

Academy Councillor Visit Day

Thursday 13th June 2019

Introduction

The academy councillors work with Northfield House Primary Academy to arrange termly Academy Councillor Visit days. These meetings give councillors an opportunity to look in detail at specific areas to gather information from staff members. All information gathered during the visits enables councillors to develop a rich and in-depth picture of the Academy.

During the June 2019 visit each councillor met with the member of staff who leads on the area on which they were focusing.

Focus area	Met with member of staff	Councillor
Artsmark	Emily Harris-Wakelam/Alex Curran	Cathy Brown & Meera Chandarana
Middle Leaders	Ben Burpitt	Cathy Brown, Mansoor Khan & Meera Chandarana
Curriculum	Ben Burpitt	Naila Malik, Cathy Brown & Peter Howkins
Computing	Roshni Morjaria	Mansoor Khan & Peter Howkins
Safeguarding	Jill Hurst/Alex Curran	Meera Chandarana & Mansoor Khan
EYFS	Kirsten Holland	Naila Malik & Peter Howkins
Engagement with Parents	Parents/Children	Naila Malik

Summary of Councillors visit

Artsmark – Councillors were told about the ‘Statement of Commitment’ which will be submitted soon. The process takes up to two years to accomplish and the academy are aiming for their gold award. Councillors were also informed regarding how art enables all EAL pupils to engage positively and fulfil their experiences within the academy. Art is linked with the curriculum and the aim is to ensure a creative flow through every subject. One focus is to work with afterschool club leaders to ensure all art activities are skills based. Pupil Premium money is being used to build various networks and enrichment throughout the academy. Staff have also visited other academies within the Trust to gain and share their experience and knowledge with each other. The school is also developing partnerships beyond the Trust.

Computing – Councillors were very impressed with information received regarding the academy’s KS1 pupils. Councillors were informed regarding Microsoft and how e-safety is taught within the academy. The local police had also visited the academy and guided pupils regarding their online safety. Pupils had been very surprised regarding the minimum age related to apps. Councillors were also told about the new Cloud Server and how it blocks inappropriate items. Councillors said they were very impressed with how coding was taught from the age of five. Councillors were very pleased with the children’s enthusiasm within computing and acknowledged that there may be a possibility of pupils visiting a computer museum in the future.

Middle Leaders – Points raised from Ofsted had now been addressed. Meetings to discuss areas of responsibility are held on a regular basis within the academy and middle leaders’ confidence in discussing their area and data has developed. Challenge Partners feedback was very strong regarding the Middle Leaders. Both Principal and Vice Principal are now helping to develop leadership skills. Phase Leadership opportunities are ongoing within the academy. Enquiry groups to be led by Middle Leaders instead of the Principal and Vice Principal.

EYFS – The Phase Leader shared knowledge folders showing each topic taught. Phonics test went very well and the aspiration is 80% although each cohort is different. Results could change depending on the government’s threshold. One class is a job share but staff working well together and have a very good understanding. Parents like intervention, use of books and enrichment. Pupils with EAL backgrounds are not used to reading books but now all looking very positive. The academy already holding meetings for pupils starting school in September helping parents with getting their children ready for school.

Curriculum – Curriculum was an area of excellence in the 2018 Challenge Partners review. Curriculum within the academy was quite broad already but it is being developed to become more knowledge based. The curriculum timetable is looking very exciting for the next academic year. More time will be spent on topics, which will be based around books, and there will be a real focus on depth of knowledge. French will be taught in years 5 & 6 having more detailed lessons. RE will be taught in all faiths following the government’s statutory guidance. There is a clear rationale for the curriculum and it is based on evidence of what works for the pupils in this school.

Safeguarding – Safeguarding audit completed and will be forwarded to the Leicester City Council by the end of this academic year. The academy passed their Safeguarding Health Check with only one recommendation which was carried out by the Leicester City Councils Safeguarding Team. Councillors were informed regarding LAC, Child Protection and exclusions within the academy.

Councillors were also told how CPOMS was used within the academy and how and who responds to all concerns raised.

Engagement with parents - A councillor attended a recent Awards Assembly meeting with parents and children. Parents happy with the way the school was progressing and their children are well settled. Parents commented on how all staff were very approachable. Children that were spoken to said how they like school, books and golden time.