



# WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TINY SEEDS NURSERY

## Recruitment Information



From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees

Proud to be part of Mercia Learning Trust



**Mercia**  
Learning Trust



**STAFF HAVE HIGH  
EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL  
CHILDREN AND PROVIDE CARE  
AND SUPPORT TO HELP CHILDREN  
ON THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE SCHOOL.**

**OFSTED, 2022**



**Mr Mark Bennett  
Headteacher**

## From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees

Welcome to Woodlands Primary School, where tiny seeds grow into mighty trees. We are a school and nursery catering to children aged 2-11, nestled in the heart of a vibrant south-Sheffield community, serving around 500 children. At Woodlands, we firmly believe in the potential of every child and are dedicated to their academic success while celebrating their personal achievements.

Our caring and welcoming school is characterised by compassion, enthusiasm, and the expertise of our team. We are here to guide, inspire,



and support each child on their unique educational journey.

Our meticulously designed, knowledge-rich curriculum is tailored to meet the unique needs of our

Woodlands community. This curriculum empowers our children to become articulate communicators, passionate readers, and socially inclusive individuals with impeccable



behaviour, equipping them with the knowledge, abilities, and confidence to excel in their education and thrive throughout their adult lives.

Every day, our children embark on a journey of wonder, language



development and new experiences. Our expert teachers carefully plan and sequence every subject area, always keeping the needs of our children at the heart of every decision.

What we can provide for you:

- Wonderful children who are polite, courteous, and a joy to teach!
- An outstanding staff profile, including excellent teachers, teaching assistants, and a specialised team dedicated to supporting children needs.
- A forward-thinking senior leadership team unwaveringly committed to improving outcomes for all children and developing the very best team.
- A curriculum framework and assessment system based on research and a deep understanding of our children.
- High quality continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities, both within our school and across our trust.

We invite you to become a part of the Woodlands family. If you share our belief in high expectations for all children, possess resilience and a strong work ethic, we would love to hear from you. We would love you show you round our inspirational school.



**Mr Neil Miley**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

We know that education is the key to a better future. It opens doors to employment, improves health and gives young people a sense of purpose. But for many pupils, there are barriers in their way. Our job, alongside families, is to remove those barriers and provide the support, challenge, and guidance children need to achieve. If we get it right for our pupils, we help to improve our local and national community for everyone.



Our seven schools (four primary and three secondary) are very effective, continuously improving, and over-subscribed. Several are sector leading at a city, regional and national level, and there is much expert practice.

We are proud that our schools are inclusive, warm, welcoming places where all pupils feel happy, safe and are able to flourish. For us, flourishing means being part of a vibrant school community, where exceptional behaviour, kindness and respect are the norm, and where

pupils want to work hard and succeed. Our trust is especially focused on our most vulnerable children.

We operate within a model we call 'Aligned Autonomy'. Each school retains its authentic identity, in its own context and community, and we celebrate difference. The common theme is that we all embrace an improvement journey through which we become exceptional. This means leaders and staff share similar challenges, and often work together to find common and scalable solutions.

We employ a diverse and exceptional staff across the full range of teaching, non-teaching, and leadership roles. We are acutely aware that these are our greatest asset. We cannot prosper as schools or a trust, and fulfil our mission for children, unless we can recruit, develop, promote, and retain the very best people. We also understand the importance of attracting new entrants into teaching. Therefore, we are a substantial provider of Initial Teacher Training and provide fantastic support for early career teachers.

We understand that working within schools is rewarding and fast moving, but also demanding. We promote ethical leadership to ensure strong support and professional development, coupled with a commitment to wellbeing and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Mercia Learning Trust is a great trust with a clear vision, robust schools, effective central functions, and is led by talented staff and leaders. We have a strong identity, a positive culture, and an effective model of operation. Our scale and location enable us to function as a close-knit network and family of schools and professionals. While we are pleased with our current position, our trustees are ambitious for further development and improvement.



Working for our trust also offers the opportunity to reside in the vibrant city of Sheffield, renowned for its sports, leisure, and cultural activities. Sheffield boasts more parks, open spaces, and trees than any other city in the UK. Additionally, the picturesque Peak District National Park borders the west of the city.

