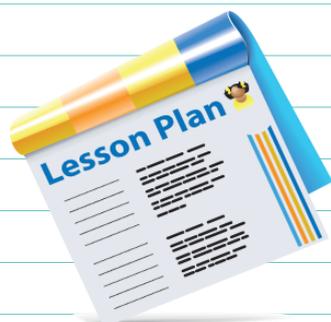


Leading our School



May 2016



Teaching and Learning

The Joint Annual Review Visit was made in March 2016 with our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP.) It was a positive and constructive day for all of us. A wide variety of activities were undertaken to assess the effectiveness of Bishop Wood School. I was especially pleased that our judgments aligned in every area so we can feel extremely confident about the quality and accuracy of our self evaluation procedures. Our school Self Evaluation Form was revised prior to this assessment. I felt we were provided with good

advice on what evidence we need to collect to ensure borderline grades were made more secure upwards.

A wide range of staff were involved and active in the review which demonstrated well the quality provision in leadership, management, teaching and learning.

The activities comprised of paired lesson observations in Mathematics to standardise judgments, a pupil voice activity with learners in receipt of additional support for Mathematics in the upper school and a discussion of strengths and areas for improvement in the most recent Mathematics

work scrutinies. Maths was our focus of work in the morning because this is the area where there are shadings of underachievement.

Science and its assessment was a particular focus at this visit because any schools inspected at this time will be expected to articulate and prove the effectiveness of this area.

To improve outcomes still further we have to be able to demonstrate greater than expected progress from KS1 and to improve the quality of teaching still further we need to refine our assessment for learning techniques.



School Office Review

The review of the office procedures was completed at the end of the Spring Term. This covered improvements and adaptations to office working hours; roles and responsibilities; job descriptions; performance appraisals;

online parent payments; online communications; electronic diary; office environment: staff dress code: electronic registration; purchase ordering; finance records: strengthened HR procedures for new staff; contracts register;

contract reviews; Evolve for off site visits: benchmarking; efficiency review; and the school website.

The changes have been challenging but the improvements are being introduced over the next term which will lead to greater efficiencies.

School Effectiveness Judgments March 2016

- ✓ Leadership and Management (good ⇒ outstanding)
- ✓ Teaching and Learning (good)
- ✓ Behaviour Safety and Welfare (good ⇒ outstanding)
- ✓ Pupil Outcomes (good)

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The RE Quality Mark

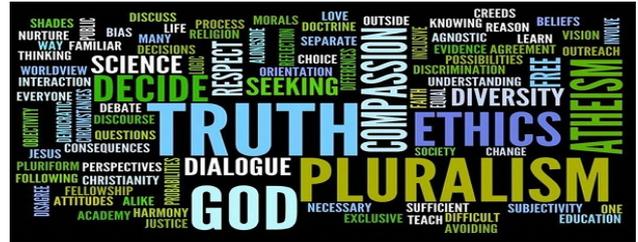
The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) is a nationally recognised award that acknowledges and celebrates outstanding RE. We have been using the criteria in the award to review and plan ways to enhance our RE provision in school.

As a Church of England school, we are able to decide the curriculum we follow; for a number of years now we have chosen to follow the Hertfordshire agreed syllabus. In September, we reviewed our use of the Hertfordshire Scheme of Work and our use of the resources. With changes taking place in the way we assess pupil's progress, we also updated our assessment

routines and clarified our Age Related

Expectations (ARE) using the Hertfordshire level descriptors (as advised by Hertfordshire and the Diocese of St. Albans). We continue to work closely with our advisors to make sure that we follow the latest guidelines.

We have now identified the areas of our practice that provided strong evidence for our REQM submission and the things we could do to improve our teaching and learning in RE. This included asking the children their opinions and ideas. Our recent Christmas Carol Service was an example of how we have started to implement some of the changes.



Most recently, I have been looking at the written work the children have been doing in their RE books this year – this is something we do regularly. We identify what is going well and our next steps. It was lovely to see the range of activities the children are taking part in in RE lessons and their responses to the questions they discuss. Our next step is to give the children the opportunity to reflect on their learning with their peers.

My next step now is to gather the evidence needed to show our inspector when they visit!

Mrs. Ridgway



Changes to KS2 SATs 2016

Year 6 pupils have just completed their statutory end of keystage tests known as SATs. They are all to be congratulated for their commitment and application.

The Reading Test consisted of three texts with a greater focus on fictional texts and comprehension elements of the new curriculum. There were a mixture of genres of text.

The Grammar, Punctuation and

Spelling Test had a greater focus on knowing and applying grammatical terminology with the full range of punctuation tested. The new national curriculum sets out clearly which technical terms in grammar are to be learnt. It also defines precise spelling patterns and methodologies to be taught.

Arithmetic replaced the mental mathematics test. This assesses basic mathematical calculations

Questions covered addition, subtraction and more complex calculations with fractions. Long division and long multiplication questions were also included. There were two Maths Reasoning papers where questions required children to show their method.

Each pupil will receive a raw score, a scaled score and confirmation of whether or not the expected standard was achieved.

