



Ysgol Gynradd Wood Memorial Wood Memorial C.P. School

'From little acorns, mighty Oaks grow'

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Kindness



Determination



Nurture



Respect



Integrity

Governors' Report to Parents Academic Year 2022-2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to our 2022/23 Governor's Annual Report. I am, as ever, privileged to be able to be part of this process as your Chair of Governors.

As ever, I hope you find the information throughout the report interesting and of use.

The Annual Report is a legal requirement but most importantly it should give you an insight into the education and involvements experienced by the children here at Wood Memorial (Woody).

The staffing changes outlined in a previous report are fully embedded in the school and we have been lucky enough to have continued strong leadership, led by Mr Johnson and his senior team. As I said last year, he leads by example, keeping great momentum going at the school and instils his enthusiasm and drive in all staff and indeed all pupils. If any prospective parents are reading this annual report, I would encourage you to visit the school and you will be warmly welcomed and shown around.

We have had even more improvements made to the school which has been an incredible feat given the budgetary pressures we, as with all schools in Flintshire, faced last year. We had a 3% budget cut which makes a huge difference to a small school like ours but with intelligent financial planning and some restructuring around internal arrangements Mr Johnson has managed to continue to ensure the level of provision and enrichment opportunities, inside and outside of the school, for your children.

The Forest School curriculum has been a huge success, with parents and carers also being invited to take part which the children have fully embraced. Mrs Ridge, as our Family Engagement Officer, has organised many 'cafes' where parents have been invited in to do various activities with their children from reading, playing games and as mentioned, Forest School.

Since covid the school was able to re-introduce the pop-up restaurant which was just fantastic. The school was honoured to welcome the Head of Education, the Leader of the Council, the Vice-Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, all of whom had a wonderful time and were so complimentary about the range of skills required by the children in arranging such an event.

As ever, I would like to thank parents and carers for all of their support in helping with fundraising that takes place at the school. It is essential for us as it enables us to ensure your children are given the right tools for learning, particularly in relation to technology to support and enhance digital skills.

Nicola Gittins
Chair of Governors

General Overview

The Governors' Report to Parents is an opportunity to reflect on the previous academic year. Our previous School Prospectus contains information regarding the members of our Governing Body, staffing structure, school session times, uniform, curriculum offer and much more. To read the 2022-2023 prospectus, please click here:

https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_bc6a29a6fa394d9d846302c7a6842d3f.pdf

Term Dates 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022	
1 st September 2022 – 28 th October 2022	7 th November 2022 – 23 rd December 2022
Spring Term 2023	
9 th January 2023 – 17 th February 2023	27 th February 2023 – 31 st March 2023
Summer Term 2023	
17 th April 2023 – 26 th May 2023	5 th June 2023 – 20 th July 2023

Numbers on Roll & Year 6 Leavers

Pupil Numbers on PLASC Day 17th January 2023

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
18	21	27	25	17	24	14	25
Total on PLASC day: 171							

Of the 25 pupils in Year 6, the vast majority moved to St David's High School in Saltney. A small number of children moved to High Schools in England.

Attendance Information

We have first day of absence calls to ensure all pupils who can be in school are attending. We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer and Flintshire Inclusion Services to monitor attendance and challenge poor attendance where appropriate. We send out regular letters to all parents and carers about the importance of good attendance and how it directly impacts on academic progress and wellbeing. Average attendance percentages have fallen due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, however, we continue to work with learners and their families to raise attendance levels year on year. Our attendance during the last academic year was 89.9%

School Development Plan (SDP)

Our main priorities on the School Development Plan are as follows:

- Priority 1: To develop a curriculum, which engages all learners and gives them opportunities to progressively apply their cross curricular skills in every AOLE in a broad and purposeful way
- Priority 2: To ensure that all statutory elements of the new ALN framework are in place to meet the needs of all learners
- Priority 3: Create a climate throughout the whole school that promotes and encourages the use of everyday Welsh language and an appreciation of Welsh culture
- Priority 4: To rebuild mental and emotional wellbeing by developing confidence, resilience and empathy

A more detailed version of our SDP can be found by clicking the following link:

https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_f0c554eb6b5b4144aa6e9646933a49f4.pdf

