



Peterborough Diocese
Education Trust


ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

news

SUMMER 2017



Children at Wicksteed Park Maths Day//credit cophotodesign.co.uk



Dear Parents/Carers

We are currently a family of 22 academy schools with others waiting to join. I use the term 'family' advisedly because we are related through our Christian heritage and united by our shared Christian values yet, like members of a family, each individual school has its own unique identity. One of my joys is to see the informal family networks of support that have developed across the Trust, whether of bursars or school leaders, helping our strap line 'Achieving More Together' to become a reality.

It has been a successful year for PDET academy schools in both Ofsted and church school inspections. Each positive report reflects the vision, commitment and hard work of our staff and governors.

The issue of schools' funding has featured in the media in recent months. Many of our schools are facing significantly reduced budgets. This is providing challenges in terms of maintaining current staffing structures. If you do get the opportunity to bring school funding to the attention of councillors or MPs, please do so.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer support, in all sorts of ways, to our academy schools. Your work is very much appreciated.

With best wishes,

Miranda Robinson

PDET Chief Executive



ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



SIAMS inspection

As well as Ofsted, all Church of England schools are subject by law to a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The principal objective of the SIAMS inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school, and how well the distinctive Christian character and ethos of the school ensure the development and achievement of the whole child. The inspection assesses, for instance, how well the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners.

Our schools had a very successful year in their church school inspections. Congratulations to St. Barnabas Infant School and Weldon, Loddington, Barby and Greens Norton Primary schools, on achieving a 'Good' judgement. We are delighted that five of our schools were graded 'Outstanding'. Inspector's comments included:

"Christian values and convictions result in a school that is focussed on the all-round development of each child with a focus on ensuring all pupils achieve."

Staverton CE Primary Academy

"The co-headteachers promote and live out their vision for the school to nurture and support every individual as a child of God."

Braunston CE Primary School

"Exceptional pastoral care has a focus on each individual child so they grow in confidence and achieve well within a supportive Christian environment."

St. James CE Primary School

"The clear Christian vision of the headteacher has brought about rapid improvement of Ryhall as a church school."

Ryhall CE Academy

"Distinctively Christian values lie at the heart of the school's communal life and have a profound impact on the lives of children and adults alike."

St. Andrew's CE Primary School



Primary school of the year

Congratulations to St Andrew's Primary School, who received the award for 'Primary School of the Year' at the Northamptonshire Education Awards, held at Wicksteed Park at the end of June 2017.



Judges examined the performance of the schools over the past 12 months, but were keen to see examples of schools that went beyond academic achievement, demonstrating innovation, imagination and efforts to develop children in a variety of ways.

In summing up the panel stated: "St Andrew's is a school that has gone through significant change over the last three years but through its team spirit, united aims, and passion for delivering the best possible environment and education for their children, they have made significant changes to impact and improve the life chances of their children."



Spotlight on the Ethos, Standard and Effectiveness Committee

This Committee meet every other month. The key areas of responsibility include monitoring standards in PDET academies, including both Ofsted inspections and Church School inspections, along with overseeing Safeguarding in all our schools.

Over the last year one of the key areas we have monitored are the Safeguarding Audits carried out when a school joins PDET. Alongside this we are developing policies relating to safeguarding in our schools.

Raising of Standards is a major aspect of PDET's role. We monitor all aspects within all our schools with the help of our Academy Improvement Officers.

The final aspect of our remit is Ethos. Moray Gompertz, PDET's Chaplain regularly reports on this aspect of her work whilst visiting schools.



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Staff development

Coffee, Cake and Careers

Our CEO, Miranda Robinson, met with PDET senior leaders at the first Coffee, Cake and Career Development session recently. The sessions are held termly and are designed to encourage and develop our aspiring headteachers. A second session on setting a school budget, had participants 'buzzing' as they crunched the numbers!

Bursar Training

Earlier this year all of our academies moved to a brand new finance system. Key members of finance staff have received one to one training and are now firmly getting to grips with a new way of working that will contribute towards further efficiencies. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication over the past few months.

Headteacher Development Days

Our headteachers meet termly to receive training, share good practice and contribute to policy making. Each day ends with an opportunity to feedback to the CEO on what is working well across the Trust and what school leaders believe could be even better. These meetings are an important part of our approach of 'working with, not doing to' headteachers.

Growth Mindset

On the 20th of February St. Andrew's hosted the first PDET joint INSET day on Growth Mindset.

The morning consisted of Ben and Sarah (Head and Deputy of St. Andrew's) leading a group of 25 colleagues through the school's philosophy around Growth Mindset. They discussed how they introduced the model at St. Andrew's, including both their mistakes and successes, and the impact this has had on children's learning. Colleagues were then taken on a learning walk to look at classroom environments and books, as well as having a chance to talk to pupils and staff about their perceptions of Growth Mindset and the impact it has had upon them.

'Visiting other schools is always very inspiring and sharing good practice is always very effective.'

Catherine, Cottingham



'It was great to see how you've implemented Growth Mindset. Thank you for having all of us, it was so useful meeting all your staff, seeing your inspirational environments and meeting your children.'

Erica, Cottingham



'This was a really effective model of CPD - particularly combined with seeing it in action in the classroom.'

