

28/01/25

Dear Parents and carers,

I wanted to share with you my experiences of the Collaborative Review Day at JKPS which I was invited to attend in my role as ACC Chair. The CRD day allows Senior Leaders at the school to showcase the incredible work they do every day to each other and jointly strategise how they can improve their practise. Reflection and taking stock are encouraged alongside constructive feedback and challenge. The school was joined by the headteacher of another primary school within Anthem and members of the Anthem National Team. The day's focus was on agreed **areas of the school development plan**: how staff give feedback to children to optimise learning opportunity; how leaders coach staff; and how they support consistency of teaching practise across the school.

This is long so I have highlighted key ideas.

It is always a pleasure to spend a day at JKPS- children's smiling faces, wide eyes and exemplary learning behaviours met us in the classrooms. There's an energy and spirit at JKPS that is infectious- children across all year groups interact with all staff and everybody seems to know each other's names. I was invited to sit with various children over lunch, checking my name, credentials and whether I was the new year 1 teacher(!)-meanwhile the piano was keyed enthusiastically by children of every talent.

It was great to hear from teachers and support staff about the positive impact of a new staffing structure, particularly with the skills and experience brought in by the newer members of the team. This involves middle leaders working closely with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Trust to develop their curriculum areas.

The school are using a **coaching model** to develop confidence, skills development and consistency. The relationships at JKPS mean that this is done with care and collaboration with opportunities for 'live' coaching where teachers share skills across classes and year groups. The coaching has helped teachers 'unstick' problems or move forward with a different idea to try. TA's are empowered to bring their ideas into the classroom- I particularly loved the mark making in nursery- valuing creativity and 'having a go' with a glorious display of scribbles.

It's the threading through of **consistent approaches** that struck me- the pedagogical building blocks being embedded all the time. Every classroom has working walls peppered with widgets (picture prompts) and resources to support visual learners; the children's books show us their development since September with children setting targets for their work such as handwriting

or checking spelling. It means that our children are taught *how* to learn which will travel with them for a lifetime.

The **teamwork within phases** means that there is collaborative planning of lessons across different classes and year groups. This brings visible consistency and progression to the teaching and learning. The approach feels strong and buffers against natural absence, which is a common challenge across the English school system and allows for new staff to pick up the thread.

We heard from Early Years, Maths, Reading, Writing, Science and Mental Health **Subject Leads** who were thinking boldly about the classroom and far beyond to share their passion for their subjects/ areas. Watch this space for science and mental health workshops within the community....!

It was also reassuring to see JKPS' robust response to challenges. For example, conversations celebrating **difference and diversity**- senior leaders are re-auditing the PSHE curriculum in every year group to make sure that the curriculum strongly supports inclusion and anti-discrimination with books to enhance representation and key learning. Class discussions have been naturally revisited linking to familiar conversations about values and expectations within the school. Importantly, safeguarding practices are being reviewed with all staff to support consistent reporting and responding to concerns and incidents. The breadth of work completed at pace by the school compliments the ongoing commitment to inclusion and anti-racism which remains all of our responsibility.

There's always more to do, but I wanted to share the privilege of having spent a glorious day with your children. There is love, care and nurture here all the time- it shows and is the greatest base for learning.

As many of you know, the ACC has gone through changes recently with new members joining as well as some familiar faces completing their terms. We want to be much more proactive in communicating with you, for example by sharing these glimpses of the day-to-day school life and the constant activity to further improve what is already an excellent learning environment – I hope this brings some of that work to life.

Anna

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