



Tel: 01344 421117

Email: secretary@office.woodenhill.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

Headteacher
Mr Ian Garner

20 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Wooden Hill Governing Body Annual Report

It is the end of another school year. This is always a time of great change, as we bid farewell to our Year 6 children as they move on to secondary school and look forward to welcoming a new group of children to reception in September. Some of our staff will also be leaving at this time to take on new challenges in their career.

It is also a time to reflect on the year and all that we have achieved and in turn, our focus for the future.

This year we are reintroducing an annual report from the Wooden Hill Governing Body. Some of you with older children may remember this from previous years, but the pandemic caused a bit of a hiatus.

This report is intended to provide you with some key information:

- The role of the governing body, who we are and how you can reach us;
- An outline of how governors undertake their functions;
- An outline of the priorities for the school and how these have progressed over the past year.

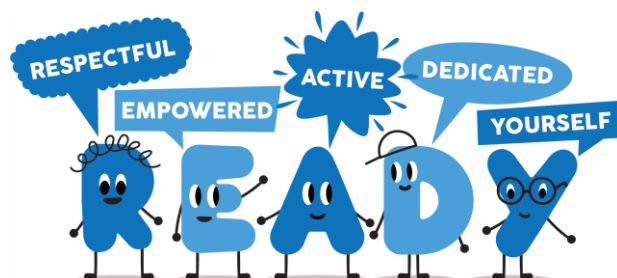
Looking ahead, we are excited by the new vision for the school, to be **READY** for the next steps in our journey as a school community.

I hope that this report is useful. If you have any feedback on how we can improve future reports, then please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Handford".

Gavin Handford
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Wooden Hill Governing Body



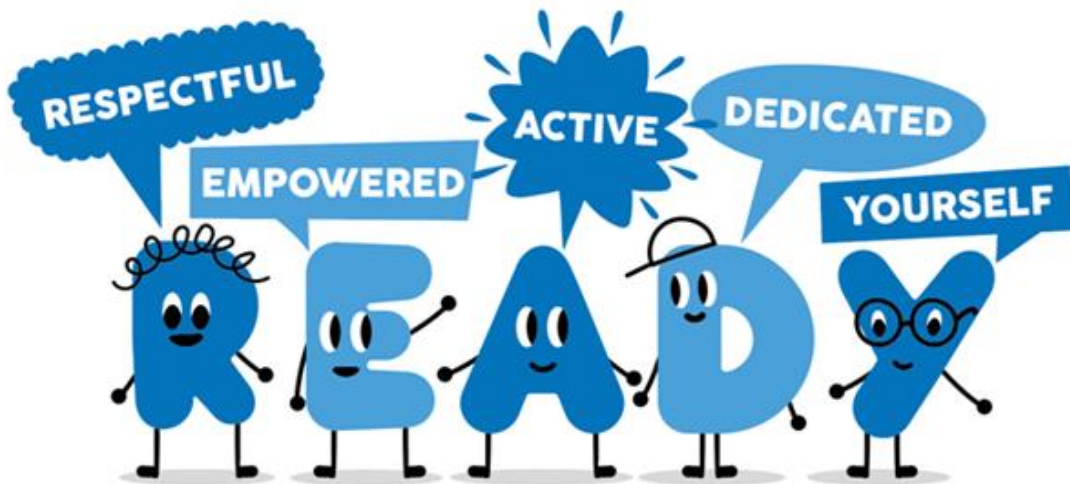


Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School

Governing Body Annual Report

2022/23

Our vision for Wooden Hill School
is that the whole community is



for the next stage of their journey

Meet the Governing Body at Wooden Hill



Gavin Handford
Chair of Governors / Parent
Governor



Brian Poxon
Vice-Chair / Co-opted
Governor



Ian Garner
Headteacher



Clare Barnes
Co-opted Governor



Max Barnett
Co-opted Governor



Martyn Billers
Staff Governor



Susan Leigh
Co-opted Governor



Jo Prior
Parent Governor



Miriam Stallard
Local Authority Governor



Amrita Sandhu
Co-opted Governor



Louise Matthews
Clerk to the Governing Body



Vacancy x 2
Co-opted Governor

Governors are all volunteers, bringing different strengths and skills to the Governing Body. All have a commitment to helping the school.

We have a wonderful range of Governors from very different backgrounds and professions. This diversity makes us more effective.

Governors are appointed or elected for a four-year term, can stand or be elected for more than one term.

As shown above, we have vacancies, so if you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact the Clerk.

What is the role of the Governing body?

Our role is to provide independent oversight of the management and operation of Wooden Hill Primary & Nursery School, with the aim of improving the quality of education provided and raising standards.

We have 3 core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and our pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure our money is well spent.

It is important to emphasise that the governing body does not run the school on a day-to-day basis. This is the job of Mr Garner as Head Teacher and other senior staff.

How does the Governing Body operate?

The **full governing body** meets every half term. This is where the most important business is considered.

We also have a number of committees. Some of these are statutory requirements, whereas others have been established by choice to enable us to undertake our core functions effectively.

In 2022/23, the following Committees were established:

- **Finance Committee**, which receives regular financial reports in order to monitor expenditure and ensure sound financial management;
- **Standards & Effectiveness Committee**, which receives regular reports in relation to school data and educational achievement;
- **Health & Safety Committee**, which supports and monitors compliance of our risk assessments and health and safety monitoring;
- **Pay Committee**, which will consider the annual pay and responsibility points for teaching staff.

