

# Fatfield Academy



Headteacher Tracey Pizl  
with the school council



Reception children love to learn  
in our forest school

**F**atfield School dates back to 1876. There have been many changes throughout the years, most recently in July 2016 when the school joined Inspire Multi Academy Trust. It now belongs to a family of five Sunderland primary schools. The trust

provides strong levels of support and challenge and a sense of security at a time of continuing change. The school is committed to providing their students with a voice and the school council won the 2018 Sunderland Young Achievers Award. Headteacher Tracey Pizl tells *The Parliamentary Review* more.

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I was first involved with the school in 2015 through a local authority secondment to provide short-term support and strategic leadership in a turbulent time. This required working with all stakeholders to identify an accurate evidence base for self-evaluation, identifying and actioning key priorities while developing distributed leadership. Whole-school behaviour systems were introduced, alongside an effective, robust data-tracking system. Inadequate teaching was swiftly eradicated while improving the quality of teaching through effective coaching and vigorous performance management.

After being appointed lead headteacher within Inspire Multi Academy Trust in September 2016, I was asked to return to lead Fatfield in September 2017. My first priority was to provide clear direction and re-establish the vision and values core to the school ethos. Staff were committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all pupils but needed stability at leadership level to move forward. Giving staff a voice and active listening were key. There is now a perceptible sense of teamwork among all of our staff, who are proud to work at our school and enjoy being part of the team.

## REPORT CARD FATFIELD ACADEMY

- » Headteacher: Tracey Pizl
- » Founded in 2016 as an academy
- » Located in Washington, Tyne and Wear
- » Type: Primary school
- » No. of pupils: 226
- » Ofsted rating: "Good"
- » Part of Inspire Multi Academy Trust
- » The school council won the 2018 Sunderland Young Achievers Award
- » [www.fatfieldacademy.co.uk](http://www.fatfieldacademy.co.uk)

THE PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW  
Highlighting best practice

Currently, there is a good balance of

Children at the heart

“We inspire children to achieve their dreams, to be successful and to develop a passion for life-long learning”

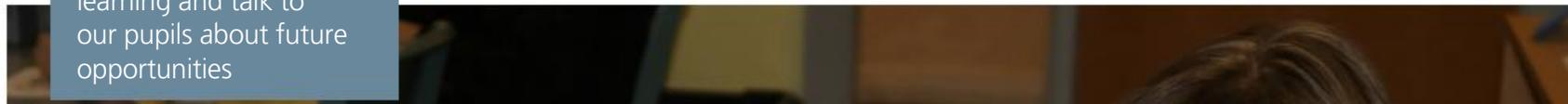
recently qualified and experienced staff, along with an extensive programme for identifying and meeting training needs. Staff development at school and trust level enables strong succession planning. Trust staff, at all levels, work in partnership, facilitating the strengthening of knowledge and skills and building accelerated capacity for improvement in the drive for excellence and outstanding outcomes.

Teachers plan creative lessons based on accurate knowledge of pupils' needs, ensuring appropriate challenge and support. Effective target setting supports a rigorous and robust tracking system to help pupils to reach their predicted targets. End of Key Stage 2 attainment for 2018 was above the national average for the expected standard in all subjects, and in KS1 all subjects were in line with or above the national average. In 2018, our KS2 progress measures met the national average.

At Fatfield, our motto is “Learning for life”, and our vision is for a school where everyone prides themselves on being at the heart of the community. We inspire children to achieve their dreams, to be successful and to develop a passion for life-long learning. The commitment to providing a nurturing, inspirational environment where each child feels happy and safe and is able to flourish is central to all we do. Strengthening of the pupil voice, through new teams of quality assurers, anti-bullying measures and class councils, has had a very positive impact on establishing consistently excellent attitudes to learning.

Children are at the core of everything we do; behaviour is excellent, and a strong pupil voice is an integral part of school improvement from the earliest age through the school council. They are proud of their achievements and enjoy developing the school environment and improving

Nissan engineers support learning and talk to our pupils about future opportunities





BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE



Head boy and head girl welcome our local MP

opportunities and experiences to enhance learning for all pupils. Our school council develop their own improvement plan; as a result, a forest school was introduced in 2018. This has enhanced our curriculum further and has provided exciting outdoor opportunities for the whole school.

Making a contribution to the community is a strong feature of our pupils' work. They are enthusiastic fundraisers and enjoy taking responsibility for arranging events throughout the year to raise money

design and make products, taking the process to a new level. Having seen the learning potential of using 3D printers from a professional visit to schools in China, I was keen to implement this at Fatfield.

In March 2018, we signed a partnership agreement with a school in Harbin, China. I visited the school and met staff and pupils, and we agreed to work collaboratively to learn together on a global scale. This year, we hope to welcome the headteacher to our school, with plans for student

Every child  
deserves the

for a range of causes. In recognition of the strong pupil voice, our school council received the Sunderland Young Achievers of the Year Award in March 2018.

## Preparation for the future

We recognise the need to prepare our children for a world of work steeped with new technology through welcoming a range of visitors to enhance opportunities. We promote Engineers Week and invite engineers from local company Nissan to talk to our pupils about future opportunities. In 2018, our children entered a regional competition to design products and were awarded Young Engineer Awards. The introduction of 3D printing has enabled pupils to

exchanges in the near future.

We aim to provide the very best for our pupils, but, at times, uncertainty with budget cuts can put a strain on future plans. With the support of the academy trust, however, we are able to provide opportunities to enable life-long learning to be developed, empowering pupils to achieve, regardless of their social or economic backgrounds. Every child deserves the right to a better future, and our vision is that our aspirations for all our children can be fully realised. We see Fatfield as being at the heart of a great community, and we are relentless and tenacious in our drive for excellence. Together, we look forward to a positive future.

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