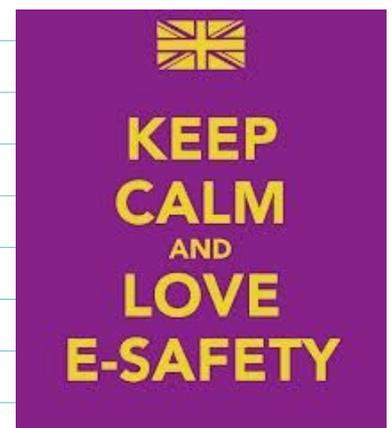
E-Safety

It is always a high priority for us to be vigilant about matters of e-safety in our school. Staff and governors are undertaking further training in June to ensure the highest standards of safety as far as this is concerned.

There is a termly e-safety newsletter produced for parents which we will send to you all. It is worth keeping up to date with this as technology moves so

quickly.

There are a number of websites that parents can use to keep themselves informed about how to keep their child safe on line. We will also forward these to you in a separate communication.



Eco Schools

Bishop Wood is a member of the Eco-Schools programme. It gives a framework which provides the tools to promote and develop sustainability throughout school. The framework consists of:

1. Eco-Committee
2. Environmental Review
3. Action Plan
4. Involving the whole school and wider community
5. Linking to the curriculum
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. Eco-Code

The framework supports schools working on different environmental and sustainable

topics. There are nine topics that we can choose to work on but we do not have to work on all of them at once. However, whilst working on one topic we may find we can make improvements in other areas. Energy is a compulsory topic but others include: Water, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Healthy Living, Transport, Litter, Waste and Global Citizenship.

Registered schools work towards a Bronze Award, Silver Award and ultimately, the Green Flag. There is a logical progression through the awards. Thus far we have formed our Eco-Committee: Amber Webbley (3I), Tom Rycroft (3R), Taryn Schofield (4H), Nathan

Townsend (4S) Amelie Langan (5F), Bea Hodgson (5DR), Flora Smith (6M) and Finlay Marshall (6C), Mr Bye, Mrs Day, Mrs Manning, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Reeve. We conducted an Environmental Review in autumn and used the information gathered to develop our Action Plan which is ongoing.

Mrs Day



Buildings Improvements

We had the diocesan recommended architect come into school with a colleague who had specialist knowledge of funding streams available to support new building work in schools. This was a very helpful visit and the architect is currently drawing some plans to make better use of our existing space. Of particular interest was squaring off the school building at the front to relocate the School Office and create a safe

space for meetings. The adaptation of the existing TV room into smaller work places was considered to be reasonably straightforward. There was concern about the lack of privacy in one of the Year 3 classrooms because it is used as a walk through. The PE cupboard was also explored as a possibility for existing space that could be redesigned. There is little hope of a new staffroom space as there are no funding streams to

support the cost of this so it is all about remodelling the space we have. Some plans for redevelopment can be supported under safeguarding. We await the plans with interest.



Wraparound Care

You may be aware that new guidelines have been issued by the Department of Education concerning wraparound and holiday childcare. From September 2016, parents have the right to request that the school their child attends considers establishing wraparound and/or holiday childcare. Schools are not obliged to establish provision but they are expected to respond constructively to requests. The

guidelines outline several possible models of provision and the governing body is currently considering the feasibility of these different models for Bishop Wood School. We will keep you

informed of any decisions with regards to these guidelines. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Liz Manning, care of the school.





Staffing Changes



With effect from the end of the school year Mrs. Swain will be leaving our school community to pursue other interests. She is an outstandingly creative teacher and her departure will leave us with a great sense of sadness because she has made an excellent contribution to the life and work of the school in so many ways over the past eight years especially with her expertise in Assessment and ICT. I have always loved observing the high quality of her teaching which is so imaginative and well structured. Children who have been taught by Mrs. Swain have always flourished under her guidance. We hope that we may see her back on supply in the future.

I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to make another excellent appointment to the teaching team for September. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Paula Birley who will be an outstanding asset to Bishop Wood.

Classes and teachers for 2016-2017 have not yet been finalised but I will communicate this to you as soon as I can.

“At Bishop Wood we grow and learn together, embracing challenge and celebrating success in all we do.”

The International Schools Award

The International Schools Award is assessed by the British Schools Council and seeks to recognise those schools whose curricular and other activities have a particularly international and global slant. Bishop Wood recognises that it is very important our children are made aware of life outside Tring and the UK, in order that they are effectively prepared for adult life in a multicultural world.

The first stage of this process was to draw up a detailed audit of all the activities that currently take place at Bishop Wood. The first draft of this has been completed. Last year an International afternoon was held in the school hall. This involved children and parents running a stall which showcased different

aspects of life in various countries. All classes visited and took part in an excellent variety of interactive activities. A link had been made with a school in Gambia. “Powerpoint” presentations made by the children had been swapped between schools and shown in assemblies. Unfortunately, this twinning arrangement has now ceased due to the untimely death of the facilitator. We need to now find a new school with which to work.

This is a project that is very much in progress. We are working hard to ensure the international activities are well embedded into the new primary curriculum. This has been challenging with the recent changes in the national

curriculum, particularly in History and Geography so we shall be continuing this work in the new academic year.

Mr Hall

