



Thurlstone Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Dr Nicky Shaw is our Chair of Governors and link governor for safeguarding. On the 3rd November Nicky spent the morning in school to talking to me about all things to do with the safeguarding.

Here is the account of her visit.



On 3rd November, I came to school to look through the safeguarding practices and procedures, as part of my role as Safeguarding Link Governor.

Mrs Gibbins, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), showed me the CPOMS software (commonly used in UK schools). CPOMS is used to log and monitor all matters relating to safeguarding concerns and behaviour. It is something that OFSTED are very interested in too, because schools play such an important role in keeping children safe. I was shown how safeguarding / behaviour incidents are i) firstly logged and then ii) agreed actions are identified against each incident. All incidents are categorised both by categories identified within the software and additional categories included by the school, some of which link specifically to the Thurlstone 'behaviour policy'. The software is checked daily by the School's Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Gibbins) and reports are generated regularly to review any trends or issues that might need further investigation or intervention.

I was very pleased to see that safeguarding incidents are rare and that whilst CPOMS is currently used more for logging behaviour incidents (mainly low level incidents), these are also declining following from the introduction of the new behaviour policy.

Mrs Gibbins told me about the new Behaviour Champions and how the Whole School Aspiration board recognises the importance of good behaviour. This was something that our external School Evaluation Officer had also commented on at a previous meeting – "Outstanding" Schools are more likely to have behaviour rules and policies that are embraced, upheld and promoted by the children themselves. It was great to see some of this in action and also the support mechanisms to strengthen it further.

I was also given the opportunity to view the Single Central Record. This system used to log the safeguarding information associated with everyone working within the School – from teachers, to Governors, to volunteers and contractors.

Finally, I was very impressed to hear about the range of training available to all staff on safeguarding generally. Mrs Gibbins provided me with a list of training that she has undertaken personally over the last few months, as well as training available to staff, the lunchtime staff and also the children. I would like to thank Mrs Gibbins and the Designated Safeguarding Deputies (Miss Kate Brown and Miss Donna Collins), and all the staff for all they do to help keep the children at Thurlstone safe.

Our next focused Governor visit will be in November when Tom Blackshaw, be coming into school in his capacity as SEND link governor.

He will review current practices in school now that we have settle into the new school year and spend time finding out more about the role of SENDco.