

## **Governing Body of Woodlawn School Annual Governance Statement 2014 - 2015**

The Governing Body of Woodlawn School has a strong focus. Its three core strategic functions are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the HT to account for the educational performance of the school and it's pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school ensuring value for money and best practice

The governing body's key aim in Autumn 2014 was to appoint a permanent strategic leadership following some turbulence in the school due to the absence of key senior leaders. The governing body worked with the executive headteacher in securing a strong team ready for January 2015.

The key appointments from January 2015 were:

- Gill Wilson – Headteacher
- Nichola Aldcroft – full time Deputy Headteacher (previously seconded Assistant Head)
- Claire Harrison-Hogarth – part time Deputy Headteacher
- Glen Whalley – Assistant Headteacher
- Justine Little – Business Manager (March 2015)

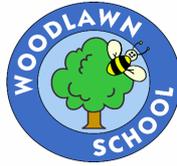
The strategic direction of the school was set following an Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement in June 2014.

The main aims for the governing body were to:

- Strengthen the senior leadership (as above)
- Review the governing body roles and responsibilities and have an external review of governance
- Improve Teaching so teaching is always good or better
- Raise standards of achievement
- Improve Behaviour and safety of pupils

In July 2014, the governing body went through a reconstitution which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. During the Autumn term 2014, each governor undertook a skills analysis identified training needs in order to secure a strong governing leadership team. The following link roles were agreed and a Governor assigned to each:-

- Health & Safety
- Child Protection
- Pupil Premium
- Communication & Interaction - Parent Engagement
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Science
- Computing



- Humanities
- Wellbeing
- Early Years
- Post 16
- Therapy
- Equality & Diversity

The governing body underwent an external review of governance and the Chair worked closely with governors, senior leaders and Local Authority officers to:

- Identify roles and responsibilities of each governor
- Redefine the committee structure
- Produced a Meeting schedule
- Produced Terms of References for each committee.
- Implement a full governor training programme
- Implement a school visit schedule
- Produced a governing body information file

The Chair of governors led with a senior member of staff on improving Health and Safety across the whole site. A 31 point audit was undertaken, where 90.5% was achieved with 16 areas scored at 100%. In November 2014, Woodlawn was awarded the gold standard for Health and Safety.

Teachers were held accountable through the performance management process and Governors held regular meetings with senior staff to ensure progress in teaching and learning throughout the school.

During the year 2014-2015 governors met each half term and the Chair also met with the Local Authority monthly in order to monitor progress on the above areas. The executive headteacher and subsequently the full time permanent Headteacher reported regularly to the governing body and the governors held the senior leaders to account.

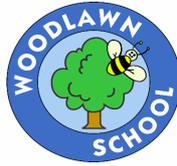
Improvements have been seen in teaching over the year following a model of coaching, training and support. The Local Authority and senior staff have shared their judgements and reported to governors showing a term by term improvement.

Teaching assistant training has also been ongoing and their support has enabled an improvement in progress.

All staff have ongoing training in behaviour management and a consistent improvement has been seen throughout the year.

In ensuring financial stability governors have worked with the Headteacher in securing additional staff :-

- Personal Care assistants
- Supervisory Assistant
- Teaching Assistants to radically reduce the need for supply staff which was placing a high financial burden on the school.



Over the year stability has been maintained and the budget is looking more healthy. Through the Chair's actions money has been available to the school to improve the following facilities:

- Changing and hygiene rooms (completed Summer 2015)
- Primary Toileting Facilities (completed Summer 2015)
- New L1 Fire Alarm system (completed Summer 2015)
- Senior toileting facilities (due Summer 2016)

The Chair worked with senior leaders to also implement key contracts and services, including an improved decoration programme, improved grounds maintenance and remedial electrical works.

### **Future plans**

To ensure an Ofsted judgement of good in the Summer term 2016 by:-

- Working with the senior leadership team in monitoring teaching and standards of achievement.
- To ensure financial stability is maintained
- To oversee the refurbishment programme