

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



## Post-Ofsted meeting

**21 January 2015, held in the school, 7.30 – 9.30pm.**

An agenda and an overview of the Raising Achievement Plan was available for all at the meeting.

### 1. Fr Daniel

Fr Daniel led opening prayers and welcomed all to the meeting.

He explained that this meeting is in response to the disappointing Ofsted report and told the meeting that two principal things have now been put in place –

A review of the governance of the school has been conducted.

A Raising Achievement Plan has been drawn up by Mr Walker, for review by the governors, the school and the Local Authority.

Her Majesty's Inspector has re-visited the school (13/01/15), reviewed the Plan and has seen that the school is taking effective action.

### 2. Mr Walker

Mr Walker reported on the feedback from the Inspection visit of 13 Jan. and on the next steps for the school. The Inspector commented on the re-invigoration apparent in classrooms; much of the quality of teaching and behaviour has already strengthened; teachers' planning of work is being monitored; pupils are responding to marking and feedback in their books.

A further Inspection will take place in the next 18 months to two years. Mr Walker said there is still a lot to be done; support from the Local Authority will continue; other schools will be visited to see how they achieve their Good or Outstanding outcomes.

### 3. Mrs Brookes, Mrs Kempton, Miss Wade & Miss Bellamy

Mrs Brookes – A Maths report was made.

Mrs Kempton – A Phonics report was made.

Miss Wade – An SEN report was made.

Miss Bellamy – A report was made on addressing 'Behaviour for Learning'

### 4. Mrs Staveley-Taylor and Mrs Rolfe

A report was made on governance of the school and the Governance Review.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



### 5. Ms Smith (Headteacher at Tower Hill School, Witney)

A report was made on the support being provided by the Local Authority.

Ms Smith is now working with the school and helped to write the Raising Achievement Plan. She has looked at Teaching & Learning in the school; has conducted Learning Walks and observations.

Mr Crook, a Maths specialist, will also help the school to accelerate learning and raise achievement.

### 6. Mr Walker

A report was made on how governors will receive reports and review progress and on how parents will be kept informed of progress.

### 7. Fr Daniel

A questions and answer and discussion session took place.

**Q** Maths – Is use of Numicon appropriate to support more-able children? For example, long-division and long-multiplication.

Mrs Brookes reported on how more-able children practise their long-division and long-multiplication, gathering a bank of challenges. Numicon is supplemented with Abacus framework scheme.

Fractions? long-division?

PB reported that Numicon can be used to get children to Level 6.

Ofsted data dashboard was flagged up – shows that benchmark levels have improved year-on-year.

No one scheme will have all the answers.

**Q** Systems for tracking progress – Is it right that Levels are going; how will you report?

Mr Walker – Levels are meant to inform teachers. The school is waiting to see what the Cherwell Partnership is doing as schools have been left to find their own assessment methods. Different approaches are being considered.

The system put in place will be 'better', rather than 'new'. It will be shared with all staff; staff talk about and share information about achievements and poor attainment; it will allow school leaders to pull off data to give to governors; different 'groups' can be scrutinised; better understanding of the questions for governors to ask; governors are regularly updated by the Head.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



There are three assessment periods each year

RAISEOnline was mentioned – a summary of historical data performances.

Ofsted has high expectations for all children in particular 'groups' such as Free School Meals (FSM), Pupil Premium Grant (PPG).

**Q** How long will support continue from the LA, and to what extent?

There will be 10 days' of support until July, then school will continue with some support towards Inspection.

Will that go now a positive Interim inspection has taken place? The support will stay in place up to our next full inspection

**Q** How will detailed tracking of individuals and groups be communicated to parents?

Mr Walker – parent consultations will review results.

Children will not be aware of their Levels.

Discussion of 'broad' reporting was held - Four broad descriptions – Entering; Emerging; Expected; Exceeding' (all could be enhanced with 'Plus').

**Q** Process of Inspection – expectations of staff? Expectations of pupils?

Mr Walker explained about the one observation noted in the Report – Tasks were given and completed by pupils but extra tasks were not then provided to continue the work and these children were asked to read.

Ms Smith commented that lesson planning model is now being changed to improve this.

Mr Walker commented on the change in focus of Ofsted since the last Inspection.

More focus on picking up 'low level' behaviours

**Q** Response of pupils to the feedback in the Report?

Mr Walker commented on the pupils' good response to the revised policy of Marking & Feedback and in other areas such as starting lessons.

Mr Walker commented that the Inspector felt that behaviour in school was better than she had expected when she visited the school on 13 Jan.

