



Park and Parkwall Primary Federation

Working together to empower children to become aspirational, global citizens



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Dear Parents,

Governor reflections for parents at The Park School

The duties of the governors to the Federation are: (1) setting the direction, (2) holding senior leaders to account and (3) monitoring the finances. On 28 November 2023, we had the privilege of spending half a day at The Park School. We observed the teaching in PE, Maths and Computing.

Maths – observations by Mark Russell (Maths Governor):

I spent the afternoon with Mr Nicholls and he showed me how lessons are planned and I observed two year 5 classes. The lesson structures are clear, which allows building on knowledge over previous years with pupils spotting mistakes and giving reasoning (misconceptions) in their warm up. Mr Nicholls showed me how teachers deliver the lessons around the 'I do', 'we do', 'you do' structure.

The pupils were engaged and willing to work through the maths problems. Answer stations are situated around the classroom and I saw pupils use the stations when they were ready. Pupils were able to ask questions to the teachers and positive encouragement was shown including verbal praise and the use of do-jo's. With a mix of abilities in the classes, pupils who are faster can attempt further 'maths challenges' in the class.

For pupils, who need additional support, the teaching staff sit with them whilst other pupils are working in pairs or individually. The school is working on ensuring consistency across the teaching staff and year groups and maintaining this through any staff changes. The school is also challenging teachers and pupils to develop and improve on the already good results that we see in Maths throughout the school.

PE - observations by Paul Dempsey (Arts Governor):

Mr Jelf walked me through the PE Curriculum and it was great to see the variety of sports this included, from "mainstream" sports such as football, rugby, and netball but also others such as Boccia, new age curling and tri-golf. He is passionate about encouraging our students in PE no matter their ability. This is seen by the school's participation within the CSET Sports Partnership. This Partnership has events for students of all abilities including specific ones for SEND students.

I observed Mr Wintle conducting a lesson on Boccia with a Year 2 class. From the outset, it was clear the children were enjoying the activity and that they had retained information on the rules of the game from previous lessons. It was nice to see the children display some of the schools values during the class by working **collaboratively** during games and taking **responsibility** in tidying up after the lesson.

My favourite part of the afternoon was meeting the members of the school's Sports Leadership Team. This team is made up of students across the year groups who meet with Mr Jelf and other teachers to assist and help improve the PE Curriculum.

As a governor and parent, I cannot speak more highly of the students I had the pleasure of meeting. Each student hadn't just applied to be part of the team because they enjoyed PE, but because they wanted to work with others and the teachers to improve PE. The students had exceeded my expectations by taking class surveys to understand what extra sports the school should consider.

Computing observations by Karina James- Wiltshire (Chair of Governors):

I really enjoyed my time observing the teaching of computing by Ms Thompson in Year 2 and Miss Harris in Year 6. I was impressed to see the progress in Year 2. In Reception and Year 1 the children were using floor robots. In Year 2, each child had access to a lap-top and worked in pairs to take it in turns to programme a turtle to move around the screen and draw shapes.

In Year 6, the children continue to work in pairs with more advanced computing. Each child was able to prepare a PowerPoint slide presentation of a science quiz. The pairs were very keen to present to the rest of the class and were very confident in giving their presentations. The Federation values of **collaboration** were seen in each class, and I could see how computing builds on learning from other subjects. The children were well behaved and each one was participating in the learning whatever their ability. In Year 6, the children were very festive and were very excited to fit in a quick Christmas singsong before the home time bell.

Safe-guarding

The most important thing in a school is that the children are safe. For governors, safe-guarding is at the top of our list and together with the teachers we have up to date annual safe-guarding training.

We asked children in Year 2 and Year 6 whether they felt safe in school and every child responded with a "Yes". In Year 2, some comments were: "Lots of teachers care for you" and "We can go to any adult if we feel unhappy". In Year 6, comments were: "The teachers keep us safe" and "We have practice lock-down and fire alarms".

I am very confident as a governor and a parent that our children are in safe hands when we say goodbye to them each morning.

Please find the link to the school website with more information about the Governors;
<https://www.parkprimaryschool.co.uk/governor-bio-info/>

We hope you all have a good Christmas when you get there and enjoy your family time together.

Best Wishes
From the Governors of The Park and Parkwall Federation

Kind regards

