



Springmoor Grange School Governor Newsletter

December 2024 Edition

Who Are We?

Pam Sneath – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Governors and Child in Care Lead

Dave Stone – Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of Finance and Resources

Anna Bowden – Headteacher

Debra Swinburn – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Leadership and Management

Wendy Hall – Local Authority Governor, Chair of Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Committee and SEND Lead

Nicola Milne - Co-opted Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Laura Simpson—Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Paul Wilson - Co-opted Governor

Gary Robinson - Co-opted Governor

Jayne Phillips— Acting Deputy Headteacher and Associate Governor

Hannah Shepherd - Assistant Headteacher—Associate Governor

Michelle Bowman - Assistant Headteacher—Associate Governor

Tracey Jackson - School Business Manager—Associate Governor

Opening of Springmoor Grange School

We successfully moved into our new school during August and opened the doors to the children, on time, on the 9th September 2024. The children were all excited to explore and settled very quickly into their new classes. We are very proud of them! Thank you to the staff for ensuring that SGS was ready for learning to take place - it was a huge task packing and unpacking over 400 crates! A fantastic team effort!

Election of new Staff Governor

Following an election, we are pleased to welcome Miss Laura Simpson to join us as the Staff Governor. As you know, Miss Simpson is our Parent Support Advisor and the knowledge and skill set she brings from this role will enhance our Governing Board further.

Friends of Springmoor Grange School

Our newly formed Friends of SGS, led by Miss Simpson, have worked together to plan events to raise funds for the school. They have already raised over £1500 through successful Halloween events, selling refreshments at our Christmas performances and organising a Christmas raffle. A huge thank you to the Friends for their support and we look forward to supporting further events in 2025.

Christmas Performances

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into SGS for the wonderful Christmas performances this year. All of the children took to the stage so well and it was clear that we have lots of talented actors and singers in our team. Thank you to the staff and parents for your support in making sure these important events happen.

Springmoor Traffic and Travel Update

The Governors were delighted to hear that a School Crossing Patrol was agreed by Durham County Council at the end of October. This followed work from parents, staff, Governors and Councillors to raise awareness of the need for this on Durham Road. Liz Allison has been appointed into the post and started work a couple of weeks ago. We encourage everyone say hello to Liz in your way to and from school and the road safely with her.

The Traffic and Travel Working Party will be sending out a follow-up survey in January to gather parent/carer views following the move and to explore further initiatives.

Out and About in the Community

The Springmoor Songbirds have been busy over the last couple weeks performing for different members of our local community, including the Mayor's Carol Concert and visiting local care homes. The children were all fantastic ambassadors and showed great kindness towards the community. Thank you to Miss Todd and Miss Simpson for organising.

Merry Christmas!

Finally, we would like to thank the children, parents, carers and staff for their hard work, support and dedication and we wish you all a healthy and happy festive period.

Merry
Christmas

What do the Governors do?

We have three core functions which are:

- Giving the school a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

School Improvement Priorities 2024—2025

The Quality of Education:

More Able

To ensure that the curriculum and the way it is implemented allows pupils, especially the most able, to learn in greater depth.

Reading

To sustain a reading curriculum which promotes a love of reading, develops children's reading fluency and understanding and increases the percentage of children working at and beyond age-related expectations.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

To enhance the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling curriculum in order to develop the children's skills and increase the percentage of children working at and beyond age-related expectations.

Wider Curriculum

To further refine its foundation curriculum to ensure that there is greater precision in planning for mixed-aged classes.

Leadership and Management:

Transition and Amalgamation

To ensure that the Quality of Education remains at least good during the initial transition period and the ethos and values are fully embedded at Springmoor Grange School.

Stakeholder Engagement

To continue to effectively engage with pupils and others in their community, including, when relevant, parents, employers and local services.

Personal Development:

Cultural Capital

To embed Cultural Capital across the curriculum from Nursery to Year 6.

British Values and Protected Characteristics

To continue to promote and develop children's understanding of British Values and the Protected Characteristics.

Behaviour and Attitudes:

Attendance

To reduce the number of persistent absentees and close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged.

Early Years:

More Able

To ensure the Early Years curriculum provides opportunities for children to explore areas of learning in greater depth, both through adult led tasks and independent learning opportunities.

Curriculum Development

To ensure the school's ENRICHED values are woven through the EYFS curriculum, to support the effective development of children's learning behaviours.

How can we be contacted?

If you would like to speak to a member of the Governing Body, then messages can be passed on via the school office or through emailing the Chair of Governors at p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net

Where can I find out more about the Governing Body?

More information can be found on the website below:

www.springmoor.uk

Future Updates

Our next Governor Newsletter will be at the end of the Spring Term 2025.

