

Pupil Premium Learning Walk 22nd October 2019

I visited school this morning in my role as Pupil Premium governor to observe how the funding is used throughout school and what impact it has on the children. Mrs Smith had planned a very busy schedule for me as evidenced below:-

8.45am. Meet and Greet with Bev Morgan

I stood outside with Mrs Smith and Bev Morgan. We were situated at the side entrance gate by the playground where the children come through to their classes with their parents. To ensure security of the children the gates are closed at 8.50am and any late comers have to report to the office. Both parents and children were greeted in a friendly manner. One parent returned a 'worry monster' that Bev had given her and said how much this had helped her anxious child. Good rapport between Mrs Smith, Bev and the parents and children was evident.

9.00am. Tour of the school with Mrs Logan

I visited each class in turn. Every class except Y1 had a teaching assistant (Y1 only has sixteen children) and doesn't have fixed support, but support is given when necessary. Mrs Logan stated that all the teaching assistants are directed to pupil premium children when support is needed. I asked a number of TAs to name their pupil premium children, they were all aware of who they were.

9.30am. Community Café

The Community Café is run by Bev Morgan every half term. Each meeting has a relevant focus and is usually attended by more than a dozen parents. Today's focus was online safety. The next one is scheduled to be about restorative practice. Tim Needham from Early Help attends each meeting to give support and advice. The local councillor Ian Jones also frequently visits. Bev also mentioned that she has strong links with the Winterhill attendance officer Hannah Rone. Bev also made me aware of Operation Encompass. It was piloted last year in Rotherham in relation to domestic violence and due to its success it has now gone national. I noted there were there a number of helpful leaflets on various subjects and the agencies to contact for parents if they needed advice and support. I questioned some of the parents and they said they enjoyed the meetings and the chance to socialise, to gather information and discuss their problems.

10.10am. Meeting with the Inclusion Leader:- Trish Keenan, Bev Morgan, Dawn Riley and Marzena Harkot re social impact of SEMH support, attendance and EAL focus.

Mrs Keenan explained that one of the teaching assistants' performance targets is always linked to pupil premium children considering their needs, actions and interventions. The teaching assistants are trained and supported by Mrs Keenan who uses Pivots Assessment and also the Vauxhall Profile for children with more serious medical problems. Children's attendances are monitored by Mrs Keenan and Dawn Riley every Monday morning. Every child in school's attendance record is scrutinised. Each parent is expected to report a child's absence on the first day. If that is not received then a call is made to the parent. If a downward trend for three weeks is reported then Early Help Assessment is offered by Bev Morgan. Bev adheres to the Rotherham Signs of Safety advice. Bev and Dawn also attend half termly panel meetings with Sue Horton who is the attendance lead for JMat. The impact of this has been that in 2017/18 there were twenty eight persistent absences whereas in 2018/19 the figure has fallen to fourteen.

10.30am. School Council Observation.

Although this is not funded by pupil premium money it was interesting to observe the group of twelve children from Y1 to Y6. Today's enquiry was about how to help the pupils' and grownups' behaviour improve in and outside school. Mrs Logan led the discussion together with Mrs Taylor. The children were enthusiastic and gave their views leading them to decide to make signs next week to put around school and outside the school gates.

10.45am. Debrief with Mrs Smith and Mrs Logan.

I stated that by the end of my visit I felt that I could fully appreciate how the funding is used successfully in school. It is used for supporting children and parents, evidenced by having contact with parents on a daily basis, by using the Community Café to give advice, by successfully using teaching assistants in class and also by funding specialised help from outside agencies.

As governors we are aware of Pupil Premium Strategy Statements. We analyse data and discuss outcomes but today has enabled me to experience in depth how the funding impacts not only on pupil premium children first and foremost but also on the holistic effect on our school.