

**Academy Councillors Visit Morning**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Introduction**

The Academy council works with the Academy to arrange termly Councillor Visit Mornings. The areas of focus are priorities in the Academy Improvement Plan and other key areas that Councillors want to look at in more depth.

These meetings give Councillors an opportunity to look in detail at these areas and to gather information from a range of staff members. Councillors also sometimes visit classrooms to see the practice they have heard about. This information adds to that which councillors receive in the Academy Council meetings and enables Councillors to develop a rich and in-depth picture of the Academy.

At the November 2018 visit morning Councillors met with the members of staff who lead on the areas on which they were focusing.

9.00 – 9.40	<b>Attendance</b> Jenny Hawkins <i>Peter, Mansoor, Liz</i>	<b>EAL enquiry groups overview</b> Sheena Adatia/Julius Nemet-Mikula <i>Naila, Ahmed, Meera</i>
9.50 – 10.20	<b>Reading</b> James Wharin <i>Peter, Mansoor, Liz</i>	<b>Character education/6Rs</b> Ben Burpitt <i>Ahmed, Naila, Meera</i>
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Safeguarding</b> Jill Hurst/Alex Curran <i>Mansoor, Liz, Meera</i>	<b>Computing/Online Safety</b> Roshni Morjaria <i>Ahmed, Naila, Peter</i>
11.00 - 11.45	<b>Governor Feedback</b>  Opportunity for governors to reflect/discuss the meetings.	

**Summary of Councillor Visits**

**Attendance**

Following the Academy's recent Ofsted inspection, attendance remains a main focus and the Academy is doing its best to increase its attendance figures. Councillors are very pleased with the latest figures which shows that attendance has increased to 96.5%, a 0.5% increase compared to national figures and a 2% increase compared to last year's Academy figures.

Attendance is being monitored daily and vulnerable families are being identified and encouraged to bring their children into school with the help of the Academy's Family Support Worker.

Pupils with more than four days off school are flagged to the EWO who encourages attendance using lots of initiatives. Extended holidays are a big concern. Religious observance can be requested and not counted within the Academy's absence data.

Regular meetings are held with families whose attendance has fallen and meetings held on a regular basis with families who need to be helped and encouraged to bring their children to school.

The Academy's priority will be to work with the White British group. White British currently 93.6% and White European 95%. No other groups are raising concern.

### **EAL enquiry groups overview**

The enquiry group is focusing on ensuring that character muscles are embedded in the life of the Academy and that parents are engaged with this work. Character muscles continue to be referred to in lessons and the majority of Academy tweets. Character muscles were brought in due to a lot of passive children. Already the school is seeing a big difference in a lot of things.

One challenge was how to get across to parents and get parent engagement. Language is a barrier in many respects. Parents do seem to be aware of the concept but not the terminology. Examples of words can be simplified. Lots of children are scared about their emotions and need to be told how positive and resilient they are. Whilst at school it is important that the school feeds positivity. Route to Resilience in Year 5 last year had poor mental wellbeing scoring 1-2. Now in Year 6 their score is 8-9 which is a great achievement.

### **Online Safety**

Parent workshops have been held and well attended. Workshops included advice on apps/browser information that many parents were not aware of. Another workshop follow up is planned which will include online safety at home.

### **Reading**

A Reading Improvement project was launched to try and move children getting 2A last year in Year 2 to greater depth.

Reading Pro has improved reading miles in Key Stage 2. It has developed a love of reading in Key Stage 1 and asking how children are feeling about reading.

We want to encourage reading at home and encourage more English reading and speaking for all parents. The English lead also wants to level more books again and have more book choices for Key Stage 1 - more time will be set aside for this. The Academy is also looking forward to another World Book Day next year.

## **Safeguarding**

The Academy has very robust systems for ensuring that the required safeguarding leads are in place, that all staff have up to date training appropriate for their role, that policies and procedures are reviewed annually and that required information is published on the Academy website. Two members of staff have received DSL training to replace staff leaving. Another member of staff to also become DSL trained.

The Academy has started to use CPOMS (safeguarding and child protection software for schools) which is proving to be an excellent tool.

It is more difficult now for families to claim Free School Meals. The Academy has a lot of vulnerable children due to neglect and poverty. The Academy is working closely with parents offering help such as taking vulnerable families to foodbanks and regarding benefits. Our Family Support Worker continues with good relations with families and deescalates behaviour issues.