Questions that Ofsted asked a subject leader during a Deep Dive conversation during their recent Ofsted

It’s not just about the knowledge and skills that the children retain. It’s about your role as subject leader and your knowledge of the entire curriculum for your subject from when pupil start and when they leave the school?

Getting past the general to the specific

Your Role as Subject Leader

• How is your curriculum coverage progressive throughout the school? (This should be on the website)
• How do you ensure coverage across all year groups?
• What schemes, if any, do you follow?
• How do you ensure that all teachers build on prior knowledge if a topic is repeated? (Eg. Light in Science)
• What CPD have Staff had in Science, History, etc.?
• What do staff think of your subject?
• What do children think of your subject?
• What links are there between your subject and the rest of the curriculum?
• How do you know if pupils ‘learn the curriculum’?
• How do you monitor your subject?
• What resources do you have?
• How do you use the community, trips, visitors in your subject?
• How do you support new staff?
• What’s on your action plan this year?
• What are the strengths/ areas for development in your subject?
• How do Staff differentiate in your subject?

Lesson Observations (Teacher had to do 2 joint observations with an inspector)

• How does the lesson fit in with the overview for your subject?
• Is the correct vocabulary being used?
• Are the children learning new knowledge and skills?
• Does the teacher’s questioning encourage learning and enquiry?
• Is the teacher's subject knowledge good?

Book Scrutiny

• Inspector took 6 children from each of the 2 lessons observed and asked them to talk through the work in their books.
• Learning Objectives have to be tight and refer to the learning in the lesson.
• Explain how the tasks taught link to your subject overview and what would come next.