



Governors Annual report to parents & carers, July 2024

Welcome from the Chair of Governors, Mrs Ruth Trattles

Having had a long association with School, predominantly due to my role as Deputy Headteacher at Abbey Green Nursery School, I am delighted to continue the support of Nursery Schools through my role as Chair of Governors. The School continues to play a valuable role in meeting all children's needs and delivering high quality, inclusive early years education. We work hard to ensure the best outcomes for children and families and maintain a motivating and inspiring indoor and outdoor environment. This report provides an overview of how the Governing Body has been actively involved in the development and progress made by the school over the past year. I hope you find the information useful.

Introduction

The purpose of the Governors' Report is to provide parents of children at the nursery school with a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body to secure the discharge of its functions, as laid down by the Department for Education and the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

The Governing Body

Parent Governors

Michelle Litvinov
Ruth Phillips

Named Governor for SEND

Ruth Trattles

Chair of Governors, Headteacher Performance Management Committee, Named Governor for Child Protection

Matthew Cooper
Bev George

Headteacher Performance Management Committee
Named Governor for Health and Safety including filtering & monitoring

Local Authority Governor

Andrea Nicholls

Vice Chair of Governors, Headteacher Performance Management Committee, Named Governor for well-being

Staff Governors

Jayne Taylor
Ruth Ball
Caroline Clough

Headteacher & SENDCo
Teacher
Associated staff governor

Clerk to Governors

Wendi Thompson

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has general responsibility for the conduct of the nursery school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement and extended services. Individual governors have no power or right to act on behalf of the governing body, except where the whole governing body has delegated a specific function to that individual, or where regulations specify that a function is to be exercised in a particular way.



We welcome parents to sit on the governing body. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and supporting the work of the school, please speak to your key worker or contact the school office for more information and we will let you know if we have any vacancies.

Discharge of Functions

The functions of the Governing Body, as specified in the Articles of Government for the school broadly fall into the following categories:

- Staffing, organisation and finance
- Monitoring and evaluating educational accountability
- Premises, health & safety
- Support and challenge for the Headteacher

Staffing

School governors are actively involved in the appointment of new staff members at the school.

Jayne Taylor
Sam Renwick

Headteacher & SENDCo
Assistant Headteacher

Maple

Ruth Ball
Tina Alston
Angie Nash
Ruth Peacock
Sarah Taylor
Claire Hinchliffe
Liam Glen
Sarah Richardson

Nursery 1 & 2

Teacher (Monday to Thursday)
Teacher (Friday)
Early Years Practitioner
Early Years Practitioner
Early Years Practitioner
Early Years Practitioner
Teaching Assistant
Teaching Assistant

Chestnut

Rebecca Simpson
Vanessa Keighley
Trudy Buckroyd

Nursery 3

Teacher
Early Years Practitioner
Early Years Practitioner

Woodlands

Rosy Vincenzi
Kath Zuchlinski
Melanie Mathers
Grace Fortuna
Amy Whittingham
Jayne Bennett
Karen Dutton
Anam Arzu

(Specialist Provision)

Teacher for SEND (Tues to Thurs)
Specialist Early Years Practitioner
Specialist Early Years Practitioner
Specialist Early Years Practitioner
Specialist Early Years Practitioner
Specialist Teaching Assistant
Specialist Teaching Assistant
Specialist Teaching Assistant

Caroline Clough

Administration Assistant



Kitchen

Alessandra Oddy
Danielle Beetham
Amanda Hardaker

Cook
Kitchen assistant
Lunchtime Supervisor

Premises

Geoff Ball

Repairs & Maintenance Manager

Staff development

We are all learners, and all staff are encouraged to participate in relevant training courses to develop and update their knowledge and skills and enhance children's learning. During the past year teaching teams and Governors have attended extensive in house and external courses to develop their expertise in some of the following professional areas:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding (annual updates)
- Nursery Nook, sustained shared thinking and in the moment planning (responding to children's interests)
- Elklan Communication friendly setting accreditation
- Epilepsy for teachers
- Sensory Circuits
- Early years restorative justice approach
- Fundamentals for Inclusion
- Governor awareness training in safeguarding responsibilities
- Attachment Lead Training
- Making Sense of Autism
- Fire warden in educational settings
- Emotional Based School Avoidance
- SEND for Governors
- Preparing for phonics
- Good Practice for Autism
- Practical strategies for support for children in the early year with SEND
- Learning circle with Kerry Murphy – supporting neurodiversity, disability & SEND in the early years
- Greg Bottrill, Drawing Club
- The Graduated Approach
- Supporting children & young people's health: improving asthma care
- Senior Educational Psychologist, trauma informed practice
- Managing anaphylaxis & asthma update, including anti-choking
- Sleep workshop

I'm sure that you will agree that for a small staff team, this is a huge investment in continuous professional development.

Ofsted

The nursery school was inspected by Ofsted in November 2023 which acknowledged the highest standard of teaching and learning, and the School was delighted to maintain the Good grading.



It is important to note that as a local authority-maintained nursery school we are Ofsted inspected against the same criteria as a Primary or Secondary School, not as a childcare provider. We have the same accountability standards and statutory duties including children's attendance, quality of teaching and learning, children's achievement and progress, behaviour, leadership and management and as a small School we work hard to ensure the very highest standards.

"We are a community is the school's motto for autumn term. The sense of community in the school is palpable. Adults treat children with compassion and care. Each child is known and their needs understood by staff. Leaders focus intently on building positive relationships between staff and children. These relationships create an environment of emotional and physical safety for children. This sense of team and partnership extends to relationships with parents."

Curriculum

Hirst Wood Nursery School's mission statement:
"Learning together, growing together."

