



Growing, Learning and Achieving Together

Willow Tree School Committee Impact Statement 2025–2026

During 2025–2026, the Willow Tree Primary School Committee has provided effective support, challenge and local accountability, working closely with school and Trust leaders during a period of significant and rapid school improvement.

The School Committee has maintained a clear focus on its delegated responsibilities for standards, curriculum, SEND, stakeholder engagement and the effectiveness of school leadership. Members have developed their understanding of the school's context and priorities and have used this knowledge to provide constructive challenge and support to leaders.

Standards and School Improvement

Throughout the year, the School Committee has scrutinised termly pupil achievement and progress information, questioning leaders about standards across the school and the performance of different groups of pupils. This has strengthened accountability for pupil outcomes and enabled committee members to understand where improvement is evident and where further action is required.

The Committee has maintained oversight of the School Improvement Plan and wider improvement priorities, ensuring that leaders remain focused on the actions most likely to improve provision and outcomes for pupils. Governors have provided both challenge and support, while recognising the pace of improvement required at Willow Tree.

The Chair of the School Committee has also undertaken the Executive Headteacher's appraisal, ensuring that appropriately ambitious objectives were established which reflect the school's priorities and support the continued rapid improvement of the school. This has strengthened the link between leadership accountability, professional development and whole-school improvement.

Curriculum

A significant focus for the Committee during 2025–2026 has been the development of the Trust Curriculum, as it was embedded at Willow Tree. Committee members have challenged leaders to consider not only curriculum content and progression, but how effectively the curriculum reflects the local context, experiences and needs of Willow Tree pupils. This scrutiny has supported leaders in developing a curriculum which is increasingly relevant and meaningful to pupils and which builds their knowledge of their community and the wider world.

For example, School Committee members have also contributed directly to enriching pupils' curriculum experiences. As part of the school's Local History Week, a committee member worked with the Clock Face Miners Association to facilitate workshops for pupils. This provided children with first-hand opportunities to learn about their area's mining heritage and strengthened links between the school, its curriculum and the local community.

Policies, Procedures and Accountability

As part of the school's continued improvement journey, the School Committee has reviewed, challenged and approved key policies, supporting leaders in establishing clear, consistent and robust procedures across the school. Committee scrutiny has provided an additional layer of assurance that policies are appropriate to the school's context, meet statutory and Trust expectations and support effective practice.

The Chair has also served on suspension panels, providing independent scrutiny and ensuring that decisions and procedures were fair, appropriately evidenced and compliant with statutory and Trust requirements. This has strengthened governance oversight of behaviour, inclusion and safeguarding pupils' entitlement to education.

Support and Challenge

The School Committee has continued to develop its role as a critical friend to school leaders. Through meetings, scrutiny of information and professional dialogue with leaders, members have sought assurance that improvement actions are having the intended impact rather than focusing solely on whether actions have been completed.

Challenge has been particularly evident in relation to:

- pupil achievement, progress and the performance of different groups;
- the development and implementation of the new curriculum;
- the appropriateness of the curriculum for Willow Tree's local context;
- school improvement priorities and the pace of improvement;
- leadership accountability and Executive Headteacher objectives;



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- behaviour, suspension and procedural compliance.

Overall Impact

The School Committee has made a positive contribution to Willow Tree's improvement during 2025–2026. Its work has strengthened local accountability, leadership challenge and community representation, while ensuring that the needs and experiences of Willow Tree pupils remain central to decision-making.