

## Westgate Primary School (December 2018)



Westgate Primary School opened in 1991. It serves a mixed catchment area. It has a reputation for being an inclusive school, which considers the individual needs of its children. Westgate is a popular and thriving school with a good reputation in its local community. We have been reported by OFSTED as a “Good” school on the last two inspections and we think it’s also a happy one! Staff, pupils, parents and governors get on well, work together and constantly try to improve on our achievements.

The staff team is a good mix of experienced colleagues and those who are relatively new to the profession. Staff work hard and have the children’s needs and well being at heart. There is a strong team ethic in the school and a real desire to give the children the best, most memorable learning experiences and opportunities we can. People enjoy working at Westgate and many have moved on to promoted posts over the past few years. Our Deputy Headteacher of 12 years has recently been appointed as headteacher at another local school. One of our Assistant Headteachers has stepped up to take on the Deputy role for the next three terms on a temporary basis. Hence the successful applicant for the headship here will be in a position to advertise the Deputy Headship at an appropriate point.

There is a thematic, appropriate curriculum in place, which reflects the learning needs of the children. Topics from the Stone Age to Electricity, The Titanic and Space ensure the children’s learning is well motivated and often memorable.

A strong pastoral team supports children, families and the staff of the school. The school is committed to safeguarding and is a KidSafe Beacon School and a local hub school for mental health and well-being.

In our school, we are positive and look to reward good behaviour and effort at every opportunity. Even the youngest children quickly learn to adapt and prosper in our supportive environment. As they grow, Westgate children discover that learning can be fun. They are



enthusiastic and motivated, NOT because they are told they must but because they want to do well for their teachers, their families and themselves. We treat all our pupils individually, developing their sense of worth and confidence and encourage unique talents to flourish in every child.

We know that what matters most both academically and socially is that magic interaction between people. We all remember those adults who had a great impact on us at primary school. Those who encouraged, supported and were there when we needed them. We have a high turnover of staff, which presents its own challenges but our team never lacks commitment or dedication in providing the best we can for Westgate children and their families.

Our capacity increased in 2012 to 630 pupils. Currently we have just over 600 children in school. School data indicates the following information

- 21 classes
- Index of Multiple Deprivation: 91% live in deprivation wards D-E\*... 37% of the school population live in E\* wards (bottom 5% nationally)
- 82%% white British heritage
- Even balance of boys and girls
- FSM6 29%
- SEN support 18.6% (LA average = 11.8%)
- Overall absence is in line with the national average
- Mobility is average as a percentage – but this equates to a significant number of pupils because of the size of school
- Lots of staff turnover in recent years with a significant number of staff on maternity leave and moving to other posts. Staffing continues to be dynamic.

In recent years a Year 5 and 6 block was added to our original building to accommodate our extra pupils. We also managed to acquire a double mobile

classroom as part of the new build project. This is used to house our nurture room and the other half is used for intervention groups.

The school has extensive grounds and is beginning to develop them to support children’s learning. A run-a-mile track has recently been installed and plans for a MUGA are nearing completion.

The school runs a breakfast and after school club called Westgate Wonders. This is a non profit making company which supports working families and runs from the school building. The service is high quality and makes a small profit annually which is either spent on improving the service or contributing to school developments.

The responsibility structure of the school is as follows:

	HT	DHT	AHTKS1	AHTKS2	
School Improvement TLRS :		FS	Yrs1/2	Yrs3/4	Yrs 5/6
Inclusion TLRs :	Yrs1/2		Yrs3/4	Yrs 5/6	

Our current school improvement plan focuses on improving standards in Reading across the school, raising the performance of PP children particularly in FS and developing proactive learners.

School governors are good critical friends and take part in setting the school’s direction, school improvement plan and monitoring tasks. They meet termly as a full governing body but also have two committees (Standards Committee and Finance Committee), which meet at least termly.



Finances are closely monitored by governors, supported by our Business Manager. Like all school budgets ours is never quite healthy enough for us to

do all we wish to do, however our recent period of expansion has helped us remain in a reasonable position financially.

The school is very well supported by our parent body, in the form of the Friends of Westgate. This group are an integral part of our school team whose level of organisation ensures we enjoy a wide range of events, which raise funds for the school and help the school community to keep and develop its identity. We work hard at encouraging our parents into school and to be good partners in their children's education. The Inclusion TLRs are charged with the task of providing appropriate activities within their Year groups to engage their particular cohorts of parents.



The children are a credit to their families and their school. They are keen, interested and enthusiastic. They love their sport and always represent their school to the best of their ability. The School Council is active and is currently supporting a community strategy aimed at reducing loneliness in our local community. Behaviour in school is good and those who find behaviour management difficult are well supported by our pastoral team.