We welcome applications from those who subscribe to our mission and values, and in turn we commit to being a trust where staff can prosper, flourish, and build their career.

# OUR CRITICAL QUESTIONS



## WHY DO WE EXIST?

To empower everyone in our communities, especially the most disadvantaged, to succeed.

### We are kind

Showing care and supporting each other.

### We have integrity

Doing the right thing and always putting children first.

### We work with diligence

Overcoming obstacles and having no excuses.

## HOW DO WE BEHAVE?



### A culture of excellence

High standards shaped by clarity, not control.

### Academic focus

Empowering all children through an exceptional curriculum.

### Purposeful collaboration

Relationships built on trust, reducing sub-optimisation and driving collective success.



## WHAT DO WE DO?

We run schools that focus on academic excellence, cultural capital and the development of character.

## HOW WILL WE SUCCEED?



# SURVEY RESULTS



*"In our school everyone genuinely cares for one another. Our school is very much at the heart of our community, and I feel the benefits of that every day."*



*"I value the supportive behaviour policy which minimises disruption and maximises learning."*



*"I work with a great team of people who go above and beyond to provide the best educational experience for pupils who attend our school."*



*"I really appreciate the community of pupils that attend our school. They make me feel valued and respected, and I feel privileged to be able to have a positive impact on their learning."*



**JOB SATISFACTION AMONG OUR STAFF IS 14% HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**



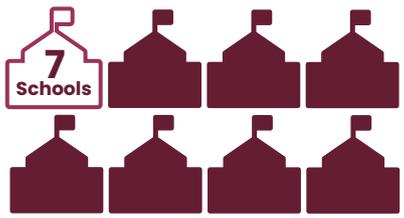
**PUPIL BEHAVIOUR IS RATED 21% BETTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**



**13% MORE STAFF THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE WOULD RECOMMEND OUR TRUST AS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK.**

Based on results of 76% of our trust surveyed by Edurio in 2025, which is 13% higher than the average response rate. Edurio benchmark results against nearly 70000 other staff nationally.

