



Bishop Rawstone Parent Forum 2023/24

Tuesday 12th March – 2nd Forum of the year (2 of 3)

Focus – Worship and RE at Bishop Rawstone

Worship, School Vision and Siams readiness

<i>Staff in attendance:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Mr Duckworth – Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Care, Attendance, Worship,• Lead Speaker – Mr Ashcroft - Assistant Headteacher• Andrew Marston - Governor• Lou Morley – Governor / Parent• Kathleen Cooper – Governor• Joanna Cast - Governor
<p>Meeting started at 5:30pm</p> <p>Mr Duckworth thanked the parents for attending and before handing the floor to Mr Ashcroft made a plea about additional parents possibly attending this event. If every attendee could perhaps find an additional parent to attend it could grow the discussion further which would be good. It would also provide a set of backup parents where needed, meaning if parents felt a need to drop out the spaces would be easily filled.</p>	
<p>The evening began with a 15-minute presentation from Mr Ashcroft whereby he talked parents through three separate things.</p> <p>There was a explanation about the rationale behind being a church school, and how this would differ from being a none faith based school. This was then followed further by a chunk of information about how Worship is delivered at Bishop Rawstone. Then a section about the vision that the school has for RE and finally a section talking through what SIAMS means to us as a school and what that process would entail.</p> <p>The verse, vision and values of the school were shared in full and the rationale behind these clarified.</p> <p><u>Vision</u></p> <p>Bishop Rawstone is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God, enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.</p> <p><u>Verse</u></p> <p><i>"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."</i> (James 3:17)</p> <p><u>Values</u></p> <p>Hope, Service, Compassion, Fellowship, Wisdom, Peace</p> <p>Parents then were split in to three groups and given three headings to discuss for 15 minutes, and following that feedback occurred.</p>	

What should a Christian school look like?

An overall agreement that a church school should feel different to a Christian School. There should be a very clear vision and shared values. Bishop Rawstorne should be inclusive and everything that we do should enhance how young people are treated encouraging them to understand morality and develop greater respect for each other.

Parents also felt that students should have a high understanding of how they should present and in both their attitudes and appearance, that they should display towards staff and each other mutual respect. Parents felt that a Christian School should be a compassionate and caring school where everybody should feel valued. As well as this being part of the local community and the church community, and participating in more significant fund-raising events with that bring us closer to the community we are central too.

There was also a desire that school should be broader from a religion point of view, and present an understanding of different world faiths so our young people could understand the communities that they are going to be part of in future. As well as this we discussed the ability for worship to be more reactive and respond to current world issues.

What kind of Worship initiatives and activities would you hope to see?

All parents involved seemed very impressed by the wide range of charity events that are run in school. There seemed to be a consensus that an area to develop this would be to have more charitable events linked to the wider community, but that the community should also be willing to be more involved in these things too, rather than all the work falling on the school.

A large discussion took place about the quality of pupil led worship - and it was explained that school values worship collectively led by students rather than the other way around. Students should be active participants - not just have worship delivered at them.

School should also strive to provide a calm and reflective worship space that would inspire young people to be respectful of each others views and feelings, giving the time for students to develop their own thoughts and beliefs around bigger issues. Overall there was a keenness to make school and worship as inclusive as possible.

As well as this attending church more often was brought up - and we were clear that we have tried to do this regularly but that some of our church visits have been hampered by the poor weather that we have experienced. We will continue to ensure that Y7 start and y11 finish n church with parents in attendance.

What should be the none negotiables for how our school functions?

Respect should be fully part of the interactions between staff and students, and students with each other. Encourage all students to be strong leaders, and develop those skills in them all. As well as this show compassion for all and ambition for all to achieve their best.

Several other points where brought up that are noted below:

- A possible rebranding of RE may change a stale image in to something new and fresh.
- Further promotion on the Social media page would be good to help keep everyone aware as to what is going on.
- Let parents know what the worship theme is every half term - to allow them to discuss things at home, to complement in school discussions.

- Further to that a wider promotion of the non-sporting activities that school offers was suggested.
- Encourage a wider range of visits where possible - to develop knowledge in practice.
- Perhaps look at the cohort that enters Y7 and see what religious groups different members of that cohort belong to - to ensure a wider breadth of religious awareness given, growing inclusivity.

Any Other Business

Can parents access the lost property area?

Mr Duckworth said if parents contacted him he would EITHER look specifically for the missing item OR arrange a time after school for parents to attend and see the lost property.

Meeting closed at 6:50pm