



## SCHOOL ETHOS GROUP AGENDA & MINUTES

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

*Deeply Rooted, Individually Nurtured, Inspired to Flourish*

<b>In attendance</b>	Chris Boyes, Micheal Hartland, Biddy Hooper, Hannah Bancroft, Sharon Lord, Amber Griffiths
<b>Apologies</b>	N/A
<b>Approve Previous minutes</b>	Approved
<b>Matters arising from previous meeting</b>	<p>Staff CPD, enhancing vision statement with underpinning Christian theology – achieved.</p> <p>Chris to continue leading worships to embed ethos – achieved.</p> <p>School review of the values to incorporate love, kindness and care into child speak – achieved.</p> <p>Agree a monitoring date – achieved through governor visit. Michael also attended a staff meeting involving the discussion around updating vision and values.</p> <p>The committee discussed the successes.</p> <p>SL praised the work that had been done on the v &amp; vs, specifically the use of the verse from Jeremiah. She has seen this in other schools, linked to children flourishing and was pleased to see it incorporated at Morchard.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
<b>Opening, welcome/prayer, apologies</b>		
<b>General SIAMS related update/report</b>	<p>Progress towards being inspection ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB feels they are more ready than they have been before. AG is planning to finish a section within the SEF to complete the document.</li> <li>• HB has requested AG to create an 'RE at Morchard is...' document, in line with the other subjects taught.</li> <li>• Governors completed a monitoring visit speaking to different children and looking at books. Books reflected children's understanding and creativity, presenting as artistic scrap books instead of worksheets.</li> </ul>	

	<p>AG expressed a passion for the books to look creative and exciting, documenting a journey. AG highlighted the importance of the title being RE and worldviews – REW. AG has had discussions with RE leads about how we no longer needed the R as world views covers all bases but we are keeping the R as not ready to move away from that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RE books have inspired better practice and recording within other subjects.</li> <li>• SL requested some photos of the RE books to share good practice with other schools as they sound inspiring.</li> </ul> <p>SEF – The points to move forward on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalise child ethos group (the group of children who the governors spoke to would be good candidates for this.)</li> <li>• Make sure staff can clearly articulate what the RE curriculum is.</li> <li>• Improve knowledge of British values and protected characteristics (some children displayed unintentional racist behaviour on a school trip.) We are a white mono culture so we need to work harder at widening children's understanding. HB discussed the need for children to experience multi-cultural music/text/trips.</li> </ul> <p>Spirituality –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to begin this journey. HB suggesting creating displays showing windows (looking out) mirrors – (reflection on the looking out) doors (stepping out to make a difference following the reflection). AG mentioned spiritual glasses. The 4 values promote spirituality but need to make it more explicit. Staff need to be able to vocalise a shared understanding of what spirituality means. (Relational awareness – awareness of yourself, others, the world and beyond.) SIAMS will ask what the shared vocabulary surrounding spirituality is (awe and wonder). School needs to be seen to be providing opportunity for growth of spirituality within worships, curriculum (it will be within every lesson without always realising it). Need to highlight these areas to children so they become familiar with the vocabulary.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was discussed that the SEF is a working document so should continually develop. AG asked what is done with the final assessment – how do we address children who have not understood? SL asked about summative sheets, AG confirmed staff are using these and a system is needed to refer back to previous learning in other years before planning new units.</li> <li>Is RE cross-referenced against literacy? Yes in terms of written work but there can be anomalies with children who struggle to record but have more understanding in RE.</li> <li>MH asked if there was opportunity for children to buddy up with others/give back into the community. This will be looked into.</li> <li>HB senses staff are reluctant to allow children to become over excited - spirituality doesn't have to be quiet and calm.</li> <li>Need to be explicit in using the language of spirituality. SL has put some vocab on teams.</li> <li>Staff have completed a staff meeting on spirituality, need to revisit that meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Discussion/action points agreed from current SEG monitoring enquiry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on vision and values – staff were very positive and supportive of these being updated. Some staff had come prepared with ideas and materials. Staff mapped out phrases and words on big pieces of paper to be incorporated. AG praised HB for the huge amount of work on this, all members of the committee are very impressed. HB wanted it to be something that the school aspires to.</li> <li>The values have been displayed in lots of communal areas in school.</li> <li>CB has launched what a vision/value is during worships to bring the children on board. Staff keep coming back to vision and values in worship and lessons to embed in school.</li> <li>HB has added the visions onto the SEF as something that is still being embedded within the school as a newer initiative.</li> <li>SL enjoyed the use of language.</li> <li>HB is trying to develop the graphic to include the word love within the tree but is coming up with some technical issues. Suggested using a heart instead – heart wood.</li> <li>Staff began with the parable of the mustard seed and then pruning the vine branches but</li> </ul>	

	<p>both had biblical meanings that were too deep for children's understanding. AG spent a long time researching Jeremiah and found how he was called by God at a young age so felt this was the passage that fitted with the deeply rooted ethos. SL enjoys the analogy of seasons and how we go through life. CB taught this well during a worship session. Staff have found children's knowledge is good and they have solid understanding of biblical stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB reflected that what felt like a huge piece of work at the beginning has now been completed very successfully.</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning for next monitoring enquiry</b>	<p>Use IQ1 as a checklist, beginning with the red section, aspiring to the blue section.</p> <p>Explore how vision and values are being embedded.</p> <p>Introduce more use of explicit language around spirituality.</p> <p>Next targets on ethos cycle of visits are wellbeing and culture - where all are treated well – how is different celebrated in our school?</p> <p>CB to begin to complete parts of this during a school worship and learning walk in a few weeks' time.</p> <p>Complete a well-being survey?</p>	
<b>Actions brought forward from this meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB to investigate work completed in first staff meeting about spirituality.</li> <li>Displays to be put up surrounding spirituality.</li> <li>AG to complete section on SEF.</li> <li>CB to continue embedding values and introducing spirituality in worship.</li> <li>HB to explore more multi-cultural resources and teaching surrounding British values and protected characteristics.</li> </ul>	
<b>PEGs/Parent/Community feedback</b>	<p>Rev Peter Brown is new at the methodist church. Trying to arrange a meet up, might have to wait until after Christmas. Keen for additional support with leading worships etc.</p> <p>Carol concert, nativity and Christingle all being led by Robert Veer at Anglican church. Joining in with Christmas tree festival and switching on of village lights.</p> <p>CB is great at supporting the toddler group,</p>	
<b>Head of School general</b>	See above	

report/update (when given)		
AOB	N/A	
Date of next meeting	15/01/26 – 9am	
<b>Close of meeting/prayer</b>		