# WHO WE ARE



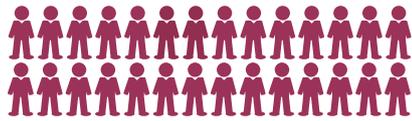
4  
OUTSTANDING  
Schools



3  
GOOD  
Schools



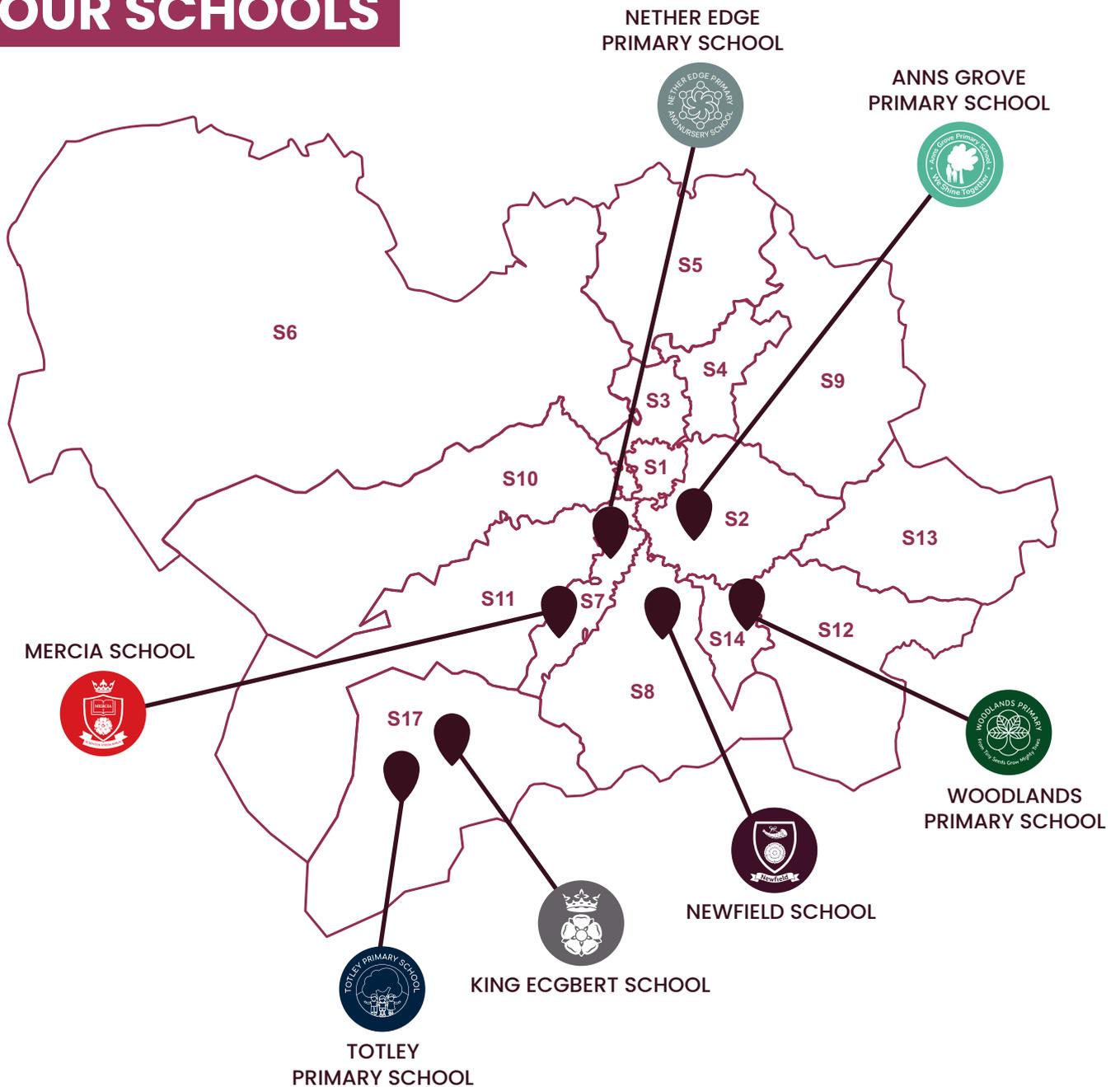
close to  
**5500**  
pupils



over  
**650**  
Staff



## OUR SCHOOLS





# REASONS TO JOIN WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 1 UNIQUENESS

"Working at Woodlands is different from working in other schools. It is so unique, warm, welcoming and everybody is treated fairly and with respect."



## 2 COMMUNITY

"I have worked at Woodlands for 17 years and see my future here too. It's like a family."



## 3 INCLUSIVITY

"I love working at Woodlands for many reasons, but mainly because I get to work as part of a team who prioritise inclusion and meeting the needs of every single child."



## 4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Working at Woodlands Primary School brings a wide range of professional opportunities with a clear commitment to continuous professional development and professional growth. The leadership team are all extremely supportive and invest time in staff."



## 5 UNITY

"The team at Woodlands are resilient, professional, hardworking and care and look after each other. I couldn't imagine working anywhere else."



## 6 FORWARD-THINKING

"I have worked for Woodlands Primary School since 2006 and see a strong future here. Our trust and school are outward facing, forward-thinking, research-led, well-informed and work collaboratively."



## 7 TEAMWORK

"Working as part of a team here is more than just cooperation; it's true camaraderie. The entire staff team prioritises collaboration and supporting one another. We come together to create an environment where every child's needs are met, and this teamwork extends beyond the classroom. The sense of unity among the staff is what makes Woodlands a truly special place to work."

# 8 WORKLOAD

“Workload at Woodlands Primary School is really manageable. I’ve been teaching here for several years, and the school’s commitment to a balanced workload is truly refreshing. Woodlands makes it possible to give my best to my children whilst maintaining a healthy work-life balance.”



# 9 COLLABORATION

“Mercia Learning Trust is committed to bringing out the best in everyone. It is such a supportive networking, and we have really valuable opportunities to collaborate with practitioners in other settings across our trust.”



