



## Springmoor Grange School Governor Newsletter

December 2025 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 Attendance Lead

Anna Bowden – Headteacher

Debra Swinburn – Co-opted Governor

Wendy Hall – Local Authority Governor, and SEND Lead

Nicola Milne - Co-opted Governor and Premiums Lead

Laura Simpson—Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Co-opted Governor

Liam Clough—Co-opted Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Paul Wilson - Co-opted Governor

Gary Robinson - Co-opted Governor and Inclusion Lead

Jade Franklin - Parent Governor

Craig Armstrong - Parent Governor

Jayne Phillips— Deputy Headteacher and Associate Governor

Hannah Shepherd - Assistant Headteacher—Associate Governor

Michelle Bowman - Assistant Headteacher—Associate Governor

Tracey Jackson - School Business Manager—Associate Governor

### Busy Term

The first term of the academic year is always a busy one with children settling in to new classes and routines, parental engagement events and also the Christmas cheer that is spread at the end. Well done to the children for their hard work and effort in lessons - the Governors enjoy popping into to school and chatting with children and staff about what they have been learning about. We are looking forward to more Governor visits in the Spring Term.

### New Parent Governors

As you know, we advertised for a Parent Governor to come forward via the school newsletter. We are pleased to share with you that two Parent Governors have been appointed and we welcome Jade Franklin and Craig Armstrong to our Governing Board.

### Christmas at Springmoor

Our very first SGS Christmas Fayre was a huge success. We were overwhelmed with how many people, from within and outside of our school community, attended and supported. A huge thank you to the staff and Friends of Springmoor Grange for organising it and giving up their weekend. We appreciate the support for Team SGS.

### Christmas Performances

It has once again been a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into SGS for the wonderful Christmas performances . 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. It is always special to watch our youngest children perform their first nativity and our oldest their final Christmas performance of Primary. We would like to thank North East Doors for providing funding for microphones—it made a huge difference. Thank you to the staff, parents and carers for your support in making sure these important events happen.

### 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 our community. Thank you to Miss Todd and Miss Simpson for organising.

### Merry Christmas!

Finally, we would like to thank the children, families and staff for their hard work, support and dedication and we wish you all a healthy and happy festive period and best wishes for 2026.



## 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 2025—2026

### Leadership and Governance:

**Engagement** - To effectively engage with parents and carers in order to support pupils' achievements and wellbeing.

**Staff Wellbeing** - To ensure that staff's wellbeing is of high priority and that workload is sustainable and proportionate.

### Achievement:

To increased attainment and progress so that children achieve broadly in line with national averages in tests and examinations.

### Curriculum and Teaching:

**English** - To refine the teaching of reading and writing to ensure that children develop the skills they need to make good progress in writing across the curriculum and increase the percentage of children working at and beyond age related expectations.

**Knowledge and Skills** - To ensure children develop detailed knowledge and skills across the wider curriculum.

### Behaviour and Attendance:

**Behaviour** - To design and embed a new, consistent approach to behaviour in order to maintain high expectations for all pupil's behaviours and attitudes across all points in the school day.

**Attendance** - To continue to prioritise attendance and punctuality and take steps to identify and tackle barriers in order to have sustained high attendance.

### Personal Development and Wellbeing:

**Equality and Diversity** - To provide children with meaningful opportunities to explore the importance of equal opportunity and respect for diversity in order to prepare children to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society.

**Careers** - To implement and embed a Careers-Related Learning programme that is fully integrated into the curriculum from Nursery to Year 6.

### Inclusion:

**Provision** - To adapt support and provision to ensure that children with SEND are receiving effective support and intervention in order to improve achievement and wellbeing.

**Adaptive Teaching** - To ensure that all groups, including SEND, disadvantaged and more able, are accessing high-quality teaching with inclusive adaptations and targeted interventions.

### Early Years:

**Curriculum Development** - To ensure that the curriculum in the two year old provision is adapted to meet the needs of both 15 and 30 hour children.

**Transition** - To ensure that by the end of Reception, children are ready to begin Year 1 and more formalised learning.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.springmoor.uk)

## Future Updates

Our next Governor Newsletter will be at the end of the Spring Term 2026.