Ruth, Staverton

Ofsted

In May and June 2017, four PDET academies were inspected by Ofsted. These were the first inspections since they joined PDET in 2014. The outcomes were very positive with all four being graded 'Good'.

A strong feature of all the reports was the praise for academy leadership in driving improvements and creating a positive ethos for learning. At St. Andrews, Kettering, inspectors stated that: 'leaders know the school well' and they are 'making improvements and embedding good practice.' As a result, pupils are enthusiastic learners and want to do well.

At Braunston, inspectors wrote about the way that pupils treat each other with respect and talk proudly about their learning and achievements. Inspectors recognised the very effective work of the academy to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning through activities such as 'What if learning project.'

At Barby, inspectors praised the work of the new headteacher,

stating that she had successfully created a warm and friendly school where staff work closely together and 'pupils are well cared for and enjoy their learning'.

Staverton's report stated that 'the school is extremely well led and managed' and as a result 'pupils are happy, confident and proud of the school'.

Inspectors praised the role of PDET in supporting our academies to bring about school improvement through regular visits, commissioning external support and providing opportunities for academies to work together to share good practice.

Well done to all four academies!

School enrichment



On a sunny day in June, 360 year 5 children took part in a Maths Day at Wicksteed Park. The opening event was a maths show led by Murderous Maths author Kjartan Poskitt who wowed the children with his maths puzzles. Children then enjoyed a series of workshops which included solving giant puzzles and heading out into the park to investigate maths in the environment.

Over 300 year 6 children joined us at Peterborough Cathedral to reflect on their time spent in a church primary school. The day involved 4 reflective activities and the opportunity to have a history filled tour of our wonderful cathedral. We finished with worship led by Canon Tim Alban-Jones.

Finally we welcome 22 teams of year 2, 3 and 4 children to Spratton Hall this week for the PDET Going for Gold sports day run by Pacesetter. Children will have the opportunity to take part in various sporting activities including tennis, rugby, hockey, long jump and hurdles. We look forward to seeing who the star performers are this year.

Retiring headteachers

Thank you for your work and commitment and best wishes for the future to some of our outstanding headteachers:



Julie Barke from St. James School



Sue Rigby from Braunston School



Sue Walters from Loddington School



Richard Camp from Towcester School



Introducing our new schools

We are pleased to introduce 6 new schools into our PDET family this academic year. We are now educating over 3,500 children and employing more than 600 staff in the trust. We look forward to welcoming more schools in the next academic year.



St. Luke's CE Primary School joined in November

St. Luke's is a large primary school located within Duston in Northampton, we have 420 children on role and from our roots as a small primary school we ensure that all of our stakeholders are part of our family. The staff and governors at this school aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our school is underpinned by 12 core Christian values: respect, compassion, love, friendship, trust, forgiveness, humility, courage, perseverance, patience, thankfulness and hope.



Greens Norton CE Primary School joined in March

Greens Norton is a smaller than average sized Primary School serving Greens Norton village and the surrounding villages of Braddon and Duncote. The school achieved a 'Good' Ofsted rating in May 2016 having previously been judged to 'require improvement'. The school has a set of 6 values which we all agree are fundamental to the development of a well-rounded child and which reflect the Christian ethos of our school. Pupils can easily recognise these values and identify how they contribute and influence their daily lives and achievements in a positive way. Our values are friendship, respect, responsibility, confidence, honesty and perseverance.



Collingtree CE Primary School joined in April

Collingtree is a smaller than average primary school, where numbers are fairly static over time although there is a small reception cohort due in September 2017. We are very fortunate that our Church, St Columba, is situated opposite the school and we can visit whenever we like. As a whole school community we chose 12 values that we would like our children at Collingtree to have a secure understanding of that they can also apply to their own lives: compassion, thankfulness, forgiveness, trust, love, friendship, generosity, courage, peace, perseverance, humility and wisdom.



Mears Ashby CE Endowed School joined in April

Our school is located in beautiful surroundings that we use to enrich our learning. We link closely with our local church to ensure that our Christian values are upheld. Our standards are very high and we are proud of each and every child's achievements in their learning journeys. We teach a values focussed education that has been agreed with pupils, Staff, parents and governors. Our values for each year are respect, happiness, courage, honesty, thoughtfulness and forgiveness.



Cranford CE Primary School joined in July

We teach a creative hands on curriculum that encourages and enthuses each and every child to enjoy their learning experiences by engaging all individuals to strive to reach their full potential. We have excellent links with our local church to ensure that our Christian values are upheld. We teach a values focussed education that has been agreed with pupils, Staff, parents and governors. Our values for each year are respect, happiness, courage, honesty, thoughtfulness and forgiveness.



Isham CE Primary School joined in July

We are an outstanding small village primary school located in the village of Isham on the outskirts of Kettering. Placing Christian and British values at the heart of our work and children's learning helps ensure that all our children flourish and become the very best they can. It is our hope that the children leaving us take with them an understanding of what the Christian faith is; knowing how it moulds, changes and directs lives. It is also our intention that they leave with a good moral base from which they can make informed future decisions, enabling them to become successful adult citizens in our every evolving world.



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