

Name of school: Grendon Junior and Infant School
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Reference number: 103205
Survey response number: 65
User ID: 616
Type of school: Special___; Primary_X_; Secondary___
Category: Community_X_; Academy___; Independent___; Other_____
Date of visit: November 16th, 2015
Inspection number: 028
Monitor: Dr M. C. Felderhof
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Chair of Governors: Carma Monnelly-Owen
Name of Head Teacher: Christine Pyke
Teacher with responsibility for RE: Mr Matthew Windsor

Purpose of the Monitoring visit:

- (a) to see that safeguarding concerns in Birmingham are met in CW and RE and to ensure these activities comport with 'British' values;
- (b) to check that CW and RE contributes to the broad and balanced curriculum that requires the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development 1/ of children, and 2/ of society;
- (c) to consider the nature and character of the provision of RE and CW to see how they match the aims and ambitions of the school.
- (d) To consider and discuss any legal constraints and opportunities for CW and RE in the school with senior management and person(s) responsible for RE and CW.

Information about the school:

Grendon Junior and Infant School is a larger than average primary school. It is currently a growing school with quite a large catchment area. Because of the demolition of nearby tower blocks the demand for places decreased for a time and pupils came from farther afield, sometimes needing to take as many as three buses to get there. This does contribute to the high transient nature of the pupil body as some leave to take up places nearer their home when these become available. However, with new housing developments nearby the demand for places is again increasing locally.

There is a good deal of deprivation in the area with a very mixed population. Some 23 languages are spoken in the school.

A broad and balanced curriculum is offered to all the pupils and what is particularly impressive is the teaching of French from year one. There are good international links with schools in countries ranging from Nepal to Switzerland and the EU.

Core Foci:

Survey:

The survey was comprehensively completed and in good time. Reassurance was given that RE and CW are kept under review in the school and by the governing body.

Key observations:

1. Ethos:

There is a strong 'we can' ethos, enabling children and nurturing their confidence. Inclusion and respect are dominant themes. On the day of the visit the school was planning a minute of silence to mark the terrorist attack in Paris that led to 129 deaths (or

more). This is particularly appropriate given their interest in France and the teaching of French.

The school is enlarging the horizons of their pupils in an impressive way.

2. Collective Worship:

Parents are advised about their right of withdrawal. The theme of the collective worship observed was 'One World' How can we improve it? There was a respectful entry to the hall by all the children and the act of worship began with Louis Armstrong singing 'What a wonderful world' to pictures of the diversity of animal life and the natural world. Children were encouraged to reflect and also briefly to discuss the feelings it evoked. Then they were specifically urged to think about what they could actually do, and specific acts of care for the environment were suggested. It concluded with quiet reflection and the recitation of the school prayer in unison.

3. RE

Parents are advised about their right of withdrawal. The RE taught in the school follows the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus, which is appreciated by them, but they devise their own schemes of work and lesson plans.

Parts of two lessons were observed. The year six class were taught the ten commandments. The pupils were encouraged to think about how one might group them and then to evaluate their relevance for today. Though identified as Judeo-Christian, they were also encouraged to think about whether in substance they might be embraced by others. Thus whilst located in one religious tradition, bridging links were made to others and to those who espouse no particular religion.

The year five lesson on 'Being Silent and Attentive' was especially impressive, delivered by an experienced teacher. She had the full participation of pupils in several exercises of quiet listening, which she related to the reflection and meditation of religious traditions. An outstanding lesson.

4. Organisation and management

Good records are kept and the RE and Collective Worship are well planned and managed.

Conclusion re Safeguarding:

One can confidently say that there are no safeguarding concerns in the delivery of these areas of the curriculum.

What the school might do:

Maintain its good provision of RE and CW, but I particularly liked having the tables turned by having their suggestion of what the Authority and SACRE might do, which was to conduct a survey of children's opinion of these areas of the curriculum!