



# 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  
PUPILS AND PROVIDE CARE  
AND SUPPORT TO HELP PUPILS  
ON THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE SCHOOL.**

**OFSTED, 2022**



**Mrs Lauren Johnstone**  
**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 pupils. At Woodlands, we firmly believe in the potential of every child and are dedicated to their academic success while celebrating their personal achievements.

Our dedicated team of educators, characterised by compassion, enthusiasm, and expertise, are at the forefront of our mission. 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 pupils 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 interests and needs of our pupils at the heart of every decision.



What we can provide for you:

- An outstanding staff profile, including excellent teachers, teaching assistants, and a specialised team dedicated to supporting children with complex needs.
- A forward-thinking Senior Leadership Team unwaveringly committed to improving outcomes for all children.
- A trust curriculum framework and assessment system based on research and a deep understanding of our pupils.
- Numerous Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, both within our school and across the trust.
- Wonderful children who are polite, courteous, and a joy to teach!

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. At Woodlands Primary School, we offer an exceptional staff package, a high-quality curriculum, and a team of talented staff members to support you. Additionally, we provide numerous trust-wide opportunities, including an annual trust conference featuring keynote speakers.



**Mr Chris French**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Realising Potential. Transforming Lives.

At Mercia Learning Trust, we believe that if education is about anything, it is about social mobility and social justice. We are a 2-18+ cross-phase Trust based in south and southwest Sheffield, serving a range of diverse communities. Our mission is simple: to ensure every child, irrespective of background, starting point or need, attends an exceptional school.



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.

The 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, are a substantial provider of Initial Teacher Training and provide fantastic support for Early Career Teachers.

We expect a great deal from staff and 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 well-being and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

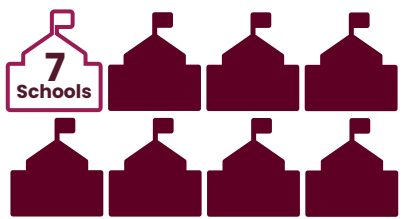
MLT is a great Trust with a clear vision, robust schools, effective central functions, and is led by talented staff and leaders. We have a strong identity, a positive culture, and an effective model of operation. Our scale and location enable us to function as a close-knit network and family of schools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



Working for the 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.

