

Vision & Values

25th & 26th June 2013

Report and Evaluation



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Introduction

The purpose of the two days was:

- **To explore the Christian Values of our schools.**
- **To understand the central values to our schools as church schools in federation.**
- **To connect with the values and form a vision shared by all in our schools.**
- **To engage with children, parents, teachers, governors, church and wider community.**

The intended outcomes for the two days were:

- **To create a renewed vision for our schools in federation as church schools.**
- **To develop visual pieces that represents our vision and values.**
- **To ensure the children fully understand the Christian values of our schools.**
- **To celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit amongst us.**

Each day was pre –planned using the principles of Living Values, published by Jumping Fish Ltd. The children would explore a range of values through biblical texts and express their responses in a creative and collaborative way. With the ultimate goal in producing a vision statement using the values explored.

Within the two days were opportunities for the pupils to be heard and their ideas developed, this was primarily seen in the following activities and opportunities:

- Responses and reflection in adult led collective worship
- Children planning and leading their own collective worship
- Children engaging in discussions with governors about collective worship and ethos of the school(s)
- Children undertaking activities with clear outcomes to contribute towards a collaborative goal

Appendix One includes a copy of the planned days, which due to a school closure day had to be condensed into two days rather than three. Both schools followed the activities planned but delivered them in a mixture of ways – Appendix One provides an example of how Sculthorpe planned their two days. As West Raynham had a Founders Day Eucharist on the first day they allocated additional time to complete the work – in doing so some examples of their finished work is not included in this report.

Planning and Monitoring of Collective Worship

Both schools started the two days with a planned Act of Collective Worship planned by Mr Allen. A copy of the Collective Worship Plan, Powerpoint slides and resources is included in Appendix One. The theme was to introduce the children to a range of values they may consider important to each school. The Act of Collective

Worship included a range of visual and practical tasks – such as charades to allow the children to reflect and explore a range of values.

The Ethos Group (Mrs Yarham – Governor and 4 children in each school) monitored the Act of Collective Worship and their evaluations are included in Appendix Two.

General comments included:

- Mr Allen was very enthusiastic when he talked about values.
- Our ideas were listened to carefully and included.
- All pupils were involved and included throughout the Act of Collective Worship.

On the second day children in both schools had the opportunity to plan and deliver an Act of Collective Worship at each other's school. The children chosen volunteered themselves and worked with Mrs Yarham (Ethos Governor) to plan an Act of Collective Worship based on a value they felt was very important to school life.

- Sculthorpe children chose Friendship and planned an Act of Collective Worship based on this (See Appendix Two).
- West Raynham children chose Courage and planned an Act of Collective Worship based on this (See Appendix Two).

Mr Allen monitored each of these acts of collective worship – the evaluations are included in Appendix Two. General comments included:

- The children in both schools were confident in delivering the planned act of collective worship.
- Children led the acts very carefully and both school communities reacted well.
- Children offered powerful responses to the stories and questions in each act.

Mrs Yarham and Mr Allen spoke to a range of children during the two days about their views on Collective Worship. The children were asked a series of questions (both the same) in each school, which led to a more general discussion. Their responses were recorded and can be found in Appendix Two.

Children at Sculthorpe were chosen from Little Owls and were aged 4-7 years old, children at West Raynham were from Beech Class and were aged 6-7 years old. Mrs Yarham was particularly impressed with the confidence and capability of how the children spoke and expressed their views about collective worship in both schools.

Some of the key comments included:

- Children in both schools particularly like celebration assemblies as they enjoy sharing and seeing all of the good work both in and out of school children have achieved.
- Children felt services in church made them feel special as they were in a special place of worship.

- Children in both schools liked collective worship as it provided a quiet and calm time for the whole school each day.
- Children in both schools enjoyed our Messy Assemblies as it allowed them to talk more and explore an idea through craft and play.

Both schools ended the two days with a Songs of Praise act of worship – the children chose a wide range of their favourite hymns to sing, these included:

- We're going to paint a perfect picture
- Carpenter, carpenter
- One more step
- The ink is black, the page is white
- When I needed a neighbour

Outcomes of Children's Work

The children undertook a wide range of work during the two days; many activities were art based as this medium allowed all children to access and express their ideas equally. Appendix Three provides examples of some of the work produced.

Work produced allowed children to:

- Express their ideas in an individual response.
- Express the ideas together in collaborative ways.
- To collaborate with peers from the same class.
- To collaborate with children across the school (4-11 years).

The children worked with a range of tasks including:

- Exploring bible stories.
- Debating values and why they are important
- Creating symbols for values important to themselves, the school and the wider world.
- Making banners to express the Christian values of the school.
- Reflecting on ideas using I wonder statements.
- Reflecting on values through quotes from the bible.
- Writing 'our vision for our school'

Mrs Yarham, Mrs Newport and Mrs Bond all monitored the different tasks as governors of the school (two being foundation governors). Their evaluations are included in Appendix Three. General comments included:

- The children worked well together and took turns.

- Children commented on how they enjoy working with different aged children.
- Children were confident to talk about the work they were doing and why they were doing it.
- Children were thinking creatively in how to express their ideas and views.
- Children enjoyed using drama to explore bible stories.
- Children were able to associate symbols with values e.g. a rainbow for love.

Examples of the children's work are included in Appendix Four.

Children's Views on Ethos

The children's views about ethos and values linked to the vision of the schools which expresses our ethos were both complex and profound at times!

