



Governor News

Autumn 2025

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the new look and more simplified Governor News!

We hope that children and families who joined both our newly established nursery, as well as Foundation in September have had a successful first term here at Brookside and that your little ones have settled well. You can rest assured that they have the best start to their schooling journey by being here with us!

Older children will have transitioned to new year groups in different classrooms with possibly different teachers and are hopefully enjoying new challenges in their learning.

What Do Governors Do?

We always begin our first Governor News of the school year by explaining a bit about who we are and what we do, for those who are new to Brookside. Considering the pivotal role that governors play within every school in the country, it's surprising how little people know about our existence, despite the fact that governors make up the largest volunteer group in the UK.

The Governing Body beavers away, often behind the scenes, and is made up of the Chair (that's me, Reesha Armstead), the Vice Chair (Jason Billin), three staff governors (Mr Kenny, Mr Beharral and Mr Shilton who has just recently joined us) and others from the parent and local community.

Being an academy of Equals Trust, we are directly accountable to them, as well as to the Department for Education and Ofsted. We sit in between the Trust and the school to uphold its values and ethos, whilst ensuring that it delivers an effective and high quality education. The day to day running of the school is the responsibility of the

Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team while governors are responsible for the school's strategic direction by continually monitoring and evaluating every aspect of school life.

Every year we allocate Link Roles between the governors so that everyone has a particular area, or areas, that they are responsible for reporting on to both the Governing Body and to Equals Trust. These include the Curriculum and Pupil Performance, the implementation of the School Improvement Plan, Attendance, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety, Performance Management, School Development and Pupil Groups. We establish a schedule for governors to meet with relevant members of staff in order to collect information and complete monitoring reports.

The Governing Body meets six times a year (once every half term) and receives reports from both Equals Trust and the Headteacher, to keep abreast of what is happening in school. We encourage questions and constructive challenge in order to hold the school leadership to account and to get the very best for our children.

Fond Farewells

This term, we have said goodbye to two of our long-standing governors. Tim Green (Trust Governor) has been with us for 9 years and Sarah Evans (Staff Governor) for a staggering 23 years! Both have made enormous contributions to the work of the Governing Body and to the school.

We will miss their invaluable insights and expertise and send them our very best wishes.

We are delighted to welcome Lee Shilton (Year 1/2) as Sarah's replacement as Staff Governor.

Introducing Lee Shilton

I am delighted to have recently been elected as a Staff Governor on the Governing Body for Brookside Primary School, and I hope to make a valuable contribution in my new role. It is clear to me that the Governing Board are incredibly committed to making Brookside as amazing as it can be as a school, and ensuring that every child flourishes and achieves their potential.



I love teaching at Brookside and have done so since 2024. I currently live in Radcliffe on Trent with my wife and young daughter. Brookside is a very special school, and I consider it a privilege to work here with so many wonderful children, staff and parents.

Having worked previously as a Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leader, I feel that I have a thorough understanding of primary education and the various requirements of it. I have also been a school governor since I started my career, way back in 2000, only pausing more recently between 2022 and 2025. I was actually missing being a governor so when the opportunity arose at Brookside and the position of Staff Governor came up, I was genuinely excited about being involved once again. I welcome the opportunity to support the current group of committed governors to build on the strengths of the school to improve further. I am really looking forward to raising questions and offering suggestions which will help the whole school community. As a very experienced governor, I do feel I can help in many areas to benefit the school community further.

Governor Vacancies

We currently have three governor vacancies.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining us, please contact the school office.

Governor Update

Training

Every new governor goes through a process of induction and is offered full training for the role (unless you're Lee who already has a wealth of experience as a governor!). As things change within the world of education and beyond, however, it is important that we keep up to date and our individual learning and development should be ongoing.

A vital area of which we are constantly aware is Safeguarding and Child Protection. During the first half of the autumn term, Equals Trust requires that every governor across all its schools are updated on the Department for Education's document, *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, and complete a set of online training courses related to this. Certificates are submitted and uploaded to GovernorHub, our centralised online resource which holds all governor related documentation.

School Policies

There are a whole host of policies relating to every single aspect of school life and we have a comprehensive schedule to ensure that policies are updated at regular intervals (usually either annually or three yearly) and approved by the Governing Body.

Policies that are relevant to parents and the school community can be found on the school website.

School Improvement

Each year, our School Improvement Plan is updated and with the ongoing support of Equals Trust, objectives are set to ensure that school priorities are at the forefront of driving improvement.

This year, these objectives are:

- 1) To develop robust systems in monitoring absence and to improve attendance, especially for disadvantaged pupils.
- 2) To re-energise reading in school, promoting fluency and comprehension skills to maximise pupil attainment.
- 3) To establish a high-quality nursery provision that harmonises with the existing Early Years curriculum, enhances outdoor learning opportunities, and ensures a seamless progression through the Early Years Foundation Stage.

A governor has been assigned to each of these areas, in order to monitor their implementation and to report to both the Governing Body and Equals Trust.

And Finally...

As always, it's been an eventful term at Brookside with the opening of our nursery, the addition of our fun new hens, Year 6 residential to Robinwood, the infamous Bonfire Night, days out, ice skating, brilliant efforts in fundraising for Framework, Christmas celebrations and so much more in between!

As Chair, I always love coming to see the Foundation and Year 1/2 nativity production, as for me it's the start of Christmas and makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside! This year I watched it being performed to the school, along with the rest of the children. I gave it a Five Star Review and congratulated the children afterwards! I have to say, I thought it was absolutely brilliant, as I'm sure you'll agree!

None of these things happen without the children working their socks off and also the hard work, endless time and commitment of our fabulous staff team. We are enormously proud of every single one of you in school and extremely grateful to our parents, carers and to the local community for your continuous support.

All that remains is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Reesha Armstead

Chair of Governors