# 10 CHALLENGE

“I love the challenge of how every day is different at Woodlands. How can you not love a job where there are 30 children who are excited to come to school and work with you every day?”



**STAFF ENJOY WORKING AT THE SCHOOL. THEY ENJOY THE SUPPORT AND OPEN DIALOGUE THEY HAVE WITH LEADERS. STAFF FEEL LISTENED TO AND APPRECIATE THE MEASURES LEADERS TAKE TO REDUCE THEIR WORKLOAD.**

OFSTED, 2022



**WE EXIST TO  
EMPOWER EVERYONE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES,  
ESPECIALLY THE  
DISADVANTAGED  
TO SUCCEED.**

# BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR MERCIA LEARNING TRUST



## MISSION

Shared mission and values.



## WELLBEING & WORKLOAD

We value our staff and support them to be happy in their careers. We actively aim to reduce workload.



## ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

We are kind – showing care and supporting each other. We have integrity – doing the right thing and always putting children first. We work with diligence – overcoming obstacles and having no excuses.



## CAREER PROGRESSION

Accelerated progression opportunities within our trust.



## COACHING

We are proud to be a trust promoting the use of coaching to support everyone's development.



## GREAT SCHOOLS

Our schools excel and continuously improve, with sector-leading expertise and diverse catchments. This provides staff with valuable insights across a range of age groups and educational approaches.



## INDUCTION

Comprehensive support via a mentor to ensure all new staff (incl. ECTs) can flourish in their role.



## IT

Up to date IT equipment, with dedicated support through our centralised team.



## CPD

Exceptional CPD from within your school, from our trust and outside. This includes an annual trust conference.



## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Cycle to work, reduced rates for Westfield Health, Specsavers eye care scheme, childcare voucher scheme, occupational health support and free optional annual flu vaccination.



## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Numerous opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from across our trust on a range of projects.



## PENSION

Access to a secure and flexible Teacher's or Local Government pension scheme.

Further information about our trust can be found at [merciatrust.co.uk](https://merciatrust.co.uk)



## STAFF TESTIMONIALS

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO

WORK FOR

OUR TRUST?

I FEEL LIKE I MATTER TO

MY SCHOOL AND OUR TRUST.

MERCIA LEARNING TRUST SEES

ITS STAFF AS ITS GREATEST

ASSET, WHICH MAKES ME FEEL

HUGELY APPRECIATED.

THE SECURITY I FEEL IN

MY ROLE IS PRICELESS.

NIKKI CROOKES, TEACHING ASSISTANT,

TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



“The leadership team are so supportive and are always happy to provide guidance and assistance. Behaviour systems that are in place just allow you to teach and focus on what is happening in the classroom.”

Amy Hardie, Assistant Headteacher,  
King Egbert School



“The ability to tap into a wealth of exceptional talent and expertise across primary and secondary settings has sharpened our practice in so many ways. At the same time, the mantra of ‘aligned autonomy’ allows each school to flourish and display its own character.”

Ben Paxman, Headteacher,  
Totley Primary School



“What attracted me to Mercia Learning Trust was the forward thinking approach to education and CPD, and our trust’s willingness to embrace the best new strategies, techniques and educational research to better meet our pupils’ needs.”

Josh Bennett, Teacher,  
Nether Edge Primary School



“I decided to work for Mercia Learning Trust because it considers students, as well as staff, as its greatest assets. I get a sense of satisfaction that what I do is recognised and valued by my employer. Our trust aims to secure staff and student wellbeing as a top priority.”

Sharjeel Jalal, Teacher,  
King Egbert School



“What attracted me to joining our trust was the large and diverse community where there is equal representation.”

Emma Dibie, Teaching Assistant,  
Nether Edge Primary School



“Mercia Learning Trust is committed to bringing out the best in everyone, through giving us the tools to build our skills, expertise and knowledge. It is such a supportive network, and we have really valuable opportunities to collaborate with practitioners in other settings across our trust.”

Joe Tremble, Teacher,  
Woodlands Primary School



[woodlands.sheffield.sch.uk](http://woodlands.sheffield.sch.uk)  
[enquiries@woodlands.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodlands.sheffield.sch.uk)



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