



Governor Newsletter

Autumn Term - October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the start of the new school year well under way, the Governing Body wanted to take the opportunity to welcome all new and returning children, parents and carers to Woodthorne.

We are delighted that the school is now a fully integrated part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust (PHMAT) and benefiting from the shared expertise, learning and resources that being part of the Trust brings.

As a Governing Board, we continue in our role of guiding the leadership and management of the school, aligned with the Trust's Board. Working in partnership with parents and carers, along with our children and staff, our aim is to help make the school the best it can be and provide the best education possible for Woodthorne's children.

We have some strong plans in place to help ensure we can continue to build on the schools strong foundations and help Woodthorne move to being recognised as an outstanding school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and the wider Woodthorne community over this coming year.

Woodthorne Governing Board

Welcome from Amarjit Cheema, CEO Perry Hall MAT

We are delighted to have Woodthorne Primary as one of our 5 schools within the Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome parents and carers and share some more information about our approach.



The Trust has a singular, clear and unwavering purpose: to improve outcomes for all children across our Trust regardless of their starting point in life. We achieve this by delivering a world class education, by ensuring pupils perform above national expectations, by providing holistic support to our pupils and their families and by adding value to the pupil experience at every given opportunity.

We safeguard and protect all of our schools, providing a platform from which we can grow and succeed together. Our ethos is to support, collaborate and empower our schools to succeed. We celebrate their individuality and cherish their respective identities. Every one of our schools is different, with unique challenges, opportunities and personalities. We recognise that as a strength and something to be celebrated.

Providing school to school support through our Teaching School creates an environment wherein all our schools work together to prosper and share best practice. It also provides a number of opportunities for staff to enhance their careers and share their specialist knowledge with others who are able to benefit from it, resulting in better outcomes and experiences for our children. (cont...)



What do governors do?

We are responsible for ensuring that the school is run well and that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. We provide strategic management and ensure accountability.

Full Governing Body

The full governing body meets at least termly to oversee the work of the governing body and ratifying and escalating key decisions and policies to the Trust Board as required.

Curriculum & Standards Committee

This committee meets termly to deal with matters relating to learning, with a focus on raising standards and monitoring attainment & progress.

You can read more information on Woodthorne's Governing Board here: <http://www.woodthorneprimary.org/governors/>

(...cont.) All of our schools benefit from being part of a like-minded family who are there to support each other through times both challenging and enriching.

Woodthorne Primary School have made a wonderful addition to our Trust and both staff and children have adapted well to the transition and we look forward to working closely with the Woodthorne Community ongoing. If you would like to find out more about the Trust you can find information at <http://www.perryhallmat.co.uk/>

Governors commitment to the school

Working with the support of the Trust, Woodthorne's Governors are aware of the important role we must play and uphold our responsibilities through the following commitments:

- Make sure the school's vision and values are evident in every aspect of school life;
- Make sure the school fulfils its statutory duties;
- Attend governor meetings and make informed decisions in the best interests of the school;
- Actively gather information about the school by looking at data on the progress of our children;
- Visit the school to see it in action and seek the views of parents, children and staff.
- Support the Headteacher and all staff in providing the best education for our children, whilst holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of our children;
- Be proactive and bold in driving forward school improvement;

2018/19 Focus Areas

School Improvement Plan:

Woodthorne continues to achieve high standards, but we are keen to keep improving. Following a thorough review of the schools performance over previous years, changes to education requirements and taking feedback from staff, children, parents and carers, 4 areas have been identified as priorities for increased focus;

1. Ensuring staff, pupils and parents have a joint vision for the school
2. Closing the attainment gap for significant groups of pupils
3. Improving the outcomes in reading and writing across the school
4. Ensuring the quality of teaching in school is at least good, with much outstanding

You can read the specific elements within these areas in the overview on page 4. Mr Hinkley and his team have developed a full school improvement plan against these areas. Governors will regularly review performance against this plan to support the school in staying focussed on these continued goals. We will update parents and carers on progress throughout the year.

Enhancing policies and procedures:

Changes to legal and regulatory requirements over the years, means that as a school there is a continual need to review and refresh our policies and procedures, to ensure that we can keep children, staff and the wider Woodthorne community safe and protected.

