



Wilmslow High School Governance Report

Academic Year 2024–2025

New Headteacher Appointment

Mrs Christina Kane was appointed as Headteacher of Wilmslow High School, effective from September 2024. The recruitment process focused on securing a leader who could uphold and advance the school's ethos of "A Whole Education for Every Student."

Key qualities included strategic vision for leading a large, complex secondary school, commitment to inclusive education and character development, and the ability to foster high expectations and strong relationships across the school community.

Since her appointment, Mrs Kane has introduced several initiatives including a renewed emphasis on professional conduct, integrity, and empathy; strengthening of the "We're All Reading @ Wilmslow" literacy campaign; and enhanced focus on student wellbeing and leadership development through enrichment and character education.

OFSTED Report

In the January 2025 inspection, Wilmslow High School maintained its overall rating of Good. Standout comments included pupils being "inspired to be successful" and "proud of the school's inclusive culture."

The curriculum was described as "meticulously designed" and inclusive of SEND students. Recommendations focused on improving consistency in identifying learning gaps and misconceptions, particularly for pupils with lower attendance.

In response, the school has strengthened formative assessment practices, expanded reading support pathways for struggling readers, and invested in attendance improvement strategies, especially for disadvantaged and SEND pupils.

Building Projects

A major expansion was completed in July 2024, including a 1,500m² single-storey extension to accommodate a 12-form entry, a state-of-the-art sports barn, internal remodelling of the technology department, and upgrades to car parks and a new drop-off area.

These developments have increased student capacity from 300 to 360 places in each year group, enhanced specialist teaching spaces particularly in technology and sports, and improved accessibility and flow across the campus.

Student Outcomes

GCSE outcomes are strong; in 2024 74% of students achieved a grade 4 or higher in English and Maths. This rose to 75% in 2025. In 2024 the Progress 8 value for the school was 0.16, above the LA and National average of -0.03.

At KS5 the progress score was 0.16. This is above the national average of -0.03. In 2025 provisional data shows that progress increased further to 0.36.

School Popularity and Oversubscription

Wilmslow High School remains one of the most oversubscribed secondary schools in the region. For the 2025–2026 academic year, 431 first-preference applications were received for 360 available places.

Contributing factors include strong academic outcomes, inclusive ethos, recent infrastructure improvements, and a reputation for excellence in pastoral care, enrichment opportunities, and character education.

NLE Review

The school invited a National Leader of Education (NLE) in Spring 2025 to review the schools provision. The report highlights its inclusive culture and commitment to removing barriers to learning.

Wilmslow High School is recognized for early identification and targeted support for SEND students, full integration of SEND pupils into all aspects of school life, and staff training and specialist expertise to support diverse learning needs.

Governor Recruitment

Four new governors have joined the board in the past 12 months, filling vacancies in co-opted positions. The board now comprises 12 of 16 possible members.

New governors bring expertise in finance, education policy, and community engagement. Recent governance developments include strengthened oversight of strategic planning and curriculum development, enhanced communication channels between governors and school leadership, and continued commitment to diversity and inclusion in board representation.

Additional School Highlights

Wilmslow High School's guiding principle is "A Whole Education for Every Student," reflecting a commitment to developing not only academic success but also character, confidence, and personal growth. The school uses Firefly, a digital platform that supports independent learning, homework tracking, and communication between students, staff, and families.

The weekly newsletter High Notes celebrates student achievements, curriculum highlights, and upcoming events, serving as a vital link between the school and its wider community.

The Sixth Form offers a broad academic program alongside leadership and enrichment opportunities. The wider curriculum includes sports, music, drama, clubs, character education, personal development, and student leadership and volunteering initiatives.

Wilmslow High School also hosts regular events such as Open Evenings, parent workshops, and collaborative activities with local organisations and feeder schools.