

## **Report of Visit to Lowick School to discuss the RE programme this last year, 15<sup>th</sup> June 22**

I enjoyed my visit, when I had a chance to chat with Rebecca about the RE programme in this current academic year and briefly about the future programme.

During a general discussion, I was struck by the degree to which the current county consultation and projected changes to the structure of education in our area is a source of great stress for Rebecca and her staff. This is something we, as governors, need to keep at the forefront of our minds. Beyond this, however, it was good to observe that the stresses brought about the pandemic had eased considerably.

We discussed the RE assemblies and it is clear that Rebecca appreciates the regular involvement of Charlotte and Sarah and the opportunity to visit Lowick church from time to time.

In discussing the RE syllabus and looking over some workbooks from the various age groups, I was struck by the richness of the programme and the progress that the children had made. The programme covered the Christian year (Easter, Christmas etc), Christian doctrines (such as the Trinity), and comparative work on Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism, which involved following through themes such as how people become part of these religious communities. The programme was enhanced by a visit to Lowick Church to participate in Easter reflective 'stations' that Charlotte and her congregation had kindly set up, and also by visits to the school by religious practitioners representing various religious (multifaith) groups. The workbooks showed children engaging with the programme at appropriate levels, and some of the older and/or more perceptive children had shown an impressive level of engagement and insight in their learning. A particularly significant aspect of the RE programme was the degree to which it was possible to integrate it into the syllabus as a whole, allowing cross-fertilisation. For instance, the study of the Celtic saints touches on contemporary issues, such as the care of the environment.

The RE programme next year is, in some ways, likely to be less focused on the practices and doctrines of religions, than this year. One strand of the programme will, coinciding with the visit of the Lindisfarne Gospels to Newcastle, focus on that important artefact.

Adam Hood, 21.6.22