



## Woodlands Primary - Annual Governors Report 19/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank you for your support of Woodlands Primary and Nursery School. The role of the Governing Body is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our school. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school. The responsibilities of the Governing Body as outlined by the Government and endorsed by the Local Authority, are to support, encourage and challenge the school in all it does, so that every child in its care receives the best possible

The main aim of the school is to raise the educational achievements of all its pupils, and to this end, the governing body has the following core strategic functions:

### **Establishing the strategic direction, by:**

- Setting the vision, values and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

### **Ensuring accountability, by:**

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

### **Ensuring financial probity, by:**

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed Governors have responsibility for determining, monitoring education.





We aim to achieve this by meeting twice each term as a Full Governing Body focusing on children's progress and achievements, school development and identifying how we can further support the continuing success at Woodlands Primary and Nursery School. During this academic year, we have: appointed a new parent governor Mrs Sally Beech. She joins the existing Governing Body:-

1. Rob Leckey, Chair
2. Dave Jackson, LA Appointed
3. Yvonne Crilly, Headteacher
4. Gill Green, Co-opted
5. Jeremy Withers, Co-opted
6. Beverley Bird, Parent Governor
7. Jo Duncombe, Teacher Governor
8. Max Jones, Resigned as Chair & Governor at the end of 19/20

As a result of the Government's announcement that all schools would close in March 2020, the summer term proved to be, a particularly unusual and sometimes challenging time for us as a school, as well as for the country as a whole. Staff implemented a wide-ranging programme of strategies and systems for home learning and maintaining contact with the children who were not in school, and with their families.

Woodlands continued to remain open for vulnerable pupils and the children of Key Workers, even during the school holidays. Following the Government's announcement of the return to school for selected pupils, Woodlands welcomed back approximately 50% of pupils in all year groups, except the nursery pupils for the remainder of the school year. This ambitious plan and strategy certainly reduced as much as possible the potential disruption to the education of children at the school at this very difficult time. It also set a positive precedence for the quality of provision going forward in these continued uncertain times. Schools will probably not face more demanding times than these and we have every confidence in the staff and the school to maintain the very best of standards to overcome any future possible challenges.

This was above and beyond what was expected by the government and local authority and required and reflects very well on the school's commitment to all its pupils. The way that all staff have applied themselves to this at not inconsiderable risks to their own welfare if not lives deserves recognition.

### **Establishing the Strategic Direction**

Although the Governing Body were not able to meet in person, we have continued to support and challenge the Head Teacher and staff, ensuring the health, well-being and safety of everyone. We would normally meet formally as a group six times over the school year. Because of Covid 19 lock down and social distancing





requirements, our last Full Governors Board Meeting of the academic year, where we formally review pupil progress and attainment through the Head Teachers Report; took place with a small cohort in the school, and with other Governors participating through video conferencing. This enabled Governors to actively question the Head teacher and other members of the SLT, on the contents of his reports and consider his responses

Much of the work of the GB this year has focussed on dealing with the host of challenges brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic. These included school closures, keyworker and vulnerable children taught provision, home learning and school re-opening. The pandemic and its impacts have caused a refocussing on different targets and priorities during the year. There were specific measures (DfE Guidelines) that had to be carried out to ensure the safety of those pupils still attending school and school staff. Some of these required Governor oversight, and outcomes were communicated to all Governors:

- School closure on Friday 27 March 2020;
- reviewing and signing off new Covid 19 specific risk assessments to ensure that all safety and infection control measures were in place – completed by Chair of Governors;
- reviewing and signing off new Covid 19 specific addendum to the School Child Protection Safeguarding Policy to ensure that protection measures were in place – completed by Chair of Governors;
- discussions with the Headteacher about specific communications to parents – completed by Chair of Governors.

During this last year we again worked with the Head Teacher and teaching team to review, and amend where necessary, a number of important School policies to ensure they are current and relevant. These can be found on the school website: <https://woodlands-sch.org.uk/home/keyinfo/policies/>

Finally, Governors are pleased to report they were able successfully appointment the new Headteacher and her senior leadership team, following the resignation of Mr Demmerling in December 2019. Governors are confident that this will ensure that existing standards and good practice can be sustained and continue to be developed, as we move forwards into the next academic year.





### **Ensuring Accountability**

Governors support and challenge the decisions the school makes regarding children's education. We monitor school improvement through visits into school to meet with school leaders, attend effective training, review whole school policies, check school appraisal systems, observe pupils' attitude to learning, and seek the views of parents, staff and children through interviews and questionnaires. This was obviously more achievable during the first term, less so during spring and summer as a result of the Pandemic.

Governors believe the clear strategic vision and shared ethos, that puts the well-being of all pupils at the centre of everything the school does, enables leaders to provide the very best for every child that attends this setting.

We have reviewed pupils' academic progress regularly throughout the year within the Full Governors meetings where we scrutinise pupil's progress in the core subjects of literacy, numeracy and science and monitor the progress of actions as part of the School Development Plan. Governors have reviewed data relating to the progress made by pupils as they progressed through their stage of learning, either the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 for each of the core subjects. Again, this year we have seen a good number of pupils making sustained (expected) or accelerated (greater than expected) progress. Governors are pleased that the large majority of year groups have achieved the school target of 75% ARE in all subjects at the end of the summer term (teacher assessment).

### **Ensuring Financial Probity**

At Woodlands Primary School and Nursery, the Senior Leadership team and Governors work together through governor's meetings to carefully plan how funding is allocated. The school's pupil premium grant allocation (PPG) was spent on activities and staffing that supported the learning of those children that were disadvantaged, to ensure that all our pupils make progress and gaps in attainment close.

This included:

- Implementing a nurture based provision for children primarily with attachment and trauma related issues.
- Maintaining Jigsaw provision to ensure children working well below ARE have access to a curriculum designed to support and challenge individual learning needs.
- Improving the quality of Early Years provision by: deploying additional staff member to support a reduced child: pupil ratio, improving the physical environment and increasing CPD opportunities for staff.





- Continuing the work of the inclusion team to support attendance, pupil wellbeing, positive mental health and social and emotional wellbeing.
- Additional HLTA in Y6 to support with booster group provision
- Employing specialist music teacher across both KS1 and KS2 to support participation in the arts
- Providing online resources to support reading for pleasure and to support families in developing pupil's reading skills at home.
- Providing daily one to one tuition for reading and precision teaching for maths across school.

Governors have also been able to monitor how the sports funding the school receives is spent. This has included: transport for pupils to attend sporting events, PE and playground equipment to support active playtimes, bikeability (official cycle training) and activities to encourage walking to school. Of course, these activities were severely disrupted during the last third of the school year due to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Please visit <https://woodlands-sch.org.uk/> to find out more about the school's Governing Body and the school, its pupils and wider community.

All the above outline the official role of the Governors of the school. On a more personal level I get to see and hear how effective and dedicated all the staff are to maintain the very best education, environment and life experience for all the children who attend. I am totally assured that this school remains very successful and that children are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Rob Leckey  
Chair of Governors – Woodlands Primary and Nursery School.