With support from the Trust, a thorough review of our current activity has been completed over the last 12 months. Some of the enhancements have been very visible, for example the new electric security gates providing additional security and safe access to the school grounds. Other changes are less obvious, but can be felt in events such as (cont...)

The importance of the PTA

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the school's PTA, Woodthorne's children can benefit from additional resources and equipment that they may not otherwise have access to.

The PTA have already raised over £1,000 in this first half term, through the recent Halloween discos, enjoyed by all ages across the school.

The Governing Board are grateful for the ongoing dedication of all volunteers in the PTA and would encourage as many parents and carers as possible to get involved in supporting events, from contributing ideas, helping to organise and run through to supporting events, to maintain this value adding forum for Woodthorne.

Sharing your views

We welcome your comments and feedback relating to the school. You can let us you're your views by completing the parent/carer survey on the Woodthorne Governor webpages or email

governors@woodthorneprimary.org.uk

Please note if you have any concerns relating to your child please discuss these directly with the class teacher first. Governors can only get involved in cases formally escalated through the school's complaints procedure.

(cont...) the recent harvest festival where new restrictions on numbers of parents attending were introduced. These changes were a reflection of health and safety requirements to protect both children and parents and carers. We appreciate your patience with the school around any new regulations introduced and ask for your ongoing support in helping us to make sure your children are kept as safe as possible.

Systems and Communications improvements:

Improvements to our support systems and communications have already started being introduced. From email communications to an improved payment system for school meals, the school wants to help make things easier for parents and carers to stay up to date and informed. There are a number of plans in place to help enhance additional systems to reduce the volume of paperwork and help automate some requirements. Some of these will take time to implement so we appreciate your patience as we continue to work on these.

Meet the Governors



Anu Gibson (Chair of Governors/Co-opted Governor)

I joined the GB in Dec '16 as a co-opted Governor to bring my experience of business strategy and change to Woodthorne. I also have a son in Year 1 and daughter in Reception. I am passionate about helping to ensure our children are getting the best start in education and am proud to be working with a team who really cares about the children and the future of Woodthorne. I was appointed as chair of governors in Sept '18 and look forward to helping to drive the changes needed to get us to outstanding.



Ranjit Khular (Parent Governor)

As 'Dad' to two children at the school in years 2 and 4 at Woodthorne I was elected as one of your Parent Governors in March 2017. I have extensive skills in performance management and quality improvement and am pleased to be sharing these with a very supportive Governing Body to help ensure our school keeps moving in the right direction.



Ian Moore (Parent Governor)

I joined the GB as a Parent Governor in March 2017 and have a child in Year 2. I have worked in finance for 25 years and worked with schools for the last 15 years. I'm currently Finance Director at an academy trust and I bring a knowledge of the business side of running a school. I am excited to be involved in the development of Woodthorne in a time of fast moving change within Education to help children reach their full potential.



Karen Tittle (Staff Governor)

I am the staff representative on the Governing Board and also Deputy Head of Woodthorne. We have been on a really positive journey in my time at Woodthorne and I look forward to helping to make sure it continues for our children and the school community



Kuli Sidhu (Co-opted Governor)

I joined the GB in Jan 2016 as a co opted governor. In becoming a governor I hope I can help make a difference and help to raise standards in education. I feel it is important that our children get a great education as it gives them the tools to work towards their ultimate goals and to achieve their full potential. I am pleased to be working with a team at Woodthorne Primary who care about the children.



Victoria Baker (Co-opted Governor)

I joined Woodthorne's GB in March 2017. I am the Finance and Operations Lead in a standalone academy where I am also a member of the Senior Leadership Team. I wanted to offer my support as a governor in a different school setting to try and help make a difference and support the wider education community. Woodthorne Primary is a lovely school and I hope that my knowledge and expertise will have a positive impact.



Andy Moran (Co-opted Governor)

I joined the GB as the local authority representative. I am Commercial Director at the City of Wolverhampton Council where I'm responsible for the Council's Procurement, ICT, Customer Services and Property teams. I bring my experience in these areas to support the ongoing development of the school and give the governing body a valuable direct link with the Council.



Poonam Panesar (Co-opted Governor)

I recently joined the GB in September 2018 as a co opted governor. I am a doctor of 9 years, working as a GP for the last 4 years. I have a strong passion for working with the community in order to improve their health care and feel strongly about improving the standard of education as the two go hand in hand. I'd like to use my skills and experience to help ensure the children at Woodthorne get the best start in education to reach their highest potential in life.

