

Governor Visit – 26th Sept 22

During my visit, which lasted around 90 minutes, Rebecca and I discussed various aspects of RE and Collective Worship in Lowick and Holy Island. I saw the Collective Worship programme for this half-term, which looks stimulating and touches on themes to do with the basic values that inform our society, such as the rule of law, mutual respect and individual liberty. The Root to Fruit curriculum booklet provides many helpful resources that are being deployed in the programme, including short biographies of well-known religious figures who exemplify the values being spoken about.

Our discussion also reflected on the upcoming SIAMS inspection, which is due this academic year, though its exact timing will only be known a very short time before the inspectors arrive. We discussed the challenge involved in providing an account of how the schools learning and life (including programme of collective worship) meets the criteria contained within the self-evaluation form provided as part of the SIAMS paperwork. Particularly challenging is the need to show how we are enabling children to develop spiritual capacities, such as the willingness to be 'courageous advocates' of key values - for instance, care for creation. Other spiritual capacities might include mindfulness, a humble, curious attitude that is open to learning new things and a readiness to recognise when 'sorry' is the most appropriate word. The children of our school are nurtured well in the development of these and other spiritual values, and the SIAMS process invites us to demonstrate this in relation to identifiable parts of the Schools' life.

The SIAMS inspection, alongside the anticipated Ofsted inspection of Holy Island, place our staff in an extra-stressful environment this year. However, I was very encouraged that, amongst all the other day-to-day demands, Rebecca and her team are making steady progress for the inspectors' visits.

Adam Hood, 26.9.22