

Development Plan

2022 - 2027

Strategy Owner - Chair of Governors
Strategy Lead - Headmaster

Purpose, Values and Ambition

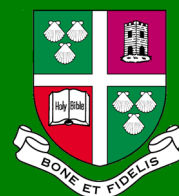
Woodhouse Grove School is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school initially founded by the Methodist Conference in 1812 for the education of the sons of Methodist ministers. Situated between Leeds and Bradford on a 70-acre campus with extensive grounds yet conveniently located close to major air, railway and motorway networks, Woodhouse Grove provides a first-class all-round education for boys and girls. We hope that our pupils will go into a world of opportunity with the confidence born of achievement in the range of activities open to them, and with the strength of character developed by their sustained exposure to challenges and experiences in a caring, nurturing and secure setting.



I am Grovian

Woodhouse Grove provides its young people with a values-driven education based upon both breadth and academic aspiration; nurturing individuals who are focused, well-balanced, well-mannered, self-confident and unpretentious; so that they emerge from school with the personal skills to take their place in society, as responsible and decent adults; able to make a difference in a positive way.

At Woodhouse Grove, we believe education to be a liberating force. We want all our pupils to be confident and proud of their academic achievements; to be encouraged and supported to believe that there is no glass ceiling to their academic attainment.



In pursuing this mission, the School's activities, behaviours and decisions are underpinned by the following distinctive aims which are core to life at Woodhouse Grove.



To promote academic excellence and realise the full potential of every individual to be the best that they can be

To ensure all members of the school community reach and maintain their optimum physical, emotional and mental health

To foster mature, caring behaviour and high standards of social responsibility

To encourage leadership, adventure and self-discovery

To endorse the values of integrity, loyalty and commitment, and uphold the School's Christian heritage

To pursue excellence in the creative arts

To prepare our pupils for a world they will encounter when they leave school

To promote sporting excellence and develop fitness, well-being and healthy competition across the whole school



Woodhouse Grove remains incredibly proud of its rich history and Methodist heritage and continues to celebrate its legacy to this day. Our Grovian values are at the core of everything we do. Yet we are also a school with a modern outlook and a fresh approach.

Methodist Independent Schools Trust aims for schools:

to be caring Christian family communities committed to the development of the full potential of each individual, enabling pupils and staff to live their lives to the full and transform society for the better, to the glory of God

to attain high educational standards that meet the needs of all children and enable them to develop their talents and skills wherever they lie

to work with and in the communities they serve; providing an understanding and experience of service to all communities (local, national and global); promoting social justice and environmental sustainability

to uphold Christian values in practice as well as in theory; to make religious education a strong feature of the curriculum; worshipping in the Methodist tradition whilst welcoming and including people of all faiths and none

to counter prejudice and intolerance in whatever form that takes by encouraging mutual respect, understanding the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal, respecting not only the beauty of cultural diversity but also our common humanity

to encourage pupils in a critical examination of the standards and values current in society and to discover and develop a personal faith to guide them throughout their lives

to be beacons of inclusive excellence developing confident, resilient, considerate, tolerant and enthusiastic people who enjoy working with others and are willing and able to influence the world for good

Our Ambition

Woodhouse Grove's ambition is to achieve national and international recognition as the school of choice for parents seeking an outstanding all-round and full education for their children. We will achieve this by maximising academic outcomes in relation to ability, and by building on our existing strengths of pastoral excellence underpinned by state-of-the-art facilities and a breadth of opportunity.

We will ensure that all of our activities are focused on pupil benefit; that we invest in our estate and modern technology to provide outstanding facilities and learning resources; and that we maintain the financial sustainability required to deliver this.

An Outstanding Educational Experience

“At the heart of the School’s values are the promotion of academic and pastoral excellence; opportunity, breadth and challenge in the co-curriculum; and the cultivation of community, a love of life-long learning and an international outlook.”

James Lockwood, Headmaster



At Woodhouse Grove, we are firmly committed to providing a distinctive, full and whole person approach to education; one that seeks to inspire, enlighten and empower. Individualised teaching and learning, dedicated pastoral care, an exciting and wide-ranging co-curriculum and fantastic facilities, all combine powerfully to make for a special place to learn, live and grow.

Our aim is to offer our young people an outstanding educational experience encompassing the academic, pastoral and co-curricular aspects of School life. Excellence in teaching and learning is focused through seven whole school goals with the overall objective of discovering and developing the full potential within each individual:

Excellent outcomes: to ensure that academic potential is fulfilled and that pupils access the university or training opportunities of their choice

Positive relationships: to ensure that the wellbeing of pupils and staff is at the heart of decisions made in the School.

Bright, enquiring and independent minds: to ensure that pupils of every ability are stretched and challenged and that they take responsibility for, and enjoy, their own learning as well as accepting responsibility for their own behaviour.

Differentiated and innovative academic programmes: to ensure that Woodhouse Grove provides outstanding opportunities for pupils of a range of abilities.

A caring and connected community: to ensure that Woodhouse Grove develops each pupil’s identity within the year group and broader School community, supporting each person’s growth and development, retaining the distinctiveness of The Grove as a day and boarding school.

Balance and challenge in the co-curriculum: to further the Woodhouse Grove ethos, which identifies capacities in each young person and provides the nurturing and resources to unleash this potential.

Our place in the world: to ensure that concepts of place and context are challenged by changes in local, national and international communities.

