

Bishop's Visitor's Report (updated April 2018)

Bishop's Visitor: Linda Jeffcutt	
School: Haresfield C. of E. Primary	NOR: 105
Voluntary Controlled	
Headteacher: Mrs. Rachel Bacon	RE Subject Lead: Mrs. Sara Smout
Date of Annual Visit: Wednesday 23 rd May 2018	
<p>Purpose of the visit: To provide pastoral support to the school, especially the Headteacher, as appropriate. To foster the link between the school and the Diocese of Gloucester. To encourage and support RE, SMSC, Collective Worship, Values Education and Character Development, by sign-posting staff to appropriate officers and resources.</p>	

Checklist prior to the visit		Comment or observation
a) Agree time and date of visit with HT		Thank you for accommodating the date change.
b) Agree timetable for the visit		
c) Access the school's website		
d) Receive/access and read school newsletters		Via the school website.
e) Attendance at school events or occasions		
f) Attendance of Bishop at school event or occasion		
g) Changes in leadership at the school since last visit		
h) Pastoral support during the year		

During the visit (possible activities)		Comment or observation
a) Meet with the Headteacher		Thank you for giving me so much of your time during a very busy week.
b) Tour of the school		It is always lovely to tour the school and meet staff.
c) Attend collective worship		
d) Meet with children		During the tour of the school it was lovely to chat to children of different year groups.
e) Discussion with leaders for RE, collective worship, SIAMS		It is always a pleasure to speak to Mrs. Smout. We briefly discussed the SIAMS Monitoring Review report.
f) Signposting officers at the DBE		
g) Signposting resources, opportunities, training supported by the DBE		R.E. resources as a Traded Service was discussed as was forthcoming training for head teachers.
h) Creative links between the school and the church linked to the LIFE vision		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Church was a recent, positive link between the school and local Church. • Café church held in school. • IsingPop has led concerts in Church. • Easter Family Service in Church followed by egg hunt in the church grounds.

The information above will be used to inform the letter written to the Headteacher to provide a summary of the visit, comments and observations. It will celebrate the ways in which the school is fostering and developing its distinctive Christian ethos as well as signposting support which has been requested by the Headteacher.

This report and attached letter will be sent to the school within a week of the visit and the letter should be shared with the governors and school community. Copies will also be sent to the Diocese of Gloucester (Education Dept.).

Bishop's Visitor's letter to school

Mrs. Rachel Bacon
Head teacher
Haresfield VC Primary School

May 2018

Dear Mrs. Bacon,

I am writing following my visit on Wednesday, 23rd May 2018 to thank you and all the staff and children for the very warm welcome and for arranging my visit so that it was so enjoyable and positive. Thank you for giving me so much of your time; as usual it was a joy to visit you all. I do hope that you managed some rest and recuperation during the Whitsun break....hopefully the voice will return!

It was great to hear about the recent SIAMS Monitoring Review Visit by Alison Lock. Her report is very positive and highlights all the strengths of the school and the ways that it could encompass new initiatives and enhance its already excellent provision as a distinctly Christian school. Hearing that R.E. assessment has become included into the whole school approach to assessment and recording is very heartening.

I always enjoy the tour of the school; it was lovely to see children and adults enthusiastically engaged in a variety of activities, many connected with some imaginatively explored and developed topics. All the classrooms were buzzing and even though the upper KS2 children were out of school on a well-deserved PGL activity...their classroom bore signs of celebrated work on display.

The Spiritual Garden is well maintained and the additional work on planting and laminated butterflies on the Prayer Tree is creating a very special place for quiet reflection. The butterfly release in the garden must have been a wonderful experience for the children with herbs and scented flowers adding to the atmosphere.

The Christian Values programme is thoroughly embedded in all that you do and it was lovely to see you respond so enthusiastically to a few new ideas to link the Values to life out of school. I have no doubt that you will embrace the idea and make a wonderful display of the Home-School link around your Values board.

Your links with the local Church are well established and you work hard to promote creative links to strengthen the work between the Church and the school. This team work approach is evident with staff in school having a mutually agreed ethos. Changes in teaching staff throughout the year have been well managed and the school has remained strong and clear in its vision.

I enjoyed looking at the Reflection Areas and Prayer Spaces and hearing how one pupil has been given the responsibility of lighting the child friendly candles in the jars to support good behaviour. An example, I think, of the caring, inclusive approach at Haresfield and good evidence of how the school is distinctly Christian.

May I thank you once again for your warm hospitality, for all that you are doing and for such a positive and enjoyable visit. My very best wishes to you for Term 6 and then for a restful Summer break.

Yours sincerely
Linda Jeffcutt
Bishop's Visitor.

