

Annual Governor's Statement Autumn 2017

Weoley Castle Nursery School & Children's Centre is situated in the district of Northfield in South West Birmingham. It is an area predominantly developed in the 1930's and comprises a mix of privately and local authority owned houses, flats and maisonettes.

86 school age pupils left nursery school in July 2017 who had been with us for 3, 4, 5, and 6 terms. They moved to their reception year in a range of local primary schools and some further afield. 100% of these pupils made very good progress from their baseline entry starting points and over 90% achieved at and beyond age related expectations when they left for primary school.

The Local Authority extended the Nursery School's pupil admission numbers during the school year 2016 and we are now able to admit 204 FTE pupils of 2, 3, and 4 years. These pupils access their funded early education on one of 3 sites - Nursery School, Pre-School or the Community Childcare and Early Learning Hub. We have 3 intakes a year, one each term and we operate a continuous provision in that once children are admitted and on role they can then stay for the whole of their early years experience until they move to the reception year of their primary school should this be their parents choice.

We have a team of teachers, teaching assistants, nursery officers, play workers, administration and facilities staff who work together to provide our inclusive Early Years Foundation Stage provision. Many of our staff have been here for a long time and know the school, community and families well. They are experienced and very knowledgeable about the early year's curriculum and the care and well being of young children. They have built strong relationships with each other and with families and the local community over many years. We work closely with linked agencies of health, social care, other educational professionals and the local authority in order to ensure all children receive the very best experience and reach their full potential.

The quality of teaching and learning experiences for our children is consistently of very high quality. Ongoing monitoring and reviews from the Senior Leadership Team keep us informed and our own observations and learning walks verify that pupils at our school receive an exceptionally high quality child centred learning programme with outcomes that are well beyond what is expected for children of this age. The whole staff team are very skilled at taking children's interests and strengths and creating innovative and creative learning experiences that fire the children's imaginations and inspire their passion for independent learning.

Our partnership with parents is strong and effective and begins with the building of genuine relationships through our home visits/school visits programme prior to entry to our school. We hold regular celebration events when parents and staff come together to share in the achievements and progress of our children and offer daily opportunities to speak with the staff, head teacher and deputy head. Workshops are planned in

response to parent's feedback and one of the most successful is the opportunity to share our positive behaviour strategies and offer ideas for use within the family. We operate a nurture group program to enable our children who benefit from additional support to access all aspects of Early Years Foundation Stage. We passionately believe that focusing on children's well being and resilience and enabling them to be ready to learn is the most significant aspect of making good progress and development and developing the attributes of a life-long learner.

We have a very positive relationship with the local community and almost all of our pupils live in the immediate areas. We have been a successful children's centre since 2006 and although the new Early Years, Health and Well Being offer heralds a change in the delivery of these services we are moving forward as part of the new provision so that our local families will still retain some local services here in Weoley at the heart of our community. The local health centre, library, schools, shops and facilities are a great resource to our school and we have all worked together for many successful years. We deliver community groups, attend clinics, take our children on visits, and have regular shared use of space and facilities in our immediate local community. The community recognise the impact we have for families and young children and willingly offer us support and encouragement in our work.

We have faced an ever reducing budget over the last few years but have managed to sustain services despite this. We continually review and plan for sustainable provision whilst we acknowledge the risks and impact that local and national directives place upon us. We have high hopes that we will be able to retain much of what is fully integrated into our provision in terms of family services and responsive relationships but we have to acknowledge that our sphere of influence could reduce. We will maintain all that is best for as long as we can and for as many as we can and our aspirations for all pupils to achieve and reach their full potential will continue to drive our work as a school.