

## Woodlands Primary - Annual Governors Report 21/22

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.

Those of us with children or in my case grandchildren in school might have different expectations of what schools can do but I feel confident in predicting that keeping them safe and happy while getting the best educational experience possible is universal. We want the best for all our children.

2022 was the year we moved out of the Covid restrictions. It has been great to meet in person and get into school more often. We have heard direct presentations from staff responsible for different areas of the curriculum and met with children who were able to articulate their experiences in school.

We have also had meetings with Sally Noble from the Severn Training and Schools Alliance (STSA the equivalent of a Local Authority Senior Advisory Teacher) who has conducted expert professional reviews of school performance in many areas and discussed her overwhelmingly positive findings with us.

For a few years some pupils within the school have met the criteria for a specialist provision. Advisors from the local authority highlighted that the school is doing exceptionally well in managing their needs

At this time of economic uncertainty, although education budgets might be increased, inflation means there are in effect cuts to budgets. We were also made aware of issues with the fabric of the building, particularly heating, which are having to be dealt with. We are assured that money for such repairs does not come out of the educational budget but time spent dealing with it is time taken from other tasks.

We are very conscious of the pressure staff have been under and the knock-on effect of absence through stress and illness can have.

On a positive note, we were finally able to build bridges with our onsite neighbour Haberdashers' Abraham Darby something we have been trying to do for some time. Once governors, heads and senior staff were together in a room progress was rapid. We are pleased to see how quickly benefits particularly in music have come about and look forward to more examples of cooperation, support and sharing of facilities and expertise.

Governors are volunteers we sign up to the [Notan principles](#) and our responsibilities 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 education. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.

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.

**Establishing the Strategic Direction**

We meet formally as a group six times over the school year. 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/>

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**

As Governors we 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 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.

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 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. We have listened to presentations by the teachers responsible for each of the curriculum area as well as those responsible for pastoral, social special needs welfare.

The data is available on this site but as always, the ethos of the school, quality of the teaching and the school environment is not necessarily captured in numbers.

## **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:

- Continuing to implement a nurture-based provision for children primarily with attachment and trauma related issues.
- Continue to maintain Jigsaw provision to ensure children working well below ARE have access to Curriculum designed to support and challenge individual learning needs.
- Improving the quality of Early Years provision by: deploying additional staff member to support children: pupil ratio, improving the physical environment and increasing CPD opportunities for staff.
- There is a particular focus on those children whose start in school coincided with Covid. This is a national problem but one we are particularly aware of it in our setting.

- Continuing the work of the inclusion team to support attendance, pupil wellbeing, positive
- mental health and social and emotional wellbeing.
- Employing specialist music teacher across both KS1 and KS2 to support participation in the
- Arts

At the moment, we are a small but very experienced governing body. There are spaces for parent representatives on the governors and we would welcome volunteers. Contact the school for more information.

Dave Jackson Deputy Chair of Governors – Woodlands Primary and Nursery School.

1. Rob Leckey, Chair
2. Dave Jackson, LA Appointed. Vice Chair
3. Yvonne Crilly, Headteacher
4. Jeremy Withers, Co-opted
5. Rebecca Carey
6. Paul Watling
7. Jo Duncombe, Teacher Governor