



## Governor Visit Record

<b>Date</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	<b>Governors:</b>	Lisa Robson/ Barry Lyden
<b>Links with School Development Plan 2022-23</b>			
<b>School targets 2022-2023</b>			
<b>Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny</b>			
<p>To explore outward facing projects at Cleaswell Hill School.</p> <p>Present at the visit:          Juliet Ruddick          Karyn McMahon          Lauren Caisley          Emma Dunn          Barry Lyden          Lisa Robson</p>			
<b>Governor Observations and Comments</b>			
<p>Cleaswell are committed to becoming a forward-facing school within their local area and beyond, utilising the wide range of expertise they currently have within their staff team and available provision.</p> <p>Our discussions focussed on the many things already happening as well as ideas to develop.</p> <p>Current projects include:</p> <p><b>Parent Partnerships</b>          School continue to be committed to working with parents and carers and have held many therapy training sessions/ training workshops at a local welfare centre with a different focus each time. Despite these being held on different days of the week, and at different times within the day, parent participation numbers were poor.</p> <p>Staff are continually thinking of ways to engage more parents.</p> <p>School have recently secured some DFE funding for a parent focus group run by Multiply through the Northern Learning Trust, which is taking place at a local welfare centre with a focus on developing maths skills for parents. This will continue into next term where a number of sessions will be run by the same people in school with participation from parents and children with a view to building parent skills and relationships.</p> <p>The introduction of the new APP 'School Ping' has already helped achieve a higher parental response.</p>			

### **Facilities Hire/ Events/ Markets Stalls/ Fundraising**

The hydrotherapy pool is hired out Tuesday to Friday each week until 7pm. This is used by families, other schools and community groups from Northumberland but also by groups from other local authorities.

Another project is to hire out the MUGA, school field and school hall for community groups outside of school hours and the school is currently applying for some funding from Sports England to install flood lights to the MUGA so that this can be used longer throughout the evening.

Pupils continue to take part in various events throughout the year and lots of fundraising opportunities are planned within the school calendar promoting the work of Cleaswell and the Cleaswell Hill Foundation charity.

### **OT/SALT Training (Part of County SEND training offer).**

The school provides OT/ SEND training directly for Cleaswell staff; training is continuous through CPD and when new staff start at Cleaswell, there is a comprehensive training programme for new staff so that they are fully prepared in their roles.

Juliet and Rachael Howitt have started to extend training to staff from other local schools. Each session is planned with a focus, delivered by a trained therapist and designed for approximately six participants. This is helping to equip mainstream staff, upskilling them to be able to support children with differing needs within mainstream settings.

### **Autism Education Trust**

Cleaswell are currently the only license holder in Northumberland to be able to deliver this training. This is used throughout early years, main school and post-16.

Emma and Rachel are the lead trainers and all staff are currently working their way through the training. This includes 'Good autism practice' and 'Making sense of autism'.

This training is currently funded by DFE and is reliant on regularly reporting back to them with feedback being positive and above 95%. This has been achieved at all sessions run so far.

Cleaswell will then extend this to other schools/settings at a charge.

### **Specialist Support Bases (SSBs)**

School staff are involved in the training and support for other local schools who have set up their own support bases for pupils with SEN within their own settings. These include Mowbray Primary, (a school close by to Cleaswell) but also other schools further afield.

### **EHCP Paperwork/ COSAs/ Annual reviews**

Emma Dunn is involved in the development of a new annual review paperwork trial and have put themselves forward for as a pilot in this area. The results of this trial will then be used to support mainstream schools with the process.

### **ELS/ Literacy/ Launchpad for Literacy**

Helen is now an Essential Letters and Sounds trainer and has been supporting other schools with ELS and pre-phonics. She is also helping in the creation of a phonics framework for SEN schools.

Abi McCarthy has been integral in supporting schools to understand and use the Launchpad for Literacy framework to identify and build on gaps in literacy learning for pupils in other schools.

### **SEND Advisor Role**

Emma continues to work with other schools in her role, sitting on panels and making County links. She has formed links with key schools across the county with a view to developing the quality of SEND provision and supporting the best use of resources in line with Northumberland strategy around extending SEND provision with SSBs (see above). There have also been a number of SENCOs, mainstream education staff and County officers who have come into school to understand more about what Cleaswell offers, and how some strategies can be taken and transferred to their own environments/ practice.

### **Integrated Therapy Links**

Juliet is networking with other school-based occupational therapists from different schools, sharing ideas and good practice. This has been useful so that therapists as many schools are facing similar issues, in terms of increased pupil numbers and pressure on resources. Networking enables therapists to share initiatives that are working well.

All health and social care services are extremely stretched at present and there are currently very few support services available to school and families. Therefore, by supporting each other through networking and sourcing their own training, this is enabling school to support children with their needs without having to rely on some of these outside agencies.

To also support these:

- Clinics are held in school
- School has a newly trained Mental Health Lead - Rachel Ford Hutchinson
- School also has an allocated social worker.
- There is multi-disciplinary communication between external agencies and school to provide the best outcomes for pupils.

### **Research Projects**

Many staff are supporting research projects. Current projects include:

- CEOP/ PSHEE association trial.
- Case study (North of the Tyne project) – What constitutes successful blended learning?
- Reducing parental conflict project.

### **Marketing**

Staff are really keen to promote the school and all that it does/provides/ supports for all to see.

- Advertising within the press, social media and the school website.
- Updating a new website to really promote the wider work/ training of the school.
- Hosting student placements and work experiences
- Forming strong community links
- Performing Arts and productions in the local community.
- Supporting other charities.
- Use of local community facilities – Seb and Olivia's Den, Tim Lamb centre, Platform 1.

**Areas for Development:**

- Community Café – possible placement for this with a domestic kitchen.
- Development of the Appleby Centre – 6<sup>th</sup> Form site (architect designs/out to tender until mid-March).
- School website – advertising to really promote the work of the school/ training directory etc
- Training Hub - especially around AET training.
- Developing understanding as to the pathways at Cleaswell to ensure a robust admissions process – numerous needs.
- Parent links – continually involving parents and promoting parental engagement.

**Plans for Follow-up Visit**

Emma Dunn will meet with the School Improvement Partner, Lynn Watson, in order to discuss Outward Facing involvement and next steps in meeting outcomes identified within the 5-year plan.

**Date reviewed at FGB**