



Cherry Orchard Advocates 2023 – 2024



All Schools in the Rivers MAT have a team of Advocates who provide an important voice at a local level and seek assurance for the Trustees of the following:

- **Headteacher Advocate (Martin Fessey) – that the Headteacher is listened to, supported, and challenged.**
- **Pupil Experience Advocates (Oliver Ward and Chris Holloway) – that pupils are listened to, feel safe in school, and are successful learners.**
- **Community Advocate (David Long) – that the school engages positively with its key stakeholders and local community.**

The Advocate team feedback to the leadership team at Cherry Orchard, and they also attend a termly meeting with the Trustees. This ensures Advocate feedback is purposeful and helps to make the school even better for everyone. During the **November** Advocate visit day, the Advocates carried out a range of activities including talking with pupils and staff. They also reviewed the responses from the Community Advocate Survey completed by over 60 families.

Autumn term focus areas:-

- **Writing in Y1 and Y3**
- **Reputation of the school in the local community**
- **Parental engagement with the school**

Advocate Visit Feedback

- ✓ Students Y1 and Y3 were positive towards writing, they enjoyed various writing activities and could evidence different types of writing activities in their books.
- ✓ Students recognised they were writing every day and given lots of opportunities to practise their writing in English and in various subjects.
- ✓ Creative writing (rhyming work in Y1 and writing book reviews and narrative writing Y3) expanding on what they were reading and enabled students to creatively develop ideas, were favoured by all students.
- ✓ In the parental questionnaire people said they thought the school is generally viewed positively in the local community.
- ✓ A large majority of respondents said they have had positive information/comments shared with them about the school.
- ✓ Parents and carers said that school events and PTA Fayres are the most talked about in the community.

Advocates Development points

- Could the MAT consider using fewer systems for parents to navigate, is there one system that would do it all?
- How can the school help parents/carers to encourage their children to practice writing and handwriting at home?
- Some people would like to see more community use of the school facilities.
- Some people asked if there are even more ways that the school could celebrate local diversity.
- Some people said they still hear people referring negatively to the school Ofsted judgement from 2020.

The Advocates will visit the school again in **February 2024**, if you wish to feedback to one of the Advocates or meet them on their next visit in school, please email the office, marking the message for the attention of the named Advocate or the Head Teacher (Mrs K Banford). Office-co@riverscofe.co.uk Further information about the role of Advocates is available on the school website.

Many thanks to the Advocate Team.