Name Clare Stubbs	Date 17 November 2016
	<b>Classes/staff visited</b> Debbie Pickering, Literacy Co-ordinator (Writing); Year 4, Reception

## **Summary of activities**

I visited Year 4 (DP's class) and spent time speaking to pupils about their independent writing activities (Talk 4 Writing). I spoke to every ability group and also asked about AR. Spoke to DP about implementation and impact of Talk 4 Writing and looked at data with her help. Brief visit to Reception. Read through literacy file (writing); met with staff during break.

# What have I learned as a result of my visit?

• Talk 4 Writing has had positive impact on pupils; leading to greater enjoyment and engagement as well as greater depth of analysis and understanding of how to structure written texts.

• Structured writing scheme enables pupils to become more confident writers: cold task; text analysis, imitation, innovation, independent writing.

• In final step, independent writing, children are able to choose their own topics to write about; these include the history of gymnastics, cars, planets, jewellery, Flamingo Land, the Sahara, the Roman Army, natural disasters and fireworks. Lower ability groups worked on guided/supported writing about the school.

• Children enjoy writing and being able to choose their own topics.

- Planning writing really helps them as well as talking about their writing with peers.
- Pupils sit in 5 ability groups of 6 per table.

• Within these groups there is a mix of EAL, Pupil Premium, SEN. For example:

(1) 4:6 EAL, no PP (higher ability); (2) All EAL; 1PP; (3) 5/6 EAL; 5/6 PP; (4) 4/6 EAL; 3/6 PP; (5) 3/6 EAL; 2/6 PP; 3/6 SEN

• Interventions are put in place as result of half-termly meetings with staff through analysis of data.

(1) Extension writing group, focus on making writing exciting; developing vocab, improving sentence structure. 1x week (AT)

(2) EAL issue here; focus on grammar accuracy, standard English and general sentence structure 1 x week (AT)

(3) Focus on expressive language skills, developing vocab, improving sentence structure. 1 x week (AT)

(4) Limited language, vocab and sentence structure, ongoing TA support using 'Developing Skills for Writing' programme 2 x week (KK)

(5) As above

• Half-termly writing moderation takes place, 3 examples per year group: high, middle and lower ability. Agree on evidence.

• File very thorough relating to key requirements for National Curriculum; each term colour-coded *eg* this term is orange. Requirements highlighted for each pupil as target.

• Moderation will take place amongst Catholic schools each term, each school to take examples of writing from range of abilities. KS2

• Impact of interventions in year 4 seen in improvement of sentence structure; organisation, paragraphs.

• Brief visit to Reception: very impressive start to term. Pupils making excellent progress in phonics/letter/word formation

## Positive comments about the visit

- DP was very helpful and willing to provide me with time and information.
- Children were very engaged and friendly; all willing and able to talk about their writing activities.
- Excellent behaviour

# Aspects I would like clarified / questions that I have

- I would have liked to have seen data relating to more year groups.
- I queried why EAL data was not included on the pupil progress data tracking sheets.
- What interventions have been the most effective?
- What are the key issues relating to writing in each year group? Is there a common theme? eg PP/SEN?

#### Ideas for future visits

- To have general visit to all classes.
- To observe interventions
- Focus on data

# Any other comments

A very positive visit