

Annual Academy Report for parents and carers 2017-2018



Academy name	Thornton Primary School
Address	Thornton Road, Thornton, Bradford, BD13 3NN
Telephone	01274 833839
Email address	Thornton.office@focus-trust.co.uk
Website	www.thorntonprimary.co.uk
Principal	Mrs Elizabeth Davison
Chair of Governors	Mrs Amanda Cade / Mr Simon Willis
Number of pupils % capacity	88%

What the Focus-Trust have to say about our Academy

Representatives from the Focus-Trust have evaluated the work and effectiveness of Thornton Primary School since February 2017. The Focus-Trust evaluates that Thornton Primary School provides a good and improving standard of education for all pupils. The leaders of the academy, including governors, are ambitious and are committed to setting high expectations to consistently improve outcomes for all pupils. Pupils' progress is improving due to good teaching, assessment and an inspiring, broad and balanced curriculum bespoke to pupils' needs. Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is good and pupils state they feel safe. Safeguarding is effective. The Focus Trust endorses the self-evaluation and will continue to work with the academy in the next academic year (July 2018).

Our key successes this year

- Developing the use of quality text throughout the curriculum – this involves choosing books which are really engaging and planning English and other curriculum learning opportunities around this. It has been key to improvements in the teaching of English and in developing the wider curriculum.
- Development of metacognition – using the ReflectED approach, staff and children have really engaged in learning about learning and this is having good impact on the quality of teaching and in helping the children understand how they learn and that this is a lifelong process which will never end. They are beginning to appreciate that if they have not mastered something they are at the start of a learning journey, and they will get better if they practise.
- Behaviour – we have worked hard in difficult financial circumstances to build a staff team who cope well with extremely challenging behaviour. Whole school practice has moved to a more nurturing model with special provision for some children who really need this.

Progress on our priorities for the past year

Target	How did we do?
Improve the quality of teaching	We worked hard to embed teaching strategies and introducing our metacognition project to strengthen good practice across school.
Improve pupils' progress	Teachers' good practice has helped to improve pupils' progress. We did not manage to reach national expectations at the end of Year 6 but the children in Year 6 made extremely good progress. Children in most other year groups made good progress too.
Develop our curriculum	Using different books, both fiction and non-fiction, we have created an exciting curriculum for our children which we intend to build on over the coming year.
Develop provision in Early Years	New strategies were introduced which have had a positive impact in Early Years. Our outcomes have risen and the gap between the attainment achieved by boys and girls has narrowed.
Develop opportunities to involve parents more in children's learning	We have provided more opportunities: book worm sessions, maths, English and phonics sessions for EYFS and KS1, Art days, Science days etc. We will continue to develop these over the coming year and publish dates in advance.

Academy Key Performance Indicators as agreed with Focus-Trust

KPI	01.09.2017 to 06.07.2018	RAG	Notes
Attendance %	95%		(96%+ Green, 90-95% Amber, Below 90% Red)
Punctuality	This has improved but there are still many children collecting a late ticket. If most of these children arrive just 5 minutes earlier, it would avoid this.		Doors are open between 8.45-8.50am. Please ensure your child is in the school grounds just before 8.45am. Thank you.

What parents/carers told us and what we did about it

- Some parents felt strongly that educational visits are costly and that in some year groups they happen too often. We have set out guidelines for staff this year so that there should only be one major visit for each year group, planned as far in advance as possible, to allow parents time to pay in instalments if they wish. Cheaper visits will be planned, but again, with plenty of notice.
- Parents have told us that they enjoy seeing their children taking part in school activities that are shared on social media. However, sometimes it can be upsetting if their child is missing from a photograph or the class does not feature regularly on social media. We have asked staff to send regular updates when they are doing activities and photographs are taken. Also, at least one photograph per day will be posted when children are on residential visits.
- Parents are annoyed that our text messaging service sends texts from a random number. To find all the texts in one place, parents can download an app for teachers2parents and all the messages are there.

What pupils told us and what we did about it

- Many children have had specific ideas about raising money for different causes and have planned their own fund-raising events.
- Children have told us what they would like to use at breaks and lunchtimes and we have bought new equipment.
- Children said that they would prefer something different for their reward at the end of term, so we booked a magician.

Our priorities for next year

Target	How will we will do this?
Further strengthen our quality of teaching.	We will work with other schools in the Trust to share our own expertise and learn from others. We also want to develop the use of our IRIS technology which enables staff to record their practice and analyse it later.
Strengthen the learning culture within school to reflect a strong moral purpose.	Further develop metacognition through the Reflected project and involve parents in the SeeSaw app if we can. We are also going to revise the way that we feed back to children about their learning and develop our science curriculum. British Values will feature strongly in all that we do in school.
Provide an inspiring, broad and balanced curriculum with wider opportunities for all children.	We are going to look at how we can create opportunities for outdoor learning in to all areas of our curriculum. We are also working hard this year to develop leadership of the wider curriculum so that we can track standards and make further improvements.
Improve the health and well-being of all children and staff.	All teachers have received some mental health first aid training for children and we have a qualified mental health first aider on our staff. A task team will identify strategies that can be used throughout school to aid our health and well-being.
Improve all pupil outcomes in Reading, Writing and Maths.	We will have regular pupil progress meetings and consider where we need to target any interventions. We will also consider any groups of children who need different

Ofsted inspection

All schools and academies in England are inspected by Ofsted.

The report from all inspection can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk

