

School Council Meeting to discuss marking – 13th December 2016

Miss Thomas and I met with the School Council to ask for their feedback on how teachers mark their work and how effective it is.

We showed the children 4 different examples of marked work:

- 1. Unmarked work*
- 2. Work marked with several lines of writing at the bottom of their work.*
- 3. Work marked with a short target.*
- 4. Work marked predominantly by the use of symbols according to our marking policy.*

We asked the children to look at the copies and discuss with each other which they felt was the clearest and which was the most effective.

The children made many insightful comments. No-one liked the unmarked work. They did not feel this would help them to get better and they like the idea of the teacher showing that they have actually read their work. They really like positive comments and enjoy being given Good Word stamps and stickers.

None of the children liked the long comments at the bottom of their work. They felt it did not make them want to read it and that it might be quite tricky to work out what their next step was.

The most popular option was the work marked by symbols. Both KS1 and KS2 preferred this option. They felt the use of symbols made it very clear and quick to see how they could improve their work. Some of the KS2 children did not mind the written next steps so long as they were short and to the point.

The conclusion is that the children's preferred method of marking was overwhelmingly the use of symbols. If a next step is to be written they would prefer it to be short and easy to understand.

The children also love it when a teacher makes a positive comment or gives a positive symbol about their work.