities such as Christingle, nativity plays etc. that occur throughout the year.

Question. Are you aware of the schools vision statement lighting a spark in every child?

There are mixed views on whether parents were actually aware of the schools vision spec statement. Some parents were away or had noted it from the school website and others through the school newsletter and the school are E newsletter. On the whole parents felt that this was a very good not overly familiar with the schools vision statement.

Question. Are you aware of the schools values?

Yes parents are aware of the schools values as they are discussed and available for parents to view both on school newsletters and from the school website. In addition, some parents expressed that

they were aware of the values as they had children that had been involved in focused assemblies that parents been invited to attend.

Question. What do the values mean to you?

Parents on the whole agreed that the values were good as it highlights and provides an environment where children can learn how to become valued citizens.

Question. What do you do values mean to your child?

Parents discussed that as the children are more involved in the process of learning about the different values that they have a better understanding of what they mean. As the children learn about each value through activities in assembly parents feel that it gives them reassurance and guidance about their life inside and outside of school. Parents also felt that on occasions it helps the children to understand behaviour as they are often linked to values.

Question. Are you aware of the role of collective worship at the school?

Parents discussed that they are aware of collective worship as they children often sing songs that they have learnt as part of collective worship. Parents also discussed that their children had been discussing open the book and what happened during those sessions and often their children talk about collective worship at home.

Question. Does your child have an understanding of Christianity? How do you know?

Parents believe that children have as demonstrated through their awareness of key Bible readings such as the Easter story and nativity story for example. Parents also discussed their children talking about God at home and also some parents said the children are wanting to pray.

Question. Does your child have an understanding of other faiths? How do you know?

Some parents discussed about the year four faith tour and feel that that is done very well and provides a good introduction to other faiths. Parents also discussed how good the school are at celebrating Diwali and that this activity again is done very well and their children find this very engaging. Parents on the whole feel that they have their children have an awareness of others faiths but not sure about whether they fully understand other faiths.

Question. How do you know what your child is learning in RE?

From the timely newsletters and curriculum sheets that I are sent home to parents. In addition, from RE newsletters and also from what the children talk about it when they return home from school.

Question. Are the RE/CW/SMSC newsletter is helpful?

Parents felt the newsletters are very informative and helpful and they provide an opportunity for parents to reinforce key learning at home.

Question. Are parish/community links important to you? Why? What are they?

Parents agreed that they are and they like the involvement that the school has with different churches within the community. Parents reinforced that the school provides a good way for the children to integrate and mix with the local community. Parents like the churches together events and they feel that these provide an opportunity for the children to see how the community works together. Parents particularly liked the Christmas shoebox appeal as parents felt this provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to get a sense how they can make a small difference to a wider community.

Question. Are the parish/community links important to your child? Why? What are they?

Parents felt that the community links are important to their children because it provides an open opportunity for them to feel comfortable and talk to people within their local community. Parents believed that it makes the children feel more at home and part of the local community.

Question. Have you got anything to add in relation to this subject?

Parents expressed that they would like more to be done about exploring other faiths from earlier years. Parents also discussed the children to have an opportunity to tour of the local churches in the village and provide a positive experience for them to explore their faith further.

A.O.B.

Parents expressed their thanks that the back entrance to the school via the car park had been cleared and was now tidy. Parents expressed what a vast improvement it had made to the school. Parents still felt that parts of the playground, especially at the front playground, were still particularly untidy and wondered if there was going to be any change to this. Finally parents also

mentioned whether there would be any consideration given to widening the back playground entrance as it often gets crowded at pick up and drop off. In addition, parents often crowd round close to the entrance making it particularly busy at drop off in the morning.