

WISTASTON CHURCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wistaston Church Lane Primary School is a larger than average primary school with 420 pupils taught in a two form entry school. The school opened in 2007 following the amalgamation of Westfield Infant School and Wistaston Junior School and the majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is slightly below average, but, of these, a large number have statements of educational needs.

Eight months after opening its doors the school was inspected and Ofsted Inspectors noted how this was a good school with outstanding features. They wrote:

“Pupils’ personal development is outstanding. They enjoy school immensely because days are packed with interesting activities.” However, it was also noted that the school needed to, “Ensure that pupils are fully aware of their learning targets and clear about what they need to do to improve their work.”

Hence, we introduced a number of measures to address how learning targets would be shared with pupils, ensuring the children had sufficient guidance about what they needed to do to

improve. STEP days (Setting Targets Evaluating Progress) were introduced every term giving teachers’ non-contact time to share key learning goals with every pupil. Termly reviews also provided parents with their child’s key learning targets. Visual wall displays in every classroom celebrated the children’s progress against their targets and the pupils’ individual target cards were referred to on a lesson by lesson basis. Our Assessment for Learning Policy was also revised and applied with greater consistency and developmental marking gave pupils the time to respond to their teacher’s comments.

Equally, Headteacher, Graham Prince and senior leaders remained determined that all pupils should continue to enjoy a broad curriculum that was outstanding in the way it promoted pupils’ enjoyment of school and fostered their many interests. Hence, ‘Wistonia University’ was further developed to give children the opportunity to explore from a choice of nearly 30 vocational courses including web site design, bricklaying, floristry, hairdressing and farm management.

We invigorated The Arts with the appointment of an Artist in Residence and the introduction of a Kodaly music specialist in KS1 and KS2.





Here, pupils develop a grasp of the foundations of music with weekly singing lessons that have evolved from the inspiration and creativity of Zoltán Kodály. The results have been incredible and now the school is an exemplar for the teaching of Kodaly pedagogy.

Intrinsic to our belief of how children learn best is the place of Outdoor Learning. Therefore, experiential learning has been further promoted with several day visits for every year group, residential experiences from Year 2 upwards and greater use made of the school's stimulating grounds and the local community. Furthermore, the International feel to our curriculum has been enhanced with thriving, inspirational links with schools in Tanzania and France.

Our incredibly dedicated staff added to the vast range of extra-curricular clubs on offer with Warhammer, Newspaper, Makaton, Carpet Bowls, Philosophy, Yoga, Irish Dancing, Maths 24 and Drama joining the raft of sporting/musical clubs available to pupils.

The school's diverse curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities have recently resulted in recognition from organisations including Artsmark England, Learning outside the



Classroom, Enterprise in Schools, International Schools, Eco-Schools and Healthy Schools. Moreover, the Pupils' Voice and staff development were acclaimed with recognition from Investors in Pupils and the Investors in People Gold Award. Indeed, intrinsic to these successes has been the school's promotion of distributed leadership, encouraging all staff to develop their specialist interests within Wistaston Church Lane.

When the school was inspected again in November 2012, Ofsted Inspectors graded all aspects of the school Outstanding.

They wrote:

“Individual learning targets are being used very effectively to give pupils the ‘big picture’ for their learning, so that they have an understanding of the next steps they need to take to move their learning forward. Marking gives pupils constructive advice about what they need to do to improve their work.”



They added:

“The outstanding curriculum is carefully planned to provide interest and enjoyment to pupils and to help them develop a wide range of learning skills.”

In short, Wistston Church Lane is a very happy school where children enjoy an incredible range of educational experiences. Consequently they flourish.

Graham Prince, Headteacher of Wistaston Church Lane Primary School