Panel hearings can also be convened for certain functions.

Governors also have individual lead, or link, roles. These are aligned to curriculum areas, core functions and priorities and often undertaken through visits to the school for learning walks. These visits help governors to understand more about Wooden Hill and the reality of school life. These visits are not inspections but help us see how the school's strategy and vision is being implemented.

Key activities in 2022/23: Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

In 2023, the Governing Body agreed that it was time to review our vision, in order to ensure that it was driving everything we are doing at the school.

This began by asking all of our stakeholders what they thought of the school – children, parents and staff all contributed to this. The feedback was really useful. It identified the Wooden Hill strengths to build on, whilst also confirming those areas that we need to improve.

The feedback was used to develop our new Vision for the whole school community. We want everyone at Wooden Hill to be READY for their next steps:

- Respectful
- Empowered
- Active
- Dedicated
- Yourself

This new vision will be used to shape all of our policies and strategies going forwards. It will also be used to develop a new three-year strategy for the school, setting out our priorities and plans.

Key activities in 2022/23: Holding Executive Leaders to account for educational performance

In September, Wooden Hill welcomed Mr Garner as our new Headteacher. Governors worked with Mr Garner to review the strengths and areas for improvement at the school. This informed a School Development Plan with four key priorities. The table below outlines these and gives a brief summary of the progress that has been made this year.

During the pandemic the Government sought to reduce the pressures on schools by reducing the requirements to report against performance data. This year we have received regular performance reports and Mr Garner and the Senior Leadership Team have enhanced the data provision to Governors to allow us to effectively monitor the progress and attainment.

Priority	Progress
<p>Improve outcomes for SEND pupils</p>	<p>In the Autumn term we undertook an independent review of our SEND provision. This included feedback from parents, children and staff and helped us to develop and implement a range of actions designed to help improve the support we provide our children with additional needs.</p> <p>Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Smith has strengthened the SEND planning across our curriculum, to ensure that learning is accessible to all of our children.</p> <p>However, this will continue to be a key priority for the school as we know we have further improvements to deliver. The school has successfully recruited an experienced SENDCo who will be joining us in September.</p>
<p>Develop quality first teaching to enable all children to make at least expected progress</p>	<p>Our new Headteacher, Mr Garner, and Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Smith undertake regular observations and learning walks to identify Wooden Hill's strengths and areas for improvement. Progress is generally good, but there are areas where we want to make further improvement, and ensure that our curriculum builds effectively as children progress through the year groups.</p>
<p>Improve outcomes in English, with a focus on writing throughout the school and communication, language and early reading in the lower years so that children can fully access the curriculum</p>	<p>Governors have received regular reports on progress data during the year through our Standards & Effectiveness Committee. These reports show how year groups are working towards, meeting and exceeding expected progress.</p> <p>A writing action plan was developed this year, with key work relating to assessment frameworks, moderation and lesson planning.</p> <p>Data across the year groups has shown good progress during the academic year in both Reading and Writing. The KS2 SATs show Reading outcomes are above the national average and our local target. Maths and Writing were slightly below our target and will continue to be a key focus for the school.</p>
<p>Continue to develop the school's curriculum through strong subject leadership in order to drive standards in all curriculum areas</p>	<p>The Wooden Hill curriculum has been completely reviewed with input from our pupils and curriculum leads.</p> <p>The Governing Body would like to place on record our thanks to Mrs Smith, our Deputy Headteacher, for leading a full review of the Wooden Hill curriculum, and to all the subject leads for the significant work that has gone in to developing the curriculum so that it builds year on year and supports all children, whatever their current level or needs.</p>

Key activities in 2022/23: Overseeing the financial performance of the school

Schools across the Country have faced significant financial challenges this year. The industrial action from Teaching Unions this year has not been a dispute about pay, but wider investment in the education sector. Wooden Hill is not alone in facing these pressures.

Our 2022/23 budget risked going into deficit without savings or additional income. It is thanks to the hard work of the Leadership Team that the school delivered another balanced budget where many schools are struggling.

Our 2023/24 budget has included additional resources for the new curriculum, and new approaches to some of our contracted services that will improve the value for money received by the school.

This year saw the conclusion of a very exciting project, with the opening of the Book Nook – a library that is the envy of many local primary schools.

The Governing Body would like to thank the Wooden Hill Fundraising Committee for all the events and activities that they have planned and delivered this year. Not only have they been lots of fun, but they have raised huge amounts of money to benefit the children at Wooden Hill.

Thanks to our amazing staff

The Governing Body would like to place on record our thanks to the Leadership Team, Teaching and Support Staff for all their hard work and dedication this year. It is thanks to them that our school is a welcoming and positive place for our children.

How to contact the Governing Body

The best way to contact Governors is via email:

Gavin Handford, Chair of Governors
chair@woodenhillprimary.co.uk

Louise Matthews, Clerk to the Governing Body
clerk@woodenhillprimary.co.uk

Alternatively, you can write to us via the school office.

Please remember that Governors do not have a role in the operational day to day running of the school. These matters should be addressed via the school office or your children's class teacher.