

Woodlands Primary - Annual Governors Report 2020/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to confirm that Woodlands School remains in a strong position despite the huge challenges of maintaining schooling during the national “Lockdown” in the early part of the 2021.

Since getting back to more or less normal school life the revised curriculum has been rolled out with monitoring showing children enjoying what they are learning and making progress within all areas.

Subject leaders have identified priorities, development areas and action plans for the year which governors fully endorse.

The reintroduction of wrap around care, after school clubs and the “walking bus” we are sure has been welcomed by parents.

Pandemic restrictions and issues have placed a considerable strain on maintaining staffing levels.

The school continually responds positively to additional pastoral and behavioral support required by certain children.

Governing Body Meetings and Monitoring Visits

The Governing Body Meetings have been held half termly; the majority of meetings being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

They have been focusing on children’s progress and achievements, school development and identifying how we as governors can further support the continuing success at Woodlands Primary and Nursery School.

Several very informative monitoring sessions with staff leading link governors in their subject responsibility areas have taken place throughout the year.

Link Governors share specific responsibility for Finance, Curriculum, Health & Safety and Behaviour. This has continued to provide the assurance required by all parties and ensured that all members of the Governing Body are better informed across all governance areas.

Governors continue to serve and support the school and aim to provide the assurance to all in the spirit of being a ‘critical friend’.

Vision and Strategic Direction

Governors have agreed the priorities for the School Development Plan and the delegation of funds to drive forward improvement.

They have agreed, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Headteacher, ensuring that these were appropriate and relevant.

They have also considered, reviewed and updated key policies to ensure these remain appropriate in accordance with statutory guidance, including those relating to Safeguarding & SEND, Health & Safety, Behaviour, Data Protection, Equality and Pay & Performance.

Governors have attended relevant training courses to improve their skills in order to support the school.

Attendance

Despite the pandemic the school’s attendance remains high at 95.37% just below the National average of 96.3%.

This is due in the main to Attendance Rewards and actions by Sarah Craven, the schools Attendance and Inclusion Officer.

Safeguarding

The school still has quite a number of children on the Cause for Concern List receiving a range of support from various agencies.

Staff in the school continually receive ongoing training relating to complex safeguarding issues.

There is a designated Governor for Safeguarding to ensure that all safeguarding responsibilities are continued to be met.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Looked After Children (LAC)

The number of pupils on the SEND register continues to be high. Currently, this figure stands at 115 pupils, which is 25.5% of the school population.

The SEN Coordinator and the Headteacher have continued to raise concerns with the Local Authority SEND team, regarding school placement, provision expectations and the capacity of Woodlands, both in terms of physical space and human resources.

The governors fully recognise and support the efforts by all the staff in rising to the challenge in this area.

Finance and Premises

The governors are presented with all the detailed financial information and spending reviews required for their role in this area is to ensure that the school's budget is managed effectively, and any improvements are effective and well targeted.

Parental Engagement

Communication with and support from parents is well established and really positive with record numbers actively engaged with the school Dojo App.

School Improvement Priorities

The quality of education for all the children remains at the centre of the school's priorities, focusing on support for newly appointed middle leaders, development of the wider curriculum and embedding the new behaviour policy.

As part of this report, the Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Headteacher, Senior Leadership team and all members of the teaching and administrative/support staff for their hard work and commitment during this challenging period. As a Board, we are immensely proud of the school's employees who have worked tirelessly throughout to ensure that the school continues to provide the best education and care possible for our pupils, regardless of the difficulties and challenges.

Rob Leckey
Chair of Governors

