

YORKE MEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2019

'Bringing learning to life'

The Vision and Values of the Governing Body

The vision and values of the governing body underpin our thinking about the strategic priorities for the coming three years.

Governors support the following:

- Having secured a good judgement at our recent Ofsted inspection we are now looking beyond to becoming an outstanding school.
- We are committed to the development of the whole child – academically, emotionally, physically and creatively.
- We are committed to high achievement in English and mathematics together with a commitment to providing a broad and balanced education with a rich and meaningful curriculum.
- We want all of our children to receive teaching that is consistently good or better throughout their time with us.
- We are committed to success for all and so give priority to vulnerable groups and individuals when allocating resources.
- We are vigilant in ensuring the care, safety and well-being of every member of our community. In this context safeguarding is our primary concern.
- We aim to be a 'learning school' within which all staff have opportunities to grow and develop their careers. While recognising that we will make appointments from outside we aim to develop future leaders at all levels within the school.
- We want the best possible physical environment for our pupils and staff to learn, work and play in, both indoors and outdoors.
- We are and will continue to be a 'family school' within which all children feel known and valued by the whole school community.
- We are committed to being a genuine community school and actively seek the involvement of the parents and local community in the work of the school and the use of the premises.
- We are committed to openness, fairness, honesty and integrity in all our work. All members of our community should be treated with respect at all times and all members should recognise and fulfil their responsibilities to the community.

Values-Based Education, Well-Being and Mental Health

Governors are fully supportive of school leaders in continuing to give high priority to: values-based education; pupil and staff well-being; and a very positive approach towards mental health.

Buildings and Resources

Where finances allow governors aim to secure continued improvements:

- The school will soon be full and we will lose the specialist classroom provision that we have enjoyed since the new build. Governors would like to find a way to secure

at least one additional classroom to ensure the continuation of some of this flexibility.

- It is time that the school hall was refurbished including the addition of a stage and improved facilities for performance/productions.
- Governors would like to replace the existing pedestrian gate with a more welcoming entrance of higher quality, one that symbolises the high quality of the work of the school and the high quality of school facilities. We will continue working with Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council to get the access gate from the Guild of Sport's playing field re-opened.
- We will begin a programme of preventative maintenance and asset replacement to ensure the school continues to enjoy high-quality resources.

Outdoor play and outdoor learning

Meaningful outdoor play and learning are maximised.

We aim to continue to build on the extensive programme of development of outdoor facilities including:

- playground markings and equipment for a range of games and sports
- a range of climbing equipment
- role play areas which invite children to use their imagination during their playtime
- a 'wild space' for children to experience the natural world and collect specimens for study in science
- gardening areas for children to experience growing plants, fruit and vegetables
- outdoor classrooms
- quiet areas – some covered - for children to use during breaks and lunchtimes when they do not want to be part of more physical play
- 'friendship benches' where children may seek new friends.

Related to outdoor learning the school aims to build on both the development of the Forest Schools programme and the rich programme of trips and visits particularly within the local area.

Partnerships with other schools

In a fast moving educational environment governors will continue to monitor developments and take action to ensure that Yorke Mead is embedded in a supportive external environment.

We will continue to:

- maintain strong links with Hertfordshire County Council and Herts for Learning
- develop partnerships with other schools both locally and within the region.

Governors will continue to monitor developments nationally and locally concerning academies. If it becomes in the best interests of the future development of the school to become an academy then governors will seek to become part of an academy trust that is most likely to enable the school to sustain its vision and values.

The curriculum

Governors view the new national curriculum as an opportunity to review and strengthen our curriculum. This review is understood to be an ongoing process of innovation and change over the next three years.

- We aim for a curriculum which represents a balance between traditional subjects and cross-curricular themes and links designed to maximise meaningful learning.
- As detailed above the school will seek to maximise meaningful play and learning through improvements to outdoor provision.
- In the basic skills of English, mathematics and computing the school will seek to ensure that children have regular opportunities to develop and secure skills through meaningful applications across the curriculum.
- The school will seek to maximise the opportunities for enriching the curriculum presented by specialist facilities and specialist teaching provision e.g. in music and French.
- We will continue to develop music as a strength of the school with all children learning a musical instrument in music lessons and the opportunity for all children to learn an instrument through small group tuition.
- The school will continue to develop links with other schools locally, regionally and internationally in order to strengthen children's learning.

Standards/Quality of teaching and learning

From whatever starting points we aim to ensure that children make good or outstanding progress throughout their time in the school.

We aim for achievement that is consistently good and sometimes outstanding at the end of each key stage.

We aim to secure a quality of teaching and learning that is at least good in all classes and outstanding in a significant proportion of classes.

Responding to increasing diversity

Yorke Mead is providing for an increasingly diverse school population; diverse in terms of special educational needs and disabilities, social advantage/disadvantage, ethnicity, culture, religion and race.

- Over the next three years the school will continue to develop high quality expertise in response to this growing diversity.
- School leaders will work with the local authority to ensure that the number of children with significant SEN or disabilities is maintained at a level that is manageable and successful for all the children, parents and staff.
- The school will celebrate and utilise the rich diversity of the community it serves.
- The school will aim to ensure that gaps in attainment between under-achieving groups and others (e.g. FSM and non-FSM) will be narrower than those nationally if not eliminated altogether.

Parents and community

The school will strengthen its partnership with parents particularly in the support that it provides to parents in developing home learning activities linked to children's learning at school.

The school will inform parents about their child's attainment and progress. In particular the school will aim to ensure that parents know if their child falls below expected levels of attainment and/or is failing to make good progress.

The school will fully support the Head in ensuring all pupils attend and leave school promptly.

The school will seek to make more effective use of the website in order to support home learning.

Staff development and training

We aim to strengthen in-house training and development opportunities as steps towards a longer term goal of becoming a training school.

We aim to develop leaders at all levels in the school, including governance, so that when colleagues leave there is always someone internally ready to step up and so that every member of staff can see a way to develop their career at Yorke Mead.

Marketing

Crucial to the ongoing success of Yorke Mead will be our ability to recruit sufficient pupils to fill our classes. Key elements of this strategy are:

- A growing reputation for the high achievement of pupils and high quality teaching and learning.
- A physical learning environment that is attractive to prospective parents.
- A vibrant website.

Document prepared on behalf of the Yorke Mead Primary School Board of Governors by Will Connolly, Chair of Governors, July 2016.