

School Visit Record

Purpose of planned visit: Liaison with lead teacher	Staff member: Miss Moores
	Location: School
	Subject(s): Geography and history
	Date and time: 1350 on 30 January 2020

Links with the Strategic School Development Plan (SSDP)

How does the visit relate to a priority in the School Development Plan?

n/a

Governor observations and comments

e.g. What did you see? What did you learn? What would you like clarified? How long did the visit last?

I met with Miss Moores in her capacity as subject lead for Geography and History. Miss Moores has been subject lead since September 2018, supported by Deputy Head Mr Haslam.

She has received various training to assist in the role such as a diocese RQT course which included subject leadership training, and also ignite training to assist in delivery of whole school projects such as last year's Palm Oil topic. She feels that it is going well and that she is well supported by colleagues and SLT.

Miss Moores has a curriculum action plan for both subjects containing a progression of skills document for pupils from year 1 to year 6, and long term plans for each topic. Objectives have been allocated to each year group to ensure progression. She focuses on working creatively with a cross-curricular approach.

Each topic is started with a mind map and a vocabulary page where the children note what vocabulary they already know and which they update with new areas of the topic and new vocabulary at the end of each lesson.

Miss Moores has been concentrating on the sequencing of lessons as this had been an area of development. This has seen a marked improvement.

In geography they have brought in a sequence of 'on your doorstep' looking at local things, then 'down the road' followed by 'across the waters'. For example the year 5 topic on rivers has started with the Peover Eye followed by the River Mersey, leading on to The Amazon. This has increased understanding by linking the familiar with the distant.

We examined various theme books during the meeting which showed work of the highest standard. Miss Moores has been supporting staff in improving the presentation of such books across the school and this has shown a marked improvement. Cross-curricular links with subjects such as Maths, Science, art and DT have also shown a marked improvement which is evident in the theme books.

It was also very evident that the school has been concentrating on long pieces of writing with a geographical and historical context, and that teaching is consistent across the school with all theme books now containing mind maps and vocabulary pages at the beginning of a topic and with all children aiming to answer a key question at the end of each topic.

Miss Moores supports staff throughout the school with staff meetings and advice. She monitors progress towards the curriculum plans by continually monitoring books, dropping in to lessons and by pupil voice. Each child has their own target and support plans are in place for those children who are not on track. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. She feels that staff have the right knowledge and skills to deliver the topics well.

Challenges at present involve the new Ofsted framework and gaining knowledge of deep dives. She is hoping to go on a subject leader training course in the near future. She is happy with her budget and resources. The only improvement she would like is more time to have whole staff planning meetings where new ideas could be bounced off each other.

Next half term a whole school project will be commenced entitled 'adrift' which will be on the subject of refugees. This will be similar to last year's Palm oil project. She is currently taking part in 'ignite' training to assist in this project.

I will contact Miss Moores next half term to arrange a tour of the school in order to drop in to various geography and history lessons across the school.

Any key issues arising for the governing body

e.g. The way resources are allocated, the way the school communicates, progress in implementing a key policy

None

Staff member comments

What went well, what concerns did you have about the visit, has any follow up action been identified?

- No concerns about the visit.
- I look forward to the next visit in Summer 1, where Martin and I will drop in to history and geography lessons and talk to pupils.

Headteacher comments

Were objectives met, is a further visit required in the future, was the visit a success, were all protocols observed?

Thank you, Martin and Vanessa.

The standard of history and geography has developed tremendously over the last year. Vanessa has supported staff in developing a creative approach to the theme books- children and staff are very proud of these. Staff meetings will be planned to incorporate joint planning.

Action following governing body meeting

Record any action agreed by the governing body with regard to this visit

Signed:

Governor: Martin Hughes

Staff member: Vanessa Moores

Headteacher:



Date: 06/02/2020

