



Woburn Lower School

Governors newsletter - Autumn 2018

For all new parents to the school - who are the Governing Board?

We are a team made up of parents, school staff and those from the local community (see photo frame in foyer for pictures) who all share the same vision for the school – to ensure that each child accesses the best possible education and experience during their time at Woburn Lower School.

What do we do?

The Governing Board works in partnership with the Head Teacher and the school, aiming to be both challenging and supportive. The core functions of the Board are:

- Ensuring the school has a clear vision and direction for the future.
- Holding the Head to account for the educational performance of the school. This is achieved by analysing and understanding the performance data of pupils and learning to ask meaningful questions.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, ensuring that resources are allocated to school priorities.

Each Governor has an area of responsibility and visits the school every term regarding their specialism. This includes meetings with relevant members of staff and lesson observations.

The Governors also meet twice a term (approximately every 6 weeks) to discuss all relevant matters such as:

- children's performance data
- safeguarding (updates and new policies)
- school development
- finance report
- building updates
- staffing
- Ofsted

How can you contact us?

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. You can contact us via the school office or look out for us at school events.

Would you like to become a Parent Governor?

Due to Caroline Howard leaving, we now have a Parent Governor position available. If you are interested in applying for the post and believe that you have the time and commitment to give to Woburn Lower, please contact the school office. We thank Caroline very much for her contribution to the Board.

Questionnaire feedback

The WLS questionnaire was completed by parents / carers during the summer term. The 25 responses were very positive. Key summary points are as follows (NB 1 person = 4%, results in % relate to 'strongly agree' and 'agree' combined):

- 92% confirmed that their child enjoyed coming to school, whilst 96% felt they were safe.
- 100% felt that their child was being taught well, with 96% stating that they are making good progress.
- 84% agreed that communication is effective about their child's progress, with 84% agreeing that the school communicates effectively regarding supporting their child's learning.
- 96% advised that the school is well led and managed, also 96% that their children are encouraged to work hard and do their best.
- 68% agreed that the school deals with bullying effectively (NB 32% ticked 'neither agree / disagree' with some stating that they have not experienced bullying). The school has an anti-bullying policy which is on the web site.
- 96% agreed that their child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle.
- 100% agreed that their children are encouraged to contribute to the wider community.
- 92% would recommend WLS to another family.

Additional comments by parents / carers:

After school activities are biased towards boys... A 'Craft club' has now been introduced by The Future Games team and this started 18th September.

Why can't Reception children participate in after school clubs? Unfortunately, it is not possible to include Reception children as an additional teacher would be required to provide support.

Chocolate is given as rewards to Reception children too frequently... A small chocolate egg was given on a couple of occasions as a reward for motivating the children to practice their writing skills. They were taken home (not eaten at school) so it was at the parent's discretion whether to give to the child or not. It is not a weekly practice.

Could the Pupil of the Week be per year group instead of per class? This has been implemented. There are also several other methods of reward for the children such as: taking work to show the Headteacher, receiving a Headteacher's award sticker, house points, attendance awards, creative writing award, citizen award, table manners, celebration assembly.

Why are information sessions held after school as working parents can't attend them? At this time of day, the staff are all on site and the school can provide childcare, so it is believed to be the best time for the majority.

PTA meetings are held during the day and volunteers are asked for by word of mouth.... PTA newsletters are sent out on e-mail / paper to all parents / carers and each time request the help of volunteers. When events are taking place, whether it be discos, after school activities, Open Gardens etc, help is requested and volunteer sheets put up in the cloak room when applicable. PTA meetings were previously held during the evening, but attendance became so poor that it was decided to hold them during the day when it was convenient for the few parents that could attend.

Please note that for the PTA to continue to raise vital monies for the school, volunteers are urgently needed.

Thank you to everyone that completed the questionnaire, we greatly value your feedback.