

Governors' Newsletter

GOVERNORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE STRATEGIC SIDE OF A SCHOOL: STRATEGY, POLICY, BUDGETING AND STAFFING.

They enable the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

So what does this really mean? It means that a group of people from within and outside of the school are appointed to come together to support the Head, Mrs Fox, and her leadership Team, to run the school.

This group of people are called the School Governors and sit on the School Governing Body.



They carry out their duties by splitting up into sub-committees and overseeing different aspects of the school's operation, namely:

Finance; Buildings and Lettings

This team looks at the school's budget, making sure we have enough money to run the school effectively, and ensuring the school uses its money wisely, right from paying the teaching staff down to buying the last paperclip. They are responsible for overseeing Health & Safety and also look after the physical buildings and the grounds making sure everything is ship-shape!

Teaching and Learning

This team monitors how we teach and how the children learn. They compare us with other schools and check that we are following the National Curriculum. They look at the different needs of each year group as well as individual pupil needs, be that extra help in a particular area or offering more opportunities for children to excel.

Staffing

This team checks that we have enough teachers and support staff, making sure that everyone is suitably qualified in the area they work in. They make sure we have specialist staff skilled in using different learning styles for different children.

Community and Pupil Welfare

This team oversees the relationships that the school has with parents and carers, other schools, the Local Authority and the wider community at large. They help the school integrate better with everyone who might have an interest in the school.

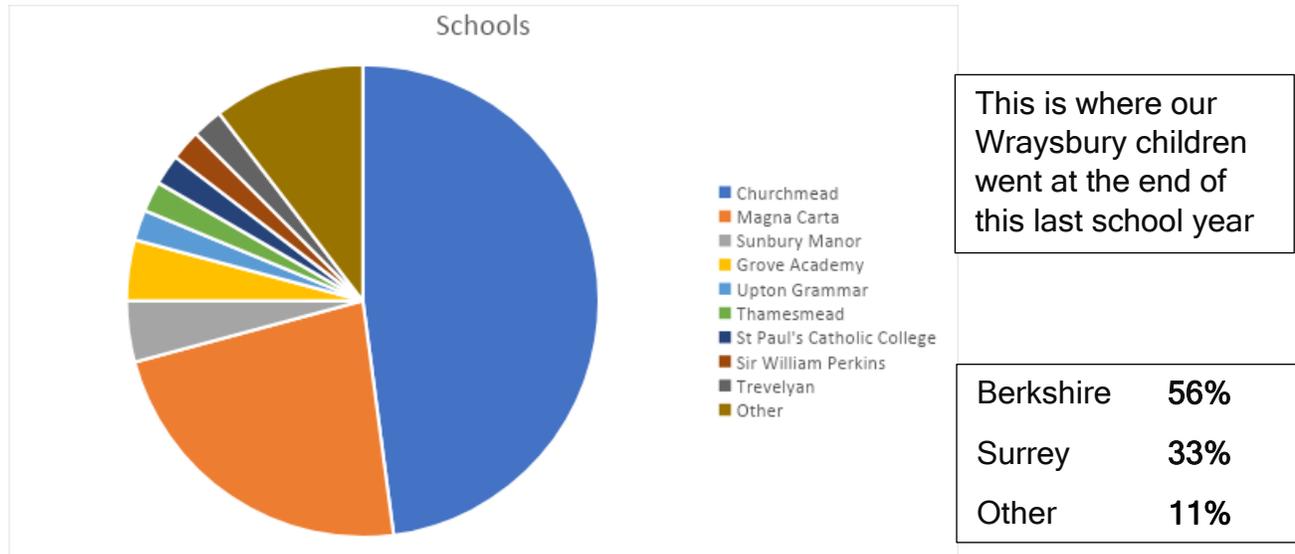
They also monitor the physical and mental wellbeing of each and every pupil, making sure everyone can learn in a safe and friendly environment. This includes children who may be in the care of the Local Authority or come from a disadvantaged background.

The Governors meet regularly in their sub-committees and then all get together every 6 weeks for a full Governors' Meeting, where detail from every sub-committee is discussed and actioned upon. An external paid clerk, who works with a group of other schools as well, attends the Meetings, taking notes as well as updating Governors on statutory requirements.

Where our last set of leavers went on to Senior School

Where did our last year of leavers go to senior school?

It can be a big decision on where your child goes to Senior School. Wraysbury borders 2 counties, Surrey and Berkshire, both of which operate different systems of schooling.



Surrey run a 2-tier system, a Primary then a Senior starting in Year 7. Berkshire does the same, but within the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, they run a 3-tier system, Primary, Middle and Upper. Most children at Wraysbury Primary stay on until the end of Year 6 before making their onward choice.

