

EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEARNING WALK
22/11/2017

Notes of Visit

Governors present: Diane Oliver (Chair of Governors), Annette Rhodes.

Governors, accompanied by the Headteacher, visited all classrooms to observe the learning. They looked in exercise books and held conversations with staff and pupils. This was a follow up visit to the one conducted at the end of the summer term.

Focus of the visit:

- ⇒ Deployment of Teaching Assistants & their contribution to pupils' learning and progress.
- ⇒ Quality of pupils' work and standards of presentation across subjects.
- ⇒ Classroom climate:
 - Pupil Engagement & Motivation.
 - Challenge & Expectations.
 - Behaviour for Learning.
 - Feedback and Independence.

The atmosphere around school was very calm and orderly. Without exception, classrooms were productive and welcoming. Pupils demonstrated positive attitudes towards their teachers, their learning and each other. Their good levels of engagement allowed lessons to proceed without interruption and the children were not distracted by the presence of 3 unannounced visitors in their room, which was not the case during the previous visit. Pupils were generally confident, willing learners who could identify their progress towards meeting learning outcomes.

A variety of resources and approaches were being used to support teaching and engage learners. Adults were circulating to support pupils with their learning but there was no evidence of over scaffolding. Pupils were working independently and showed resilience when experiencing difficulties.

Pupils generally take pride in their work. Exercise books were well presented and showed adherence to the school's presentation policy. Pupils were keen to demonstrate improvements in their work over time, particularly with regard to their hand-writing.

Exercise books confirmed that marking and constructive feedback is frequent and of a consistently high quality. Pupils understand how to improve their work and are encouraged and supported to do so. This is most effective where the teacher provides children with time to respond to the feedback. Teachers' feedback also includes a statement which confirms what pupils can do with regard to the lesson learning objective. Governors question the effectiveness of this, particularly with regard to managing teacher workload.

Pupils could explain the purple polishing pen principle and appreciate that this helps them to improve their work.

Annette Rhodes
22/11/2017