



# Fleet Primary School

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## Governor Visit Report

Area of focus for visit:	<b>Curriculum</b>	Link Governor:	<b>Annie Balme and Sinead Costelloe</b>
Date of meeting:	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Link Staff Member and role:	<b>Becca Wall &amp; Don McGibbon – Curriculum Lead and Senior Leader</b>

### Context:

At Fleet the curriculum is planned and delivered through cross-curricular topic work. Each class has a new topic per term – each year, one History based, one Geography based, and one Science based. We aim for our curriculum to be creative and stimulating at all times and for it to ensure that the children really engage with and enjoy their learning in order to achieve high standards of academic attainment.

Our children bring considerable and varied backgrounds of knowledge and experience to school and this is often not differentiated, at least in the child's mind, into subject areas. An integrated curriculum provides a means of building on such experience and provides a vehicle to introduce children to important areas contained within subjects in a contextualised and integrated way.

We want learning to be based on real experience and to recognise the importance of children's independence and autonomy. Providing such experiences underpins our approach to curriculum planning.

The link governors meet with curriculum lead. They look at the approach to learning and how children are doing. They discuss the different aspects of the curriculum from Early Years, through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. They consider some of the current challenges and the approaches being taken to meet them. They will discuss the wider opportunities being taken through trips, music, arts and drama as well as links with outside of school. The outcome of this meeting is then shared via this report to the full governing body and published on the governor's page of the school website.

### Meeting Report:

#### Aims of Fleet's curriculum development this year were:

- To maintain and improve standards of teaching and knowledge through professional development and sharing of good practice
- To further develop consistency across planning and assessment throughout the school
- To enrich and consolidate our Topic based approach through inclusion of the 'Black Curriculum' work done last year and this year's gender equality work with 'Lifting Limits'
- To continue to promote STEAM based subjects across the curriculum

Discussing these aims with Becca it is felt that these aims have been met. The learning remains integrated, hands on and cross-curricular. Next academic year the aims are:

- To maintain and improve standards of teaching and knowledge through professional development and sharing of good practice.
- To further embed the work around the Black Curriculum and Lifting Limits, adding further to our resource bank.
- To look at a consistent approach to assessing topic learning across KS1 and KS2.

#### **Since last governor curriculum visit in March 2021:**

1. **The Planning and Assessment Cycle** are still strongly and successfully in place.
2. **Progression of skills and knowledge** has been able to go back to how it was pre-covid with regular half termly work scrutinies/book looks and opportunities for subject leads to develop their subjects and work closely with teachers of all year groups. More gaps have been covered post lockdowns and interventions are up and running more regularly too. Seesaw is still being used as a home learning tool and is a good way for parents to see the work their children are doing, as well as through the newsletter and twitter. Fleet Facts has been developed, EYFS and KS1 are Part of the DfE Maths Study, Fleet is a partner school with DfE sponsored English hub programme next academic year and the CLPE project continues.
3. **Year Group Specific Action**
  - Early Years: Rebecca Combes has led while Beth Cleine has been on maternity leave. Forest School has grown and been a big success and has been introduced throughout the school. Together with Year 1, EYFS have developed the outdoor provision and the new curriculum has been introduced to all EYFS staff. A curriculum map has been created for Nursery and Reception to ensure coverage through EYFS and EYFS lead met with subject leads to support their understanding of how EYFS curriculum links with subject areas and EYFS lead provided examples of provision for each subject.
  - KS1: Little Wandle phonics has been introduced to KS1 and EYFS. An external review was carried out this summer term to identify next steps and consistency in September 2022.
  - KS2: The approach remains a balanced curriculum and not teaching to the test. Big focus for this year has been filling the gaps from lockdowns, building confidence and stamina. Year 6 have been on their school journey, completed their SATs and are secondary ready.
4. **STEAM**
  - More opportunities to work scientifically in a hands-on investigative way with five enquiry types being used across the school
  - School and Science lead have looked at how science fits in with the new EYFS framework
  - STEAM week based on 'Fashion' theme. This was a good opportunity to develop cross curricular skills
  - Next Steps are for Science lead to introduce mini end of unit science tests at beginning of next academic year

## 5. Wider Curriculum

- This year the less high-profile subjects e.g. RE and DT have been valued more
- For PSHE, Nicola Budd is leading assessment, monitoring and work scrutinies. PSHE is strongly embedded in school curriculum and is well resourced. RSE is now being implemented too.
- Computing – progression maps are being highlighted to ensure progression of skills. NCCE schemes of work have been introduced too to support curriculum delivery.
- Subject progression maps (development of key skills in line with these)
- Knowledge harvests – beginning and end of all topics
- Topic Snapshot has begun to be used for assessment at the end of a topic
- Topic Approach document developed
- Art continues to be a strength at Fleet
- PE – intensive swimming was great success this year and being offered to 4,5 and 6 next year. Arsenal coaches are upskilling staff in coaching a range of sports. Fleet has taken part in Camden competitions too.
- DT – gaps identified in learning and DT now more successfully embedded in Fleet curriculum
- Performing Arts continues to be a big emphasis in the school. End of term productions have taken place again and class assemblies take place each term to showcase each class's topic. The children learn so much from these productions and are enjoyed by parents and carers too.
- Music remains a strength at Fleet and is back up and running post lockdowns and bubbles, with individual music tuition in piano and drums, recorders in Year 3 and trumpets and trombones in Year 4 and Year 5
- RE profile hugely been raised and visits to local places of worship
- French studied weekly in Years 3-6 in line with curriculum expectations
- Wellbeing is a big priority in the school and the whole school has just partaken in a wellbeing week focussing on 5 key areas and culminating in Sports Day. Fleet will now be making this a regular part of their annual program of events.

## 6. Trips

- Residential trips have returned for Year 5 and Year 6
- Regular trips for classes including: October Gallery; CLC; Kew Gardens; Hampstead Heath; Crick Institute; local churches, synagogue, mosque and Buddhist centre; various museums & galleries. Visits from scientists, historians, dance & drama workshops too.
- Fleet joined the Zoo Education Access Scheme which all classes have made use of this year and will aim to next year too.

## 7. Wider Curriculum Inset Training for teachers

- Lifting Limits – Gender Equality
- RE
- PSHE
- PE
- STEAM week implementation
- Phonics and Word Aware training
- SEND
- Forest School

## **8. Sharing assessments and progression with parents**

Staff resumed their usual program of reporting post lockdown enabling them to feed back more thoroughly on each child's approach to broader curriculum learning and foundation subjects as well as specifically assessing English, Maths and Science against the National Curriculum.

Thank you Becca for your time, it is great to hear all about the curriculum at Fleet and how its development is progressing.

**Written By:** Annie Balme & Sinead Costelloe

**Date Written:** 19th July 2022