During the two days Mrs Yarham and Mr Allen interviewed groups of children about their views on the school(s) ethos. A series of questions were posed in both schools to groups of children. Children at Sculthorpe were chosen from Tawny Owls and were aged 8-9 years old, children at West Raynham were from Willow and Maple Class and were aged 8-11 years old. The full record can be found in Appendix Three.

General comments included:

- Our school(s) feels special because of the link it has with our federation school.
- Everyone in school are friends, we all know each other well.
- If we have a worry we can talk to anyone and they will help us sort it out.

One child in Yr3 said:

“School is like a bird's nest, when we enter we are like new hatching eggs and we don't know Anything; by the time we leave school teaches us lots of things, like a bird we are then ready to fly.”

The children culminated their work and reflections of the two days by writing a vision for their school; these can be found in Appendix Four. However some of the statements they wrote clearly reinforced the ethos of the two schools. These included:

- In school we should all share and be kind.
- In school we should feel safe and happy.
- I want my school to be protective.
- In school we should pray and remember Jesus.
- Everyone in school should be considerate and respectful.

Evaluations of the Two Days

At the end of the two days children, staff and governors who had been involved were all asked the same series of questions to find out their views of the experience, the questions posed were:

- What have we done that shows how the school works as a church school?
- What have I heard my friends or adults say that shows we are a good church school?
- If I remember one thing about the two days it would be...
- Things that may be good to do next time?
- Words to sum up the two days...

The findings from each question are analysed below, full copies of each evaluation are included in Appendix Five.

Children's Evaluations

- What have we done that shows how the school works as a church school?

We thought about how we can be in school.

We thought about God and how he wants us to live.

We worked really well in groups.

We have all worked hard together.

Made up values for our school.

Said lots of prayers.

We visited the church for a service.

Learnt more about bible stories.

We learnt about love and friendship.

- What have I heard my friends or adults say that shows we are a good church school?

We showed we are caring.

People have been helpful to me.

Praised for being good.

Fruits of the spirit discussion.

We learn about everything.

- If I remember one thing about the two days it would be...

Designing and painting the tiles.

Working in groups with other classes.

Story of Gideon.

Singing in church.

Drama.

- Things that may be good to do next time?

More activities to choose from including Maths!

Making our own crosses.

Making friendship bracelets.

Making 3D values sculptures.

Make a big values book.

Learn about sharing.

- Words to sum up the two days...

Happy. Friendly. Caring. Fun. Great! Fantastic. Exciting.
Cool. Fabulous. Outstanding. TERRIFIC. Creative.
Awesome. Makes us a tighter community. Exhausted!

In summary the children had a fantastic time and made huge contributions that are valued to shaping the values and vision of the schools in the future. They feel real ownership and pride in what they have achieved together.

Staff Evaluations

- What have we done that shows how the school works as a church school?

Worship with other schools.

Children thinking about values that are important to them and their school.

Children very willing to participate.

Children's ideas being heard and valued.

Bible stories discussion.

Creative responses to values.

Everybody all working together.

Children and staff giving careful thought to values and their meanings.

Showing we already demonstrate good church values.

Thoughtful, happy and confident children.

- What have I heard my friends or adults say that shows we are a good church school?

The answers children gave to some of the deeper questions.

Discussing and sharing ideas.

Use of own experiences.

Parents discussing activities and praising our links with the church.

The different ways we can see the holy trinity.

The curiosity of the children.

The value of compassion, determination and friendship being explored.

The fantastic ideas from the children.

- If I remember one thing about the two days it would be...

Thoughtfulness of the children.

The awareness of their behaviour and how it impacts on others.

How well children of all ages got along.

Good teamwork.

Working together and respecting other ideas.

Church service.

Thought that went into tile designing and making.

- Things that may be good to do next time?

Values book for the whole school.

More practical activities.

More inclusive Eucharist for younger children.

Putting values into practice record – sharing / caring record?

- Words to sum up the two days...

More time to do the plans justice!

A lovely couple of days that brought everyone together.

How we might use a vlaues in the future...

Made the children and adults think!

Children have benefited from exploring their role in making the school a church school and a happy place to be!

Governor Evaluations

- What have we done that shows how the school works as a church school?

A fabulous assembly which incorporated both schools.

Eucharist Service at WRaynham.

Collaborative work of children.

Positive and supportive attitude of the school communities.

Answers given by childrne in collective worship were inspiring.

Happy and confident children.

Demonstration of how deeply the children care for one another.

- What have I heard my friends or adults say that shows we are a good church school?

Model behaviour and co-operative work between the adults!

'we go to church as we think about the links we have with God' (Yr1 child.

The Bible is a book that explains all the things God wants us to do as a Christian. (YrR child)

How the children put the school value sinto their own words.

Staff showing prid ein their pupils.

Christianity is obviously at the heart of these schools (and the Head Teacher).

- If I remember one thing about the two days it would be...

The enthusiasn shown by the children.

The utter enjoyment and curiosity children showed and engegd with over the two days.

All ages of childrenw orking together.

- Things that may be good to do next time?

A Eucharist service that is more relvant to the children and the philosophy of the church school.

The need for a Eucharist in the first day – this cut down on the time left.

- Words to sum up the two days...

Great fun that brings to life a tricky concept.

Confident children.

Next Steps

- To publish the vision statements written by the children as a collective.
- To explore how to include mre foundation governors (inlcluding the local incumbent) in the values of each school and the future federation.
- To utilise the creative ideas and curiosity of the children as active Chrsitains.

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