There is also the added complication of State, Grammar and Public offerings for Senior School, so a lot of choice!

Every Day Counts

Every Day Counts at school. Each day your child misses means they are losing valuable learning time. Even on the last day of term, there is learning going on. It might not be as visible but the learning is there. If your child misses a day every fortnight, this equals 20 days per year, which equals 4 weeks per year, which means nearly 1.5 years over your child's time at school. Can you afford for your child to be that behind?

The Local Authority monitors school attendance very closely and becomes very concerned where attendance drops below 95%, and will follow up independently of the school for persistent absence.

“Every Day Counts”

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

The effect of absence on progress					
A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.					
No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying		Serious Concern		

How about 10 minutes a day? Surely that won't affect my child

School trips and visitors to the school

School trips, off-site activities and visitors in are a big part of the learning experience at Wraysbury Primary School, with every year group having access to a number of school trips each year.

School trips and workshops in school stimulate curiosity, giving each student the chance to experience learning outside of school and discover their own potential. They will benefit from increased motivation for a subject with an improved knowledge and understanding. They're also fun, involve a bit of travel and offer another opportunity for the children to enhance their relationships.



Sport and competition

Participation in school sports supports the healthy growth of the heart, lungs, muscles and bones. It also improves agility, coordination and balance. Exercise also helps reduce stress levels, anxiety and behavioural problems. Regular physical activity helps you relax better and reduces muscular tension.



At Wraysbury, our aim is to offer access to multiple sports across all year groups. This is in the form of standard PE lessons during school hours, various teacher-led after-school clubs as well as joining other local schools for competitions.

Wraysbury Primary School is affiliated with the Windsor School Sports Partnership, and our children compete regularly in competitions around the borough. This is funded by a Government Grant, the PE and Sport Premium. It also means we can bring in coaches to work with the children on specific sports.

We are very lucky to have our own Mini-bus to transport the children to any off-site activities. The mini-bus is jointly funded from the school budget and the Wraysbury Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). A big Thank You to the PTFA!

Find out how does Wraysbury Primary School compare with other schools



Department
for Education

School performance tables

The Department for Education compiles school performance tables which enable us to compare ourselves with other similar schools. This can give us a good indication of what we might need to improve on, but also highlight things we're doing well.

Highlights from 2018/19 include:

- Reading: Well above average progress, in the top 10% of schools in England
- Writing and Maths: In line with National average progress
- Key Stage 1 Phonics: Above National average attainment
- Attendance: 95.3%: Above 95% is generally considered good

Keeping your children safe

Keeping children safe at school is a huge focus at Wraysbury Primary School. As well as specialist staff, there is a designated safeguarding governor, who undergoes regular training and keeps up to date with any safeguarding trends, for example, in the online world, there are new apps being launched daily, all of which could be a potential risk to the child if not monitored correctly.

Regular safeguarding audits are undertaken and a review of any incidents and actions taken are discussed at the appropriate sub-committee meetings. Safeguarding is also a standard agenda item at every single full governing body meeting.

Policies and Procedures

Schools are complex organisations that have many moving parts.

In short:

- Parents trust schools to provide a good education and keep their children safe.
- Teachers expect schools to help them do their jobs effectively.
- The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team have certain expectations about how a school should run.

In order to function effectively, schools must have clear policies and procedures that guide day-to-day processes.

These policies cover everything from attendance, acceptable behaviour, to emergency procedures. Sometimes policies are dictated by the Local Authority and sometimes the School Governors and the Leadership Team will implement their own policies in order to achieve their vision.

For example, the School Governors have a school

development plan, monitoring plans and an action plan, all of which are reviewed and actioned on a regular basis.

If you have a query on why the school does something in a certain way, take a look at the school website to see some of our Policies and Procedures. These are reviewed on a regular basis and include:

- Uniform Policy
- Homework Policy
- Attendance Policy

The PTFA



The Wraysbury Primary School PTFA is a registered charity, made up of Parents, Teachers, Friends and Associates of the school, who work as a team to organise events and raise funds for the benefit of the children.

They are responsible for the planning, organising and running of the majority of fundraising activities and events at the school, with the aim of enriching the children's time spent at Wraysbury Primary School. They hold a variety of events each term, including; discos, ice-cream sales, fairs, art evenings and competitions as well as Christmas-focused activities to name but a few.

They are always looking for more ideas but more importantly, they need more people to help. Would you like to join the PTFA? Everyone is welcome and your school needs you!



wraysburyschoolptfa@gmail.com

Find the PTFA on Facebook by searching for Wraysbury Primary School PTFA