Parents' comments - Different things have differing impact on learning – oral feedback – high impact. Mixed groups & uniform – low impact.

**Q** Groups – do disadvantaged children perform better when they are with mixed ability children?

The evidence base for this was commented on – Sutton Trust / Education

Endowment Foundation – they rank any evidence for these issues.

Mr Walker and Ms Smith have discussed ability grouping and specialist teaching. Ms Smith no longer groups her children.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



Parents commented that all children need access to a high level of learning.

**Q** 'Round Table' meetings of staff / Tracking of pupils – Is there a more scaled-down version of this for all children?

Miss Wade explained that the Round Table discussions talk about the whole class and filter down to groups; all children would be discussed.

What about the 'average child' – not in a low group or a high group? Mrs Brookes commented they are supported with high expectations and challenge.

**Q** Transition to secondary education?

Mrs Brookes talked about this – a far more natural process than parents realise; children's awareness has changed by this age; school will identify children who may have issues.

**Q** What is expected in terms of learning in Yr 5 (for example)? Mr Walker said that the new National Curriculum can be seen online. Links are on the School Website

**Q** Preparing children for the next stages in their lives?

School offers more than the National Curriculum – meditative prayer for example, which the school sees as important but that Ofsted does not look at in such depth.

**Q** What will be the channels of communication for parents?

and

**Q** How can parents help?

Mr Walker commented that parents have been universally eager to help since the report was published. A number of ideas were made -

- Get children into school on time
- Make sure pupils are in uniform and properly equipped
- An update will be given at the AGM in March
- Governor meeting minutes
- Governors keen to communicate better
- Regular summary to parents on what governors are doing
- How do communications improve from parents to governors
- Mr Walker is in charge of the day-to-day management of the school
- Governors work on the strategic view of the school.
- Governors to make visits to other schools to see models of good practice.
- Governors are keen to listen to all parents and to the many different issues on two-way communications.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



- A message can be brought to the office to be forwarded to the Chair of governors.

**Q** Is anything being pushed forward in the Self-evaluation or in school that didn't emerge in the Inspection?

Mr Walker commented that Ofsted has a narrow remit on what they do and do not look at or see and only comment on inaccuracies, but it does have high expectations for all children.

Mr Walker said he did feel that the dip in attainment was due in part to the Year group that had just left.

Mr Walker talked about RE which is not a focus for Ofsted.

**Q** Feedback via parental consultations; could a more structured format be used, with questions and contact made between parents and school on email; use of a 'questionnaire' type document to improve two-way communications?

Various suggestions for questions were made - Have a set of regular questions that could be asked; How can I help my child improve?

Parents asked about Science subject teachers being available for parent consultations.

**Q** Homework policy?

Mr Walker said that a copy can be provided.

Parents wanted homework to be more useful and engaging; not repetitive and varied for different year groups. Parents wanted a preview of the forthcoming week to appear in the Newsletter – they would then know what areas their children were looking at and could plan activities round that.

Mr Walker said that the Sutton Trust has found that homework is most effective when it builds on what is being done in school.

**Q** Teacher monitoring of pupils in their lessons? Comparison with Independent schools was made at this point. Mr Walker pointed out that classes are likely to be smaller in independent schools.

Mr Walker said that the new National Curriculum ensures reviews of all children every day. Use of Abacus framework was discussed.

**Q** Communications – how are Ofsted outcomes communicated to pupils appropriately?

Miss Bellamy talked about careful use of time and talking about Behaviour for Learning together with the importance of giving a positive message to the children.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



Some judgements could be shared with the children via Assembly or via School Council (for behaviour in and around school?).

**Q** How can parents help in monitoring progress of the school?

How can a parent cement her child's learning if the child is uncommunicative about what is happening in school? Doesn't therefore know what the child is doing and then can't help?

Could school make use of Spelling lists to be sent home?

Responsibilities for learning?

Mr Walker talked about guidance regarding homework – Ofsted did not raise homework or communications with parents as areas of concern.

Parents pressed for some crucial points they could be provided with to help the school.

Mr Walker said that school must focus on good teaching; teachers can't provide differentiated homework sheets for every child every week.

Miss Wade pointed out the Monday morning notices on the classroom doors are an example of good practice.

Parents asked - what about parents who are not in school every day (or any day)?

Fr Daniel closed the meeting by thanking the parents for attending, showing their support and any further questions that may arise would be welcomed.

Fr Daniel gave public thanks to the staff and the Headteacher for being committed and dedicated.

Fr Daniel led closing prayers.