

Bishop's Visitor's Report

Bishop's Visitor: Sue Padfield	
School: Barnwood	NOR: 192
VOLUNTARY AIDED	
Headteacher: Mrs J Matson	RE Subject Lead: Sarah Beacock
Date of Annual Visit: 5th October Barnwood 10-23 2023	
Purpose of the visit: To provide pastoral support to the school, especially the Headteacher, as appropriate. To foster the link between the school and the Diocese of Gloucester. To encourage and support RE, SMSC, Collective Worship, Values Education and Character Development, by sign-posting staff to appropriate officers and resources.	

Checklist prior to the visit		Comment or observation
a) Agree time and date of visit with HT	√	
b) Agree timetable for the visit		
c) Access the school's website	√	
d) Receive/access and read school newsletters		
e) Attendance at school events or occasions	√	
f) Attendance of Bishop at school event or occasion		
g) Changes in leadership at the school since last visit		
h) Pastoral support during the year	√	Emails

During the visit (possible activities)		Comment or observation
a) Meet with the Headteacher	√	
b) Tour of the school	√	
c) Attend collective worship	√	
d) Meet with children	√	
e) Discussion with leaders for RE, collective worship, SIAMS		
f) Signposting officers at the DBE		
g) Signposting resources, opportunities, training supported by the DBE		
h) Creative links between the school and the church linked to the LIFE vision	√	

The information above will be used to inform the letter written to the Headteacher to provide a summary of the visit, comments and observations. It will celebrate the ways in which the school is fostering and developing its distinctive Christian ethos as well as signposting support which has been requested by the Headteacher.

This report and attached letter will be sent to the school within a week of the visit and the letter should be shared with the governors and school community. Copies will also be sent to the Diocese of Gloucester (Ed. Dept)

Bishop's Visitor's letter to school5th October, 2023

Dear Mrs Matson,

It was a great pleasure, as always, to be with Barnwood School today, both at the Harvest Service and in school, and I am very grateful to you and all the staff and children for your warm welcome and for all your time and hospitality.

It was lovely to be with KS2 at their Harvest Festival service led in Church by Rev'd Rob. The children were, as usual, immensely responsive, joining in the initial response as the candle was lit, in the prayers, identifying/guessing vegetables with great glee and singing enthusiastically. It seemed a good idea to me to have two separate services for the two key stages.

Back at school it was good to find you all in such very good heart and with such a warm feeling of love and interest (clearly led from the top) between staff and children. Despite the many issues affecting them, the children were all engaged in learning and clearly enjoying all the activities planned for them. The classrooms and corridors were, as usual, full of colour and meaningful displays, including many eye-catching ways of celebrating the children's successes. But, as in many schools at present, you have many children who need that extra special care and time if they are to reach their potential: a considerable increase in children with EAL, an ever-increasing number of different first languages, numbers of asylum seekers' children, Ukrainian children and children or their families (or both) with mental health problems. You continue to maintain an ethos in which your Christian Values can be seen in practice providing much care and support for children and their families as they struggle with all these problems. In the same way the provision of Forest School/Outdoor Learning in a lovely area within your grounds for all the children at appropriate times is proving valuable in improving general mental health and allowing space for reflection.

It was good to hear how the partnership with St Lawrence's (and the local Methodist church and others) continues to remain strong, with Rev'd Rob (and other ministers) leading Collective Worship regularly, Open-the-Book each week and the school having services in the church at the "special" times - the next to be at Remembrance with which you are coinciding a History Week - those services having an emphasis on worship rather than "performance". The parish continues to hold occasional fifth Sunday services in school. The availability of worship provided on-line by ISingPop which proved invaluable during the pandemic is still a feature of Collective Worship on the days of staff CPD. At other times Collective Worship may be by class or key stage or a celebration of values-in-practice led by your Worship Stars.

Thank you – and all the class teachers - for a lovely tour of the school; it was good to see again how well all the various areas are used and the rearrangements that allow more safe spaces and reflective areas; the children were all very enthusiastically engaged and very pleased and forthcoming in telling me what they were learning about.

You remain happy with the delivery of the RE curriculum, continuing to value the syllabus and the resources provided, and your membership/Vice Chairmanship of SACRE surely increases its impact both at Barnwood and elsewhere.

With thanks, again, and best wishes to you all for the continuing term, the break and then for the further term, particularly for all the lovely Advent and Christmas activities.

Yours sincerely, *Sue.* (Sue Padfield).