

## Appendix 9

### Willand School report to the Parish Council

March 2024:

#### Current School Numbers:

We have 378 pupils on roll and have seen over the last few weeks several new families approaching us for spaces and their children starting.

Pupil attendance remains a priority, the current school attendance rate is 93.89% which is below the school rate prior to the pandemic.

The school continues to work hard to continue to address the challenges left behind by Covid. We are slowly getting more sports teams out to take part in events and with great success recently. Pupil attainment is steadily improving as we continue to address gaps in learning caused by the interruption to schooling and early years education.

#### Changes over the past few months.

This December we saw the retirement of both headteacher Anne Hawkins and Business Manager Angela Hills.

Anne has been replaced by Naomi Tottle, an experienced headteacher from North Devon.

Angela has been replaced by Jane Howard, who was already at the school as part of the administration team.

During January 2024 we were revisited by OFSTED, this was following the Requires Improvement judgement in September 2021. We are pleased to announce that we secured a good grading in all aspects. The report recognises the following:

Willand school is inclusive and welcoming. It provides a safe and happy environment for pupils. Pupils, including those in Reception Year, talk positively and confidently about the school and their learning. Many pupils say that one of the best things about the school is the supportive and kind staff.

There are high expectations for behaviour. Most pupils know and understand the expectations. In the early years, children quickly learn the rules and routines. They develop increasing independence through their learning and play. Pupils recognise how the school rules, 'be respectful, be safe and be ready', help them to know how to behave.

There is a strong sense of community at the school. Parents and carers appreciate the dedication and care their children receive from school staff.

The school is ambitious and committed to providing a high-quality education for all pupils.

The staff, governors and pupils are incredibly proud of this report, The Requires Improvement judgement placed a great deal of additional stress and workload on the staff, the removal of this label now allows the school to move forward without this hanging over us and allows us to focus on other projects within the school such as our S106 funding build.

The school and I look forward to continuing to work together with the parish council to provide the best they can for the children of our community.

Naomi Tottle

Headteacher