

# **Woolpit Primary Academy Leadership and Management**



## **February 2021**

Produced by Waveney Valley Academies Trust

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## **Review**

The focus of this review is on **Leadership and Management** across the school.

Evidence was gathered from a range of sources, including:

- Conversations with Subject Leaders
- Conversations with students
- Meeting with the Headteacher
- Meeting with staff focussing on behaviour
- Meeting with the Chair of Governors & Chair of the Trust Board

The review team consisted of Jamie White, Trust Director of Primaries and Jeremy Rowe, CEO of Waveney Valley Academies Trust.

Following the time spent in the school, the draft report is first submitted to the Headteacher, following which the report is distributed by email within **five working days** of the review taking place.

Due to the Covid restrictions under which the school was operating during the review, it was agreed with the Trust not to award an overall judgement.

Criteria	Current external grade (November 2018)	Review:
<b>Leadership and Management</b>	Good	<b>N/A</b>

## Review summary

- Leaders throughout the school recognise the importance of providing high quality education for all students; work is being done to ensure that strong, consistent practice is adopted across the school
- The Governing Body recognises the key role that it has in terms of providing structural and strategic support and challenge to the school, and is keen to undertake that role, under the strong and experienced leadership of its Chair
- Subject Leaders work with ambition, pride and high expectations; their skilled, collaborative approach, with the current focus on intent, is already clearly leading to impressive improvement in terms of teaching and learning across the school
- Students spoken to are very complimentary about aspects of their curriculum and are clearly benefitting from the renewed focus on, and higher expectations of, teaching and learning
- The Headteacher provides an inspirational example to her team in terms of how to lead, and has been rewarded by their hard work and their well-earned support; the Headteacher's high expectations have set the tone for the huge strides forward made, leads by example, and has cleverly tacked the right priorities, in the right order, at an impressive pace
- The school has rightly focussed on reading, for example through the introduction of the 'power of reading', high-quality texts, four-part lessons, ensuring that all children have a reading book appropriate to their reading age, and the redesigned library
- Phonics has been a key focus for the school, as part of the focus on reading. They have worked closely with the English hub to create a Blueprint for teaching Phonics, which the subject leads have implemented and monitored closely; resulting in an 87% pass rate for the current Year Two children, which is significantly above the national figures

- The school understands that more focus and developments are required to improve Maths across the school, as well as some of the Foundation subjects
- The school currently has relatively low numbers of students seeking to join, which is the delayed legacy of the problems previously experienced by the school; plans are being discussed to address this issue
- The work of colleagues with direct responsibility for student behaviour, in collaboration with the wider school leadership and staff, has led to a very impressive and sustained improvement across the school, with students all now being in the classroom, a dramatic and deeply impressive fall in Fixed Term Exclusions and a rise in student attendance; most importantly, this work has led to a cultural shift, to a new, and very positive, strategic focus on the curriculum, and on teaching and learning

**NB** *Safeguarding, which forms part of the overall Ofsted Leadership and Management of the school, is not addressed by this review, as the Trust which carried it out looks at Safeguarding separately, through a range of strategies and approaches including annual external reviews.*

## **Recommendations for Woolpit Primary Academy:**

1. Continue the unswerving focus on the curriculum, to reach the point at which all students are receiving a consistent and high-quality education.
2. Consider working with the Governing Body on building a system of regular, internal subject reviews, to maintain a rigorous strategic focus.
3. Consider the launch of an ambitious marketing strategy, combining the use of a specially commissioned short film, social media, local press and a range of guarantees to parents and to students, to get across the compelling narrative of an ambitious school on the rise.