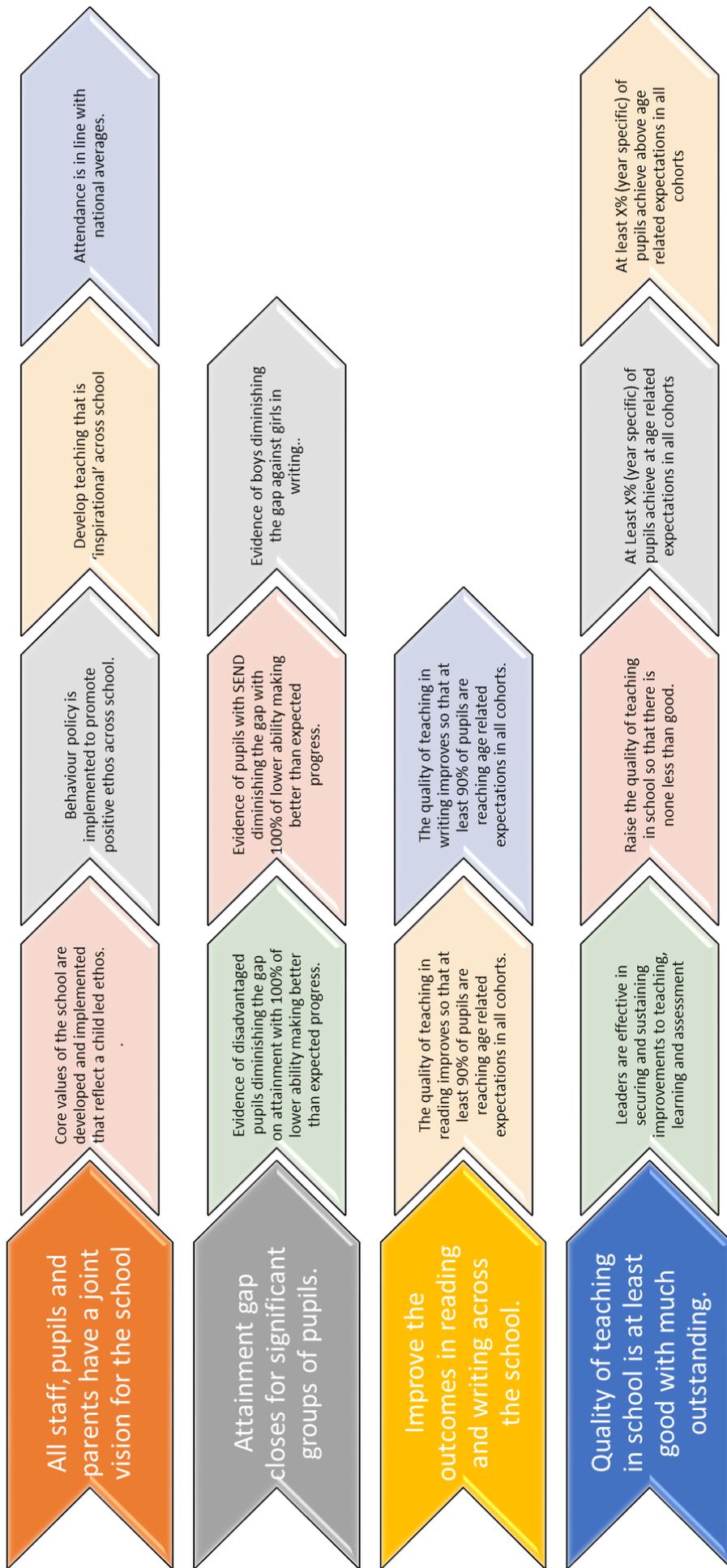


Tom Hinkley (Headteacher)

I was head at Berrybrook Primary school for just over 4 years before joining Woodthorne. Before getting into teaching I was a consultant working on accounts systems across the country. During my teaching career, I developed a real passion for Teaching and Learning; ensuring that all children reached their full potential by making their learning relevant and interesting. I am delighted that the academy conversion has allowed me to stay on at Woodthorne. I am excited about what the future holds for us here and look forward to continuing the positive working relationships with parents.



Woodthorne Primary – School Improvement Plan 2018-19



X% = Each year group has their own specific target