

# Governor Monitoring form Christian Distinctiveness

Tour of the school and pupil (mixed age) and staff conferencing (mix of support and teaching)

Name of Governor	Key Member of Staff	Date of meeting
Emma Gérardin	Key Member of Staff Rebekah Banley Kate Card.	27.02.20

### Possible questions to frame discussion – these may differ from school to school depending on schools needs

Questions for pupils

- Do you know the school's Christian values? What are they?
- Why do you think we have them? What difference do they make to you & your school? What difference do they make to you out of school?
- Why are they called 'Christian' values? Can you explain where they come from?
- Can you give me an example of one of the school's Christian values which help in you in your learning/behaviour/friendships/self-confidence....and explain how it has helped you?
- Where / when do you learn about the school's Christian values?
- Which do you think is most important of the values and why?
- What do you think it would be like in school without the Christian values?
- Are the values still relevant for people who are not Christians?
- Why do you think the values are displayed around the school? Do the displays help you in anyway? How?

#### Questions for staff

- Do you know the school's Christian values?
- What difference do they make to you?
- What difference do you see them making to the children and to the life of the school?
- How do you include values education in subjects across the curriculum? What about spiritual development?
- Have you, as a staff, explored a definition of spirituality? How do you apply this to pupils' spiritual development?
- How do you track pupils' spiritual development? What would you say is the value of this?
- How do you communicate the school's Christian vision and values to parents?
- How are the parents involved in this aspect of the life of the school?

#### Governor report

## Christian Distinctiveness

Tour of the School/Pupil and Staff Conferencing

Thursday 27th February 2020

Having been affiliated with St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy for many years, I have always found it to be a 'good' School with 'good' support of our Christian belief and values.

But, following my recent visit, where I was able to see firsthand the fluidity that now flows throughout the entire school, I have to say I was overwhelmed. Mrs Rebekah Bailey, along with her team of fellow teachers, have taken what was already a successful and thriving Christian place to learn, into something quite extraordinary!

From Nursery through to Year 2, the same teachings: Parables/ Miracles/ Readings are shared and cleverly adapted to their age group so the whole school learn and share 'Together'. At present the parable of 'The Wedding Banquet'.

Stories have been created by the teachers with Characters which were previously used for learning and are now being used to represent Christian Values for Life.. Faith, Love, Respect, Perseverance, Forgiveness. The children are able to receive badges when exceeding in any of these areas, both in their school and home life. I had the pleasure in speaking with several pupils, obviously very proud of their achievements/badges and could happily explain to me why they had received them. I asked one pupil if she was a Christian? She hesitated, so I asked, "Do you know any Christians?" "Oh yes", she replied with a smile, "Everyone at this school is a Christian, including me!"

The idea of the Forgiveness Feet in every class is inspired. The children stand on the printed feet and face whomever they have had a disagreement/problem with, and think, 'What would Jesus do?' In order to sort out their differences of opinion. An excellent approach and very child friendly.

The staff are ALL well informed, enthusiastic and eager to instill and nurture Christian Values within the children. This is evident in each classroom: The prayer area, displays and in general conversation with members of staff. I have no critic in this area whatsoever.

For areas I feel that could benefit from a little more attention, would be the wording in the School Vision Statement. I believe the word 'rich' could be misconstrued by some, to mean of a materialistic value? Perhaps the word 'Fruitful' could be a better adjective?

I'm aware prayer is shared during the school day, but I feel a 'morning ' prayer time before the children even begin, could be beneficial, as we can never be sure what pupils have left behind at home. And as a Christian school, a reminder that God is truly with them, as they start their school day, may be of some comfort.

The school at present have two services each term and are generally involved with Mothering Sunday and/or Harvest Festival. I would like relationship between the local Church and the School, and as Sunday School Coordinator at St Martin and St Meriadoc Church, it is something I shall be discussing with the DCC how we can achieve this.

I would like to thank Mrs Bailey and the staff for the love, support, encouragement and solid Christian foundations these pupils so obviously receive. An already 'good' school has been taken and made into a 'Great' School where the Lord's word is taught throughout.

Mrs Emma Gérardin MCFHP, MAFHP