

Governor Learning Walk 10/2/2015

A group of governors visited school to look at lunchtime activity and afternoon lessons.

What did we do?

First we had lunch in the hall and talked to different groups of children. Then Mr O'Brien took us around the lunchtime activities, which were: Maths intervention, football(with outside provider), beauty club. Other children were playing in the different outside areas. We then visited afternoon lessons, where most groups were doing Maths/PE.

Nursery: mixed activities

Reception: Maths – learning the shape of the numbers using rhyme and drawing them in the air

Year 1: PE in the hall (outside provider)

Year 2: English / PE

Year 3: Maths (with student teacher)

Year 4: Maths (circles)

Year 5: Maths (area)

Year 6: Sats paper (maths)

What did we learn?

We learned that Years three to five were in mixed-age ability groups for Maths using the scheme Maths Makes Sense. They were doing Geometry assessments. The lunchtime activities were run by support staff. It was also explained to us that there would be some upgrading of kitchen equipment following discussion with local authority officers.

Positive comments?

The children enjoyed their lessons and activities and were focussed on what they were doing. The improved outside play areas were being well used. Behaviour was excellent and it was interesting to learn that some schools might find it difficult to do Maths in the afternoon and to have a good level of concentration. This was not a concern at OLSA. Maths is usually a morning activity at OLSA except on Tuesday, when the timetable is changed, as some classes have swimming in the morning.

What did we ask about?

We asked about student teacher placements and how beneficial they were to the school. We were told that having student teachers in school was very useful as it brought in new ideas and also meant that the number of adults working with children was increased. We asked for information about the kitchen equipment.

What might we do in further visits?

We need to do a Health and Safety walk as part of SFVS (financial accountability).

Other comments?

It was good to talk to the children at lunchtime. They were able to tell us what they had been doing that morning. It was interesting to see HLTAs being used in class and in lunchtime intervention activities. We were also able to see the use Pupil Premium money (Maths intervention) and Sports Funding (outside provider). There was a great atmosphere with everyone working and playing in an efficient and co-ordinated way. The children seemed very happy and focussed.