

Governor visit to look at Year 6 Transition to Secondary education 16/06/2016

I came into school and talked to Vicky Coleby about the work being done to make our Year 6 pupils 'Secondary ready'. This is a full programme of activities for the pupils and meetings with staff of both schools to make sure that the transition to Secondary education runs smoothly. It has been highlighted in the past that our pupils in particular have more of a problem with this than other schools.

We are very aware that many of our pupils would struggle with the next phase of education if the receiver school was not made fully aware of their specific needs and habits. This is easier with the pupils on Special needs or EHCP as their needs are identified.

I went through the list of activities and meetings and was impressed by the depth. Every child is discussed with the CLV staff, special sessions arranged for the pupils highlighting science, sport, literacy and maths. All pupils have a full transition day which entails getting themselves to the school unaided by Eastlea and a full day's activities. Additional days are held for the SEND and G and T pupils. As a school we are also doing an extra transition project which involves a challenge for the pupils that will be worked through between the sites.

Another aspect I liked was the noticeboard. This is an online message board that the pupils can log into from home or school which has a Q&A with popular topics. This was going to be highlighted by a lesson in school to make the pupils aware and get them using it. I feel this is a good way for pupils to bring up points they may not want to raise with their peers or parents.

We have currently got some pupils who do not have a place at the CLV. Some have been redirected to other schools outside Cramlington and 4 are currently appealing. The pupils have been included in all projects and transition visits where possible and efforts will be made to communicate their needs to the receiver schools including visits where possible. The classroom staff have been very sympathetic and caring with these pupils though this challenging process.

To see if all this hard work has paid off and to find any areas that could be improved on for the future EB and VC are planning to visit the CLV next term and see how the pupils have settled in. VC is already planning the activities for the next academic year with our current Year 5 and showed me a new workbook they will all assemble to take up to CLV next year. None of this would be possible without good co-operation with CLV which is currently working well and with the new Year 7 leaders will hopefully go from strength to strength.

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