



Governor News

Summer 2026

Welcome

Hello to you from Brookside School Governors!

It's been busy term and one of transition for us, as we approach the end of another school year. Changes are afoot within the Governing Body but more on that below.

The summer term is always both a hectic and a long one and recent heatwaves have not made school life easy or comfortable. Our children take everything in their stride, however, and have stayed active with major events for some, including running the Mini London Marathon, watching the tennis at Wimbledon, singing with vocal coach, Mark Delisser, at the Albert Hall in Nottingham and going to see the Halle Orchestra perform too. Awards and prizes have been won from Framework, the local homelessness charity that Brookside continues to support, with our children being recognised as Young Supporters. Again we achieved the Platinum School Games Mark Award for 2025/26 and saw success at this year's Sci-Tech Competition.

There is always so much to celebrate, here at Brookside and the school does a brilliant job of showcasing just what our children are capable of, both within school and through highlighting the fun bits of school life on social media. We are continually in awe and so grateful to our staff team, our families and the local community who all have a hand in making everything possible.

Fond Farewells

Unfortunately, Amanda Sutcliffe, who we introduced in the Spring Governor News has been unable to continue due to other commitments that

have arisen for her. We would, of course, like to thank Amanda for her contribution during her short time with us and to send her our very best wishes!

I, Reesha Armstead, will also be retiring as both Chair of Governors and as a Trust Governor at the end of term. It has truly been the biggest honour to serve Brookside Primary School over the last 16 years (12 of those years as Chair) and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute and countless hours, which have included:



Yes, folks, I really am that sad! I really did spend Sunday afternoon going back through my Google Calendar to count all these, after a conversation with Mr Kenny last week! (Hopefully, he'll be impressed that I've done my homework)!

Back in 2010 when I first joined, the landscape of education and the role of school governors was in a wholly different world. So many changes have taken place through different government leaderships, changes to legislation and guidance; the constant striving for school improvement and scrutiny by OFSTED, leading to ever increasing pressure on school staff; the decisions to move schools from local authorities to academy trusts; local demands for school places and works to develop the school site have meant that we have

constantly been moving with the times and shaping Brookside along with them.

I have always said that our collective sole purpose and at the very heart of every single thing we do, every single decision we make is just one thing: those little people, our pupils.

Together we have sought to improve and enhance the whole journey of all our little people and their families, not just through the lens of educational excellence evident across all data pertaining to Brookside, but through the whole creative curriculum that the school has on offer for our children; Opal Play, our own Forest School classroom space, the opportunities to participate in sports, staging school performances, fundraising for worthy causes, singing with our choir and learning to be the best citizens and preparing for the future, along with all the cultural experiences that take place through school trips and the like.

Mr Kenny and I have worked together from the start and to say that we have been through a few challenges would be an understatement! I am proud of all that we have achieved as a team, and by team, I mean every single governor I've had the pleasure of working alongside, every member of Brookside staff (past and present), Catherine Cox everyone at Equals Trust and Rachael Harvey and the team at Nottingham City Governor Services. I appreciate and have nothing but admiration for you all and gratitude for your endless support.

I am pleased to be handing the baton on to Sally Laverