

IMPACT STATEMENT NETHERWOOD ACADEMY 2023/24

Netherwood Academy was supported during the 23/24 academic year by a Trust Management Board (TMB) comprised of dedicated volunteers from the local area chosen for their objectivity, skills, and experience, plus representatives from the Astrea Trust and the Academy. The TMB's role was to provide support, challenge, and guidance to the academy at a local level, with a focus on driving improvement in educational outcomes.

The 23/24 year saw the transition from a significant representation on the TMB of Astrea Trust staff membership to a wider membership of community members reflecting the immediate and broader community in Barnsley and more parent representation. It also saw the TMB support the Academy through a successful Ofsted inspection, securing the best inspection outcome in its history of a Good.

The TMB challenged and supported the Academy in the following ways:

Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained within the Academy:

- By building and maintaining ongoing relationships with key people in the central team, including the Trust Governance Team, the Regional Director and the Trust Board. This included the Chair attending Astrea Chairs networking meetings and a member of the Trust Board regularly Attending TMB meetings.
- By regularly reviewing the strategic documents that drove Academy improvement and the academy's vision, values, and ethos.
- Through the Chair building a solid relationship with the principal and members of the Academy SLT.
- Through TMB members being allocated link roles focussed on key areas of school activity and encouraged to build effective relationships with their key staff members.

Holding school leaders accountable for the educational performance of the Academy, the inclusion of all pupils, and the offer of a knowledge-rich and broadly based curriculum.

- TMB Members attended five TMB meetings over 23/24 at which they scrutinised and challenged educational performance
- By appointing link TMB Members responsible for SEND and grant funding to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable pupils.
- TMB members regularly attended the school and came back at the TMB meeting in the form of a report.
- Performance data was regularly scrutinised and challenged in TMB meetings.
- The performance of more disadvantaged students was a regular agenda at TMB meetings.
- Behaviour, suspensions, exclusion and attendance were a regular agenda item in TMB meetings.
- By TMB Members sitting on panels and hearings, including permanent exclusion panels, to make impartial decisions and to share any broader concerns with the Trust or the Academy.
- By the Chair of the TMB meeting with the Lead Ofsted Inspector during the Ofsted Inspection in March.

Working with the school's leadership and central team to maintain high safeguarding standards.

- All committee members undertook the most up-to-date safeguarding training and were familiar with the latest guidance.
- The TMB had a dedicated safeguarding link member.
- By ensuring that TMB Members understand the effectiveness of safeguarding within the Academy.
- Ensuring that Safeguarding was a standing agenda item at TMB meetings to ensure that Members clearly understood the main areas of strength and/or concern.
- The Chair and Safeguarding Link governor participated in the annual Safeguarding audit.

Promoting positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and driving school-to-school partnerships for improvement within the Trust.

- By recruiting six new Trust-appointed TMB members from the Wombwell, Darfield and wider Barnsley community to bring a broad mix of skills and experience to challenge and hold the Academy to account.
- By engaging with the Academy's parent community to recruit two new parent governors. 21 parents enquired directly about the role, and 14 applied before a ballot of the parent population selected two.
- By speaking and listening to parents, staff, pupils and members of the wider community to consider their views of the school and feed back in TMB meetings.

Identifying, understanding and reporting to Trustees any strategic risks facing the school.

- By ensuring that members of the TMB understood the strategic risks at the school and that concerns were shared at TMB meetings.
- By ensuring that, if necessary and appropriate, strategic risks were fed back to the Central Trust Team.
- By having a Trust Board representative present at TMB meetings.
- By the TMB Chair attending Astrea Chairs networking events at which the Trust Board was present.