With these seven goals in mind, we seek to promote and to cultivate Grovian values in all our students such that they leave school:

*Inquisitive and Curious
Enterprising and Resourceful
Kind and Generous
Honourable and Respectful
Committed and Resilient*

I am Grovian.



An Inspiring Place To Learn

*Our aim at Woodhouse Grove is to deliver a distinctive pupil experience founded upon the following **twelve points of differentiation** from the regional and national independent school competitor market:*

Rooted in the traditions and values of our Methodist founders, the School focuses on individual character and commitment, seeking to give all our young people the confidence to be the best that they can be.

A safe, self-contained 70-acre site sitting in the broad Aire Valley and enjoying a lovely rural setting which belies its convenient urban situation.

Realising the full potential of each individual through excellence in teaching and learning.

Being academically ambitious and academically sensitive.

An innovative Sixth Form Pathways programme that provides students with the flexibility to pursue various courses, to suit their own personal strengths and aptitudes, and that prepare them emotionally and academically for life beyond school – whether that be starting university, a degree apprenticeship or straight into the workplace.

A junior school, Brontë House, that enjoys its own facilities on a superb site situated half a mile from the Senior School, including a purpose-built Early Years provision, Ashdown Lodge, where staff endeavour to nurture a love of learning in pupils and encourage the children to be individuals and think and speak for themselves, whilst being empathetic to the needs of others.

A thriving, flexible, boarding community offering a broad social and cultural mix, ensuring the School has a national and global outlook which stretches well beyond the confines of local experience.

An excellent pastoral model with a clear focus on meeting the wellbeing needs of every pupil; our approach was endorsed in 2019 when Woodhouse Grove was the first independent school in the country to receive the Wellbeing Award for Schools. We are now the first independent school to be re-accredited for a further three years.

A friendly and purposeful community.

Being at the forefront of digital learning, learning resources and facilities in enhancing teaching and learning.

An acknowledged centre of sporting excellence.

A strong musical and dramatic tradition underpinned by state-of-the-art facilities and a breadth of opportunity.

Through creating an environment which promotes a transformative learning experience and allows all our young people to realise their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment, we are determined that our pupils should:

ENGAGE

Global citizens with an awareness of international issues and an appreciation of social and cultural complexities

INSPIRE

Passionate and caring young people with a clear vision, a strong set of values, and a love of life

CHALLENGE

Independent learners with bright and enquiring minds, and the confidence to succeed in a fast-moving digital world

LEAD

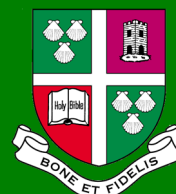
Leaders and team-players who possess the qualities of courage and integrity and value the importance of service

A Healthy Place To Live, To Study And To Work

Woodhouse Grove regards good mental and physical health not only as important for its own sake, but central to achieving all our aims and ambitions.

To this end, the School is committed to:

- Promoting the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff
- Teaching and promoting health and relationship issues through PSHEE lessons and beyond and preparing students for life after secondary education
- Providing appropriate facilities and services for pupils and staff
- Maintaining appropriate links with specialist agencies to help meet the health and wellbeing needs of the whole School community



School Shape And Size

The School is of an optimum size, allowing for the best of both worlds: small enough so that our children will be known well by every member of staff, not just by those that teach them; have every opportunity to take part in the activities of their choosing and learn in small class sizes; whilst also being large enough to ensure that we can compete with the very best in all extended areas of school life, offering a wide ranging curriculum, supplemented by a broad variety of extra-curricular activity.

It is the School's aim to ensure that Year 7 recruitment maintains optimum pupil numbers on a long term basis. In addition, following the re-development of our Sixth Form provision, to include our Pathways Programme, offering increased opportunities to students in line with the demands of the world today, it is the School's objective to grow numbers in Years 12 and 13.



The School is also set apart from its immediate competition by our thriving boarding community. Day pupils have the opportunity for flexible, occasional boarding, and can also have breakfast and their evening meal here at school; both of which are included in the fee. It is the School's aim to maintain a healthy balance of day and boarding pupils in order that the entire School community may benefit from the social, cultural and practical advantages that our boarding provision offers to School life.

The School remains committed to maintaining an excellent value for money approach to the quality of service provided, as well as maintaining a commitment to affordability issues, public benefit and being socially inclusive.



Supporting Sustainability

Our aim is to ensure that all strategic, Investment and development decisions focus on supporting the delivery of excellence in teaching and learning. In order to achieve this, the School will:

- implement robust financial systems and procedures, including debt collection; generate levels of surplus sufficient to meet the School's financial obligations and MIST's financial targets, and to support investment in the human, physical and intellectual resources of Woodhouse Grove; and optimise the profits generated by commercial lets through Woodhouse Grove Enterprises Limited without compromising the core activities of teaching and learning
- invest in the refurbishment and development of buildings, facilities, technology and learning resources
- recruit, develop and retain exceptional Teaching staff, Support staff and Governors with a cultural focus on teamwork and high performance

Social And Environmental Responsibility

The School remains committed to the delivery of charitable and socially responsible objectives, including:

- leading on the provision of public benefit through effective partnership with maintained schools, provision of means-tested and transformational bursaries and contribution to the national debate on education and wellbeing
- enhancing the regional economic impact of the School
- instilling a strong sense of environmental and social responsibility within the School community, delivering the MIST Sustainability Strategy and minimising the environmental footprint of the School site
- developing effective partnerships with all School stakeholders and in particular the local and regional community, our feeder schools, alumni, and parents.



I am Grovian