

Governor Monitoring Visit Record

Date	18.06.2025	Governors	Katie Kelly and Colin Green
Objectives			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To update the Governors regarding progress with the therapy development plan and approaches to meeting pupil need. - To inform the Governors of new initiatives in school. 			
Links with School Development Plan			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that Cleaswell Hill is an outstanding, pioneering provision with groundbreaking approaches and resources to improve the highest standard, maximising the quality of life of their children, young people, families and staff. 			
Background preparation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinating the involvement of Amy Shiels (under the guidance of Rachael Howitt) and Jo Golden to identify and prepare areas for discussion. 			
Scope of visit			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To gain an understanding of current therapy initiatives in line with the school development plan and developing roles and responsibilities within the integrated therapy team. - Jo Golden and Juliet Ruddick explained the benefits of sensory integration therapy for a great number of children in school who experience difficulties with sensory processing. A sensory swing is a key element of a sensory integration room and therefore a large space is needed (always a challenge at Cleaswell). The large therapy room is the best option, however it is used for physiotherapy assessments and exercise programs, NHS occupational therapy, clinics and immunisations. However, working with Gill Oliver (NHS Physio) it was established that, by moving the ceiling track hoist, the room could be used as a multi-purpose space. Jo Golden has been working with companies to design/gain quotes for a sensory swing H-frame and folding floor mats, with a plan to install this in the Autumn Term. The plan is for sensory integration sessions to run when the room isn't being occupied for other purposes. Jo Golden and Juliet Ruddick are both trained in sensory integration therapy and will work with therapy assistant/s to provide high quality direct therapy. - Jo/Juliet also explained that Danielle Forsyth (Therapy Assistant) is going to embark on a horticulture therapy qualification, which is another extremely exciting development. Horticulture is beneficial in so many areas, such as engagement in purposeful activity, physical development, teamwork, cognition and learning, emotional well-being, understanding of food/nutrition and enterprise. - Amy Shiels (SaLT) joined the integrated therapy team in Dec 24 and she came to the Governor monitoring visit to meet the Governors and to explain her current role within the therapy team. Amy has been conducting standardised assessments to identify need, making recommendations, devising and delivering interventions for children within the extended pathway. These 			

young people don't fit the criteria for NHS SaLT due to service capacity but experience difficulties with speech, language and social communication. Amy is also working with Kelly Dilks, Lorraine Skeen and Lauren Dawson to deliver LEGO therapy (5 groups currently running in school). Amy explained the purpose of LEGO therapy and gave some examples of pupil progress. Amy also explained that there is an increased focus on Makaton in school, including the initiative of recording signing songs and videos to accompany the school values.

- We discussed the benefits of the multi-disciplinary model of working at Cleaswell and the positive links with external professionals, which was exemplified on a recent residential trip to Beamsley.

Impact/Next steps

- Sensory Integration Sessions will be up and running in Autumn (2) half term (providing all goes according to plan).
- Danielle will have begun her horticulture course and will be integrating learning within daily practice and cascading to others. When she has finished the qualification there will be a strategy to implement horticulture therapy throughout school.
- There is a plan to recruit another occupational therapist in the future at the same level as Amy (SaLT), in order to provide more OT to children within the extended pathway.

Governor observations and comments

The visit was very positive and we are looking forward to further visits to see how initiatives develop and have a positive impact throughout school.

Items to be raised with the Full Governing Body (if any)

N/A

Plans for follow-up visit

Follow up visit planned for Spring Term 2026.

Date reviewed at FGB