

Governor Visit / Monitoring Report – Learning Environment

Name	Sam Duttall; Sam Potter; Michelle Hart; Vinay Pitambaran; Rachel Whitelock; Lynn Money; Anne Fowler; Lucia Salan
Date of Visit	16.03.17
Type of Visit	Governors visit to school
Purpose of Visit (Specify SIP target visit is related to, if relevant)	To observe the indoor and outdoor learning environment (SDP priority 4:- To maximize the use of all buildings and grounds to provide safe and exciting learning experiences).
Staff visited	The governors visit timetable gave opportunity to visit all areas of the academy.
Objectives for the visit	To observe the indoor and outdoor learning environment and to report our findings to the headteacher.
Document, Data and Policies referenced as part of this visit	HT gives regular reports on the buildings to governors. These include improvements made to the buildings, required works and any Health and Safety issues. The H&S governor also makes regular visits and reports back to HT and governors.
<p>Summary of visit activities. Governors were timetabled to visit various areas of the academy. They made notes and participated in a feedback session at the end of the morning. JH and NH answered all questions during the feedback session.</p>	
<p>4) How do you think governors / SLT can measure the effectiveness and impact of this element of the curriculum? The governors continue to monitor the use of the building and grounds as a safe and exciting learning experience for the academy, children’s centre and community.</p>	
<p>Summary of findings: Governors appreciated the displays in the corridors. They felt that the Year Six classroom made good use of the space. The Forest School area promised to be a great asset to the school providing outdoor education. The library area was very inviting and good use made of the library extension into intervention room.</p>	
<p>Areas for praise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good displays in corridors and classrooms. • Displays both supported and celebrated children’s learning. • Displays reflected the topics being studied. • Governors felt that the standard of some of the children’s work was very impressive. • Displays were age appropriate to each class • Good variety of subject matter in displays • Some displays were interactive • Good to see displays on British Values and value of the month in classrooms. • Good use made of interactive whiteboards and other ICT tools. • Library area was very inviting • Intervention rooms make good use of space. • Forest school area will provide a stimulating outdoor experience for the children. • Nurture Room provided a calm environment which did not look like a classroom and a space which can be adapted to meet the needs of individual children. • The new tables in the dining hall ensure good use of the space and enable all children to eat lunch comfortably and in good time. • New classrooms make good use of space. 	

Any areas for concern or queries

- Governors were concerned lights were turned off when the whiteboards were in use, and not turned on again when the whiteboard was off. The lighting in some rooms was then very poor.
- Some areas of the school looked shabby and cluttered.
- Do all classrooms have first aid kits?
- Could PE equipment be stored differently, rather than in the hall?

Next Steps

- Staff to be congratulated on the good use they make of the building and the displays which create a stimulating learning environment.
- Governors to consider a plan for refurbishment of 'tired' areas which can be implemented when funds allow.

Impact assessment

Governors were able to observe how the staff have worked hard to create a stimulating learning environment and to appreciate some of the difficulties of working in an old building.

Comment from Headteacher

As usual it is useful to have Governors visiting the school and providing 'fresh eyes' to look at our environment.

We have explored funding via SALIX for LED lighting throughout the school, however unfortunately this year, due to demand of applications, we were not successful. This is something we will apply for again next year. Obviously due to 'glare' on the screens lights need to be turned off at times to make for a better viewing experience.

I agree there are areas of the school that require redecorating and we have recently had quotes in for the KS1 side of the school to be completely re done. Obviously there is a cost implication which I will talk through with governors in due course.

First aid is dealt with by the office staff where all medication and first aid resources are held or by midday supervisors with their mobile kits.

Governors should notice the reduction of PE equipment in the hall that we have managed in the last 18 months. The PE team are ordering vertical mat storage solution which will further free up floor space.