

Name of school: Town Junior School
Address: Ebrook Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B72 1NX
Phone number: 0121-464-8738
e-mail address: a.smith@townj.bham.sch.uk
Reference number:103347
Survey response number: 173
User ID: 949
Type of school: Special___; Primary_X_; Secondary___
Category: Community___; Academy_X_; Independent___; Other_____
Date of visit: December 3rd, 2015
Inspection number: 045
Monitor: Dr M. C. Felderhof
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Chair of Governors: Mrs. Kathy Tubb
Name of Head Teacher: Mrs Adrienne Smith
Teacher with responsibility for RE: Mrs Julie Gilmour

Purpose of the Monitoring visit:

- (a) to see that safeguarding concerns in Birmingham are met in Collective Worship (CW) and Religious Education (RE) and to ensure these activities comport with 'British' values;
- (b) to check that CW and RE contributes to the broad and balanced curriculum that serves the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development 1/ of children, and 2/ of society;
- (c) to consider the nature and character of the provision of RE and CW to see how they match the aims and ambitions of the school.
- (d) To consider and discuss any legal constraints and opportunities for CW and RE in the school with senior management and person(s) responsible for RE and CW.

Information about the school:

Town Junior School has a two form entry of approximately 240 KS2 pupils. It is part of the Plantsbrook Learning Trust. The pupil population of the school is broadly Christian; some 20% of the pupils attract the pupil premium, and less than 5% have English as an Additional Language. A good majority (75%) come from the autochthonous population and the remainder largely have an Afro-Caribbean heritage.

The governing body are capable and supportive, but know how to ask appropriately challenging questions of the senior leadership team. There is a strong commitment to providing the local community with the best education possible for their children.

There is a broad and balanced curriculum that includes music and PE.

Core Foci:

Survey:

The survey was comprehensively completed and showed that the school was compliant with the law in the areas of RE and CW. Teachers are informed of their right to withdraw. In their self-evaluation of both RE and CW the school is too modest and possibly measures itself rather harshly, conscious that one should have the very highest expectations of oneself.

Key observations:

1. Ethos:

There was a good orderly and friendly atmosphere in the school. Pupils entered and left the hall after CW quietly and purposefully back to their respective classrooms. There is a strong

commitment to the cultivation of all the appropriate values, with a good emphasis on charitable actions. British values are cultivated and supported by a range of visiting speakers from e.g. the West Midland Police and the Rotary Club amongst others. They are careful to cultivate good links with parents and the local community.

2. Collective Worship:

Records are kept of the themes, duration, and person responsible for CW (currently normally the Head Teacher). Pupils are taken on visits to various places of worship. The act of worship that was observed took place in a well decorated hall and was on the theme of preparation. This was illustrated in the first instance by how one prepares for going on holiday and then this was applied to the advent season. The pupils were fully participative and engaged. It ended with a prayer and a song from the Christmas production. It was an excellent example of the positive role CW can play in the school as a learning community.

3. RE

The school follows the Agreed Syllabus for RE in Birmingham but complements it with schemes of work and lesson plans from RE Discovery because of its more creative and enquiry based approach. The lesson that was observed was on the theme of 'being chosen' and introduced children to the story of the annunciation. It sought to develop their language skills and extend their vocabulary by sharing possible words to describe how Mary might have felt at the time. There were cross curricular links to art and English as children were encouraged to look at different pictures of Mary and to write comments on their expressive character. The lesson was well prepared, well-resourced and solidly delivered.

4. Organisation and management

There is a policy in place for the RE, CW and visiting speakers. RE and CW are well planned and reviewed. SMSC is tracked across the curriculum. There is a strong leadership team in place. One can have every confidence in this school.

Conclusion re Safeguarding:

One can say with a good deal of assurance that there are no safeguarding concerns in the delivery of these areas (RE and CW) of the curriculum.

What the school might do:

The school might consider forging links in the city of Birmingham with another school with a different ethnic or social mix to give pupils a broader view of the multi-faith and multi-cultural nature of the city in order to confirm our common humanity.

What SACRE might do:

Review its schemes of work and lesson plans to ensure they truly supportive of the ambitions of all the schools in the city.