# WHO WE ARE



4  
OUTSTANDING  
Schools



3  
GOOD  
Schools



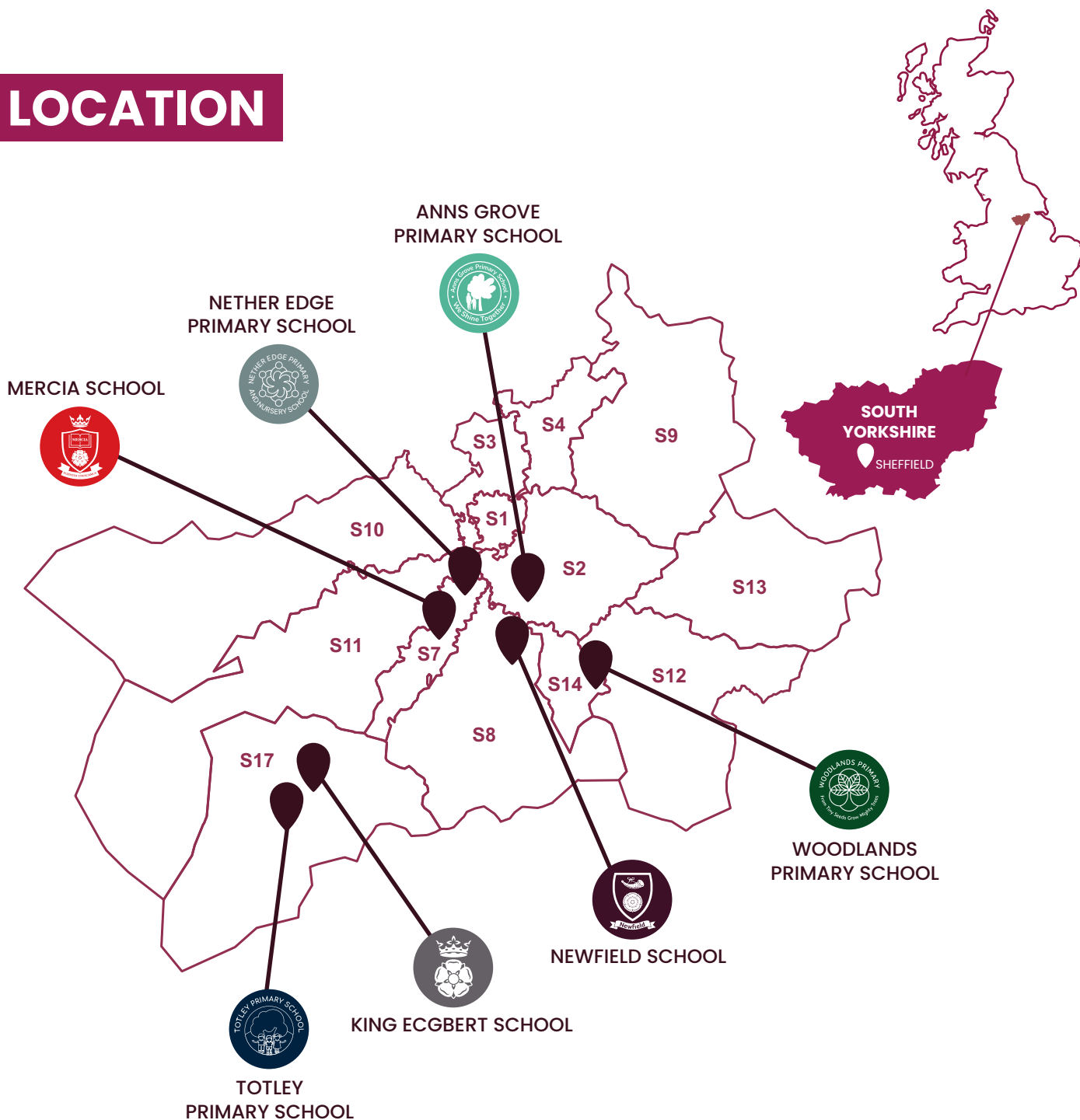
close to  
**5000**  
pupils



over  
**600**  
Staff



## LOCATION





# 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 schools within the trust since 2006 and see a strong future here. The 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 pupils 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 the 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**



**AT MLT, ALL OF THE SCHOOLS  
ALIGN AROUND WHAT MATTERS  
THE MOST AND THE TRUST  
ITSELF HAS THREE PRIORITIES;  
TO DEVELOP GREAT SCHOOLS,  
BE A GREAT TRUST AND BE  
A GREAT EMPLOYER.**

**'HARNESSING SYNERGY, MAINTAINING INDIVIDUALITY'  
TWINKL EDUCATION, 2022**



# BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR MERCIA LEARNING TRUST



## MISSION

Shared mission and values.



## ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Our leaders exemplify professionalism, integrity, commitment, kindness, respect, positivity, support, service, courage, and vision. They always prioritise the best interests of children.



## 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.



## FIRST CLASS STAFF

You will be part of an ambitious, able, and committed staff team working within our schools and across the Trust.



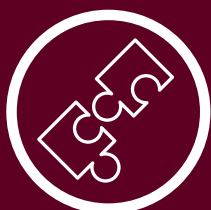
## INDUCTION

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



## CPD

Exceptional CPD from within your school, from the Trust and outside. This includes an annual Trust conference.



## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Numerous opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from across the Trust on a range of projects.



## APPRAISAL

Effective annual and on-going support, appraisal, and career conversations.



## WELL-BEING & WORKLOAD

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



## CAREER PROGRESSION

Accelerated progression opportunities within the Trust.



## SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Well-equipped and maintained buildings with safe working environments.



## IT

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



## 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.



## PENSION

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



**STAFF TESTIMONIALS**

**WHAT IS IT LIKE TO**

**WORK FOR**

**THE TRUST?**

**I FEEL LIKE I MATTER TO  
MY SCHOOL AND THE 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 Dabinett, 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 the Trust’s willingness to embrace the best new strategies, techniques and educational research to better meet our pupils’ needs.”

Colin Gough, 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. The Trust aims to secure staff and student well-being as a top priority.”

Sharjeel Jalal, Teacher,  
King Egbert School



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

Emma Dibie, Teaching Assistant,  
Nether Edge Primary School

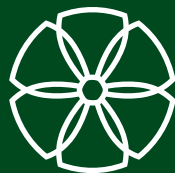


“Mercia Learning Trust is committed to bringing out the best in everyone, through giving us the tools to build our skills, expertise and knowledge. It is such a supportive network, and we have really valuable opportunities to collaborate with practitioners in other settings across the Trust.”

Joe Tremble, Teacher,  
Woodlands Primary School



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



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