Curriculum

We have created a new curriculum offer for Wood Memorial, which can be found on the school website. We created a Charter of Experiences that we will offer all children during their journey at Wood Memorial. These were constructed with all stakeholders. Pupils are fully involved in the design, development, direction and evolution of our curriculum. The children will decide which direction their learning takes. We provide rich tasks which children can fully immerse themselves in, offering blended curricular and enrichment opportunities wherever possible. We have explored the way in which we teach and implement a range of pedagogical principles. You will find our Curriculum Rationale by clicking on the following link:

https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_2f6380e3219d431f9183a506a0f69bf5.pdf

School Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities and Enrichment

Following the Covid pandemic, many events and enrichment opportunities returned to school life last year. Our enrichment programme has always been diverse and below are some examples of the projects and trips we engaged with and organised in the last academic year.

- Extra Curricular programme including Football, Netball, Homework, Singing, Socks & Slippers, Athletics, Running, Minecraft, Art, Welsh and Building
- Chester Races/Manor House Stables Numeracy Project trips
- Kingswood Colomendy and Glan Llyn residential trips
- Engagement with the All Wales Police Liaison programme
- Bikeability, Fire Service, First Aid, Welsh Water and British Sign Language workshops
- Full Forest School curriculum (All year groups)
- Dragon Sports and Consortium sports tournaments: Athletics, Hockey, Football, Netball, Swimming, Cross Country, Triathlon
- Charity/Fundraising events: Santa Dash, PJ day, Children in Need and others
- AoLE/St David's High School enrichment days (Years 5&6)
- Chester University trip
- Reading Projects: Broughton Park, Welsh Government
- Christmas and Leavers performances
- Woody Cafés focused on reading, technology, board games and the Coronation
- Family Learning sessions and Wellies in the Woods

Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme

We are part of the Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme, which is part of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes - we have achieved the highest recognition possible, the National Quality Award. We work hard to ensure children are made aware of how to stay healthy and safe. Children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks and Newydd (who provide our school dinners) ensure that all food provided meets strict nutritional guidelines. We have a water cooler in school and all pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Fresh milk is offered daily to children in Nursery-Year 2.

Family Engagement and Learning

Building strong links with parents, carers, families and the wider community is integral to all we do. Our Family Engagement Coordinator leads in this area and last year, we were able to offer a range of Woody Cafes focusing on board games, reading, digital skills and the Coronation. Parent

forest school sessions took place and Groundworks delivered the 'Wellies in the Woods' programme. We held a foodbank collection and took it to the Wellbeing Centre and liaised with Douglas Place for singing and Christmas craft for the residents. The 'Empowering Parents, Empowering the Community' programme ran along with 'Growbrain Toddler' sessions. We have also started to establish a recycled uniform shop.

Policies

We have a range of policies at school (both statutory and recommended), available upon request. In line with the new curriculum in Wales and ALN code, many of these are currently being updated. All policies are ratified by the Governing Body and we have a meeting schedule to discuss school policy and practice. Governing Body agreed to adopt all Model Flintshire Local Authority policies in the first meeting of the school year.

Grounds, Maintenance and Health and Safety

The Local Authority and Compliance Health and Safety work the school audits in school, Governors looked at areas of the school that needed general repairs and maintenance;

- A new outdoor classroom has been built for Nursery/Reception
- Drainwork and plumbing improvements to toilets was undertaken
- The main school building guttering has been replaced
- The hall, junior and main corridor have been decorated
- Outdoor growing areas have been improved
- Significant investment has been made in Forest School provision and resources
- Electrical work has been carried out in some sections of the school

Additional Learning Needs

ALN, or Additional Learning Needs, is the term used in Wales for pupils who need extra support in school. A new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system replaced the previous Special Educational Needs (SEN) system in September 2021. Staff have completed training in this new system and are aware of the changes that will be happening over the next four years.

We are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education system for learners in Wales, a system where needs are identified early and addressed quickly, and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

It is the responsibility of the school to do all it can to maximise the learning opportunity for every child regardless of their level of ability. Removing the barriers that would otherwise hinder levels of achievement is seen as very important to us. As a school, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our resources, teaching strategies and environment to allow all children to be able to pursue their potential.