The nursery environment and activities are all planned and delivered to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (2021). The Governors and staff at Hirst Wood place great importance on enabling children to acquire the essential skills, concepts, attitudes, and knowledge to ensure they achieve their individual potential and are well prepared for school. Through planning and providing structured, first-hand play experiences, all children are able to become motivated, independent, thinking, caring members of society.

Equal Opportunities

At Hirst Wood Nursery School, the learning environment has been created to meet the needs of all children and enable learning and development. The cultural needs of all families connected with the school and the multi-cultural nature of our society are reflected in daily routines and planned activities.

We welcome visitors into school to enrich and support children's learning, including many community events. Sensitivity, care, and a consistent, positive approach will be taken to eradicate any discriminatory behaviour that occurs within the nursery school.

Special Educational Needs

The Governors and staff at Hirst Wood Nursery School believe in the uniqueness of all individuals, irrespective of physical or intellectual abilities. We are committed to admitting any child into school when the individual needs of the child can be safely met and the appropriate staffing level is available to support the child. Colleagues benefit from additional training to extend and develop their knowledge in meeting children's needs. Jayne Taylor is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) for the school, and she holds additional qualifications to undertake this role. Further information including The Local Offer for children with additional needs and disabilities can be found on the school website, plus the Padlet which has lots of external links to resources and support agencies.

<https://padlet.com/rosyvincenzi/useful-links-for-parents-of-children-with-send-h798d90dgj3qo0y6>



Michelle Litvinov is the designated governor for children with Special Educational Needs and she visits regularly to review the effectiveness of special educational provision as part of the monitoring schedule of the school. Michelle is always part of our Woodlands Wednesday group, she is a great source of knowledge and support for colleagues and families.



We are delighted to have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark “Centre of Excellence” this year which is in well-deserved recognition of our inclusive practice.

We have been revisited, and a link to our updated report has been circulated, but here’s a link should you like to re-read the comprehensive conclusion of our status.

https://www.hirstwoodnsc.co.uk/website/iqm_inclusive_school_award/651988

The Governors are delighted that the School has not only maintained, but continued to develop their inclusive practice and we are extremely supportive of their efforts.

We have also gained the Elklan Communication Friendly Setting status that demonstrates our commitment to speech, language and communication. This recognises the work of the whole staff team and we are proud to have achieved this prestigious award.



Safeguarding children

Our first concern is for your child’s safety and welfare and the school fully recognises its contribution to protecting and supporting children within school. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Continue to monitor its effectiveness in safeguarding children, ensuring that everyone knows that safeguarding is a collegiate responsibility
- Ensure that children know they can talk to any adult if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Have a written Child Protection Policy (Reviewed annually), which outlines the school’s position and the actions it will take to safeguard the welfare of all children .
- All staff are employed through rigorous safer recruitment processes
- Volunteers are asked to apply in the same way as an employee, completing an application form, visits to school, the provision of referees and abiding by our Code of Conduct

The Designated Safeguarding Lead child protection is Jayne Taylor, other Named Persons are Samantha Renwick, Ruth Ball and Sarah Taylor.

Single Central Record identifies all staff checks made confirm candidate’s suitability to work with children. The Governing Body checks the Single Central Record regularly and Safeguarding Audits of the school are undertaken as part of monitoring and self-evaluation on an annual basis.



Links with the community

We have hosted some amazing events that children and families have enjoyed. These include Stay and Play sessions for each cohort of new starters, Woodlands Wednesdays, Getting to Know You sessions, Nursery at Night, Christmas & Eid parties, themed weeks every half term, visits to Hirst Wood and Shipley Manor Care Home, leavers picnics, Ian's mobile farm visit and the amazing Graduation Ceremony.

The half termly themed weeks also mean that you are provided with a help at home ideas sheet and a resource to support further knowledge and understanding e.g. pedometer, magnifying glass, science experiment to try.

Please take the time to complete our Parents' Summer 2024 survey.

Your views are important to us so that our School is the best that it can be, and it is also everything that you want and need it to be.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MG7RT9Q>



Extended services

At Hirst Wood we are able to offer extended provision. Children can attend from 07.45 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. Funded places for two-year-old children (once they turn 3 years old) are available. We aim to be as flexible as possible so are pleased to offer additional paid for places for half and full day sessions, plus before and after School sessions.

Health and safety

All Health and Safety requirements are adhered to and where necessary risk assessment undertaken. Below is a list of just some of the regular health and safety checks carried out:

- Daily checks of both inside and outside equipment
- Fire Risk Assessment completed for School premises
- Fire drills with children evacuated successfully (practised with children and staff every term)
- All firefighting equipment checked annually by a qualified contractor.
- Legionella checked monthly by a registered approver
- Portable Appliance Testing

The Governing Body undertake a Health and Safety Inspections. Governors regularly undertake Health and Safety walkthroughs, receive information and question aspects of Health and Safety at half termly Governors Meetings.

Finance

The nursery school is responsible for a delegated budget via the Local Authority. Governors monitor the budget every quarter to ensure sustainability. The current budget shows a positive financial forecast.

Conclusion

We extend thanks to all parents for choosing to be part of Hirst Wood Nursery School, we hope that you will agree that it is indeed, a special place for children and families. If your child is transferring to Primary school this year we hope that they settle quickly and continue their learning journey, having benefited from their time at Hirst Wood. The governors would like to congratulate all the children, parents and staff for making Hirst Wood Nursery School a happy, healthy place where children make excellent progress with a positive disposition for learning and see themselves as a valuable, successful part of the School. As IQM stated, Hirst Wood truly is a place of possibilities.

Many thanks from all the Governing Body at Hirst Wood Nursery School.
Ruth Trattles, Chair of Governors