

Governor link visit 13th March 2023 between Will Clarke and Terry Brooks

Terry provided an update on the progress made with the whole school approach to assessment for learning in PE since my last visit. The school uses an online programme that provides detailed schemes of learning, ideas for certain activities and drills that could be used to aid learning and a portal where evidence can be loaded in the form of video clips or pictures. This then supports the teacher in grading each child on a set of individual skills and or the knowledge needed to outwit through the use of tactics within the PE Passport.

Terry states every year group is using the platform and shared with me some of the different objectives alongside the photographic and video evidence from each class's passports. Discussions highlighted there was a significant amount of evidence throughout gymnastics but rarer to find any evidence of game play or dance. We discussed this could be the time of the year and what the class teacher had been delivering or even the need to use the iPads inside due to inclement weather outside. This being said, Terry has a clear desire to use the platform more across all year groups in the range of disciplines delivered. Careful thought should be given to how this could be achieved.

In addition to this Terry felt that he and the staff would benefit a refresher on PE passport and how to use it a greater depth. Terry's longer-term vision is to be able to be in a position where he is able to use the data to analyse the individual classes and cohorts learning, and then in turn adapt the short-term curriculum and delivery to work with specific pupils for intervention. Thus closing and gaps they may have within their physical literacy. Terry sees this as a longer-term aim and is realistic this could take years rather than months.

We spoke about how Terry QA's the delivery of PE and how assessment is being used by individual teachers. Terry raised concerns that this doesn't really happen and that he would like further time to be able to see the delivery of other colleagues to gain a better grasp of what is going on within the subject across the school. He does have some PPA time that coincides with a younger year group but would like to get his eyes on more across the upper school. At the end of our discussions, we had the opportunity to see a Year 2 PE lesson in action and them completing their warm up. The Teacher was using a wake and shake type exercise which they stated was consistent in their approach and helped provide a calming routine start to their PE lessons.

The PE curriculum has been enhanced this year through the introduction of an orienteering unit in the junior year groups. He has targeted this as a way to expand on cross curricular links with other areas of the curriculum and there has been keen links to science throughout the school. KS2 students have also been exploring the links with global warming through their dance lessons. A specialist external provider is coming in to school during the summer term to enhance the current schemes of work and provide additional resources which could potentially be made permanent around the school site.

Terry discussed the rise in the number of opportunities for interschool competition and is proud of the opportunities the school provides for the students to represent

GSM. This led into Terry actively trying to raise the profile of PE through the regular slot on the newsletter as well as praising outside achievements in school. We spoke about the additional capital culture this must provide and how it would be beneficial to keep a record of the students who have represented the school and have this broken down into the different demographics to evidence the drive on sport and the additional opportunities the school is providing for its students. Terry has another clear goal that he wants every child in KS2 to have the opportunity to represent the school during their time at Grimsargh. Terry is keen that there is a balance between participation and performance. Again, the conversation turned to what targets he could set himself and how this could be measured.

Other ways Terry is driving the profile of PE is to invest in glass trophy cabinets to display the haul of medals and crowns that the school is winning. Terry feels like the additional funding that was invested in the active playground has developed students love of physical activity during breaks in learning and believes further use of the equipment in PE lessons could be developed.

The feedback Terry has received through pupil voice questionnaires, shows pupils are enjoying their PE. It would be good if this could be backed up with quantitative and qualitative data, so that comparisons could be made over time. Terry's final aim was to be able for all students to receive an update on their child's PE progress, however understands that this might not be each year. Currently staff have the option to choose a subject each report to provide parents with a written update.

The school continues to excel in its physical provision and achieved the school games gold kite mark the back end of 2022, having previously achieved silver in previous years. Terry stated the school is on track to achieve the same again this year, with the aim of achieving platinum the year after next. Is this something the school is proud of and celebrates? Is it on the school letter heads?

We finished by discussing the importance of focussing on the priorities and understanding that not everything could be achieved in the short or medium term. We agreed it would help to have a clear action plan with targeted milestones that could be reviewed regularly. Terry is very passionate about PE and providing high quality physical experiences for our students as well of having lots of fantastic ideas of ways to improve.

Terry feels supported by leadership and his colleagues. He feels the school is well led. His wellbeing and that of other staff is taken into account.

I would like to thank Terry and the wider staff body for welcoming me into the school and sharing the current progress in PE and allowing me to see the learning in action.