This year we have continued to draw up and maintain relevant Individual Education Plans for children at School Action or School Action Plus. This involved regular meetings and reviews taking place between class teachers, parents, pupils and outside agencies. The Behaviour Support Specialist, Educational Psychologist, School Nurse and Inclusion Welfare Officer have been close at hand to offer specific advice and support for individual children and families. Children have started moving over to the new system during 2022-2023.

Mrs Topham is our full time ALNCO and is supported in school by Mrs Dorbin, Mrs Nowak, Mrs Ridge and Miss Barber who withdraw children for small group support and intervention work. Miss Walters is currently seconded to the Flintshire ALN team until August 2024.

Language Development

The first language of the majority of our pupils is English. For those pupils whose first language is one other than English we access support through the EAL team (English as an Additional Language). This might take the form of an EAL teacher visiting and working with pupils or through support for class teachers. We applied to be part of the Language Development Project and were provided with a Language Development Assistant to support pupils in school, providing intensive support for pupils who have English as an Additional Language.

We are a school in Wales so we promote the development of Welsh as a second language. This has been a school focus over recent years and a number of staff have now taken part in the Welsh Sabbatical Scheme. We have a well established Criw Cymraeg as part of our Student Senedd and are undertaking the 'Cymraeg Campus' initiative to develop Welsh across the school. Staff and learners are encouraged to use everyday Welsh around the school and, where possible, signs will be bilingual.

Community Links

We have strong links in the community and are involved in many aspects of life in our local area. We have close links with Saltney Town F.C., Airbus, Douglas Place, Chester FC, Chester University, St David's High School and other local businesses. We took part in the annual Remembrance Service at Hawarden Memorial and supported a number of charities this year. PC Woodworth visited us as part of the School Police Liaison programme to work with pupils on topics such as e-safety, racism, stranger danger and substance misuse.

Disability Access

School continues to work with children and families who have disabilities to ensure school meets all of their needs. We work closely with external partners and over recent years we have had ramps fitted to all exit doors and have had the fire alarm upgraded to light up (as required for pupils with hearing loss). We have had doors widened within the school so that they are accessible for all.

Toilets & Sanitary Waste

In Wood Memorial School there are toilets allocated for both Foundation Phase and KS2 pupils. The Nursery and Reception pupils have their own set of toilets. Year 1/2 pupils have a shared set of girl and boy toilets available which has been partitioned. Year 3-6 children have one set of girl and boy toilets located along the Junior corridor. We have sanitary bins in the Junior girl's toilets, staff toilets and the changing area in Year 1/2. We also have nappy bins situated in school which are maintained and collected by an external company. All toilets are cleaned by the school cleaners at the end of every school day. All toilet facilities are subject to a regular daily check by the Caretaker and an annual Health & Safety check is carried out by Compliance Health and Safety.

Finance and Personnel

School Budget was shared three times during the school year and the LA finance officer attended. We approved small purchases and staffing changes as well as looking at budget forecasts and current spends. The overall budget is becoming tighter year upon year with reductions in core budgets meaning we need to ensure we are making necessary efficiencies. School used the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to deliver Universal Provision initiatives such as ELSA, offer enhanced

family engagement experiences, and deliver a Forest School curriculum. We share a plan which demonstrates our grant spend each year and this can be viewed by clicking the following link:

https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_33f18e9412b043b0bfcbb8185d67027e.pdf

WOOD MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL (383)

FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2022-2023

Budget Heading	Formula Budget 2022/2023	Schools Planned Budget 2022/2023	Expenditure 2022/2023	Diff + or (-)
Balance from 2021/2022	74	24,656		24,656
Employees	592,860	800,202	821,483	-21,281
Premises	59,713	56,733	65,817	-9,084
Transport	-	-	-	-
Supplies	98,974	46,551	28,825	17,726
Pupil & Adult Meals/Link Courses		-	11,305	-11,305
Service Level Agreements/Music	37,153	37,153	37,129	24
Income		-176,521	-202,509	25,988
Total 2022/2023	788,774	788,774	762,050	26,724