



MARY DEAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL ETHOS AND
CHARACTER

MARCH 2016

We are very proud to be a Church school and we are always looking for ways to improve what we already do.

This document should tell you a little about what we are doing and what we hope to do next to maintain the focus on this important area.

Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
Christian Values	Further development of entrance area – to include some professionally supported art work eg ceramics or sculpture	



Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
Spaces for Prayers and Reflection	Further development and refurbishment of this area to enhance its appearance Prayers displayed sympathetically rather than as notices Reflection areas in each year group or team 3D objects to support reflection eg painted pebbles, soft toys	



The prayer board is visible on immediate entry to the school and provides a focus for the children's prayers. Classes rotate and provide prayers over the course of the year.

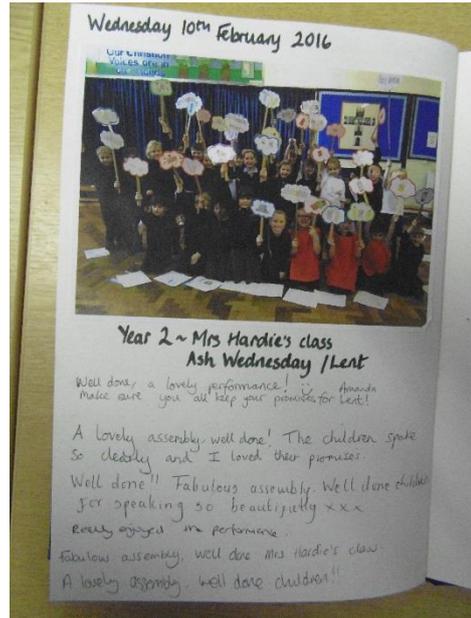
Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
<p style="text-align: center;">Assemblies</p>	<p>Continue to refresh assembly material to keep abreast of current thinking and events</p> <p>Ensure the engagement and involvement of pupils</p> <p>Encourage a range of visitors to share their thoughts and perceptions</p>	<p>Assemblies take place on a regular basis following a schedule based on our Values.</p> <p>The altar provides a focal point and the children take responsibility for changing the cloth according to the Festival or season. An open Bible is displayed to reinforce the current Value or theme and there is often a picture or quote to further support this.</p> <p>All teaching staff may lead an assembly and all staff are expected to attend assemblies for their year groups.</p> <p>Pupils lead assemblies in their classes. These are based on our Values and incorporate an aspect of worship.</p> <p>Class assemblies are well-supported by parents and their comments are recorded in the Assembly Book.</p> <p>Pupils also lead assemblies based on themes important to them. Digital Leaders have presented an assembly to the whole school on e-safety.</p> <p>Visiting speakers are welcomed to our assemblies and we have enjoyed contributions from Dawn Getley and Horace, and the Marjons JUMP team.</p>

What next?

Some of the altar cloths are tired and need refreshing.
Continue expanding the range of people who visit and share their worship with the children



The altar is a focal point for assemblies.



The Assembly Book

Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
Singing	<p>Ensure songs remain relevant to the children</p> <p>Ensure children enjoy singing and want to take part</p>	<p>The children sing every Tuesday morning after worship.</p> <p>Recent investment has been made in new songs and hymns and the children have really taken to the new materials. Their singing is of a super quality.</p> <p>The school choir also attends regular events across the city and provides another opportunity for the children to express themselves in song.</p>

What Next?

Continue to ensure that the songs chosen for the children reflect a wide diversity of subject matter and are of interest to all children.



A range of certificates show how we think of others



Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
<p style="text-align: center;">References to God's wonderful world (Externally and internally)</p>	<p>Planting could include vegetables or food items that could be shared and eaten (Subject to food hygiene regulations)</p> <p>Continue to develop the garden area to provide a suitable reflection space outside or a place for children and adults to be calm and quiet.</p> <p>Develop links with a local gardener to develop and/or visit an allotment area</p>	<p>Outside, although currently looking very wintry, the garden area has benefited from a large amount of spending and thus has undergone a transformation.</p> <p>Investment has been made in plants. These include fruit trees and herbs which will provide super foliage and scent in the next few months.</p> <p>Log seats have been purchased and log planters.</p> <p>Bird feeders have been made by the children and bird boxes have also been installed to attract wildlife.</p> <p>A wicker shelter has been purchased which will provide some seclusion for children when the garden is in use.</p> <p>The installation of the adventure playground has led to children gaining additional pleasure from their external environment and this has extended to additional line painting on the playground.</p> <p>Playground Buddies are now in place and encourage safe and active playtimes for all children.</p> <p>Internally, children's work is displayed which celebrates the natural world and all its glories.</p>

What next?

A sponsored event/fund raiser to bring in resources for gardening (11th March)
 Use of the garden to be planned in for the summer months eg lessons, story time and use by groups in lesson time.
 Further use of Playground Buddies/Monitors and involvement of MTAs to support use of the area for quiet time at lunchtime
 Use of signage in the hall to encourage healthy eating – Investigate via CaterEd

Area	Issue raised at last learning walk	Evidence of change/improvement
<p style="text-align: center;">Displays</p>	<p>Further display (3D) in the entrance area</p> <p>Further enhancement and use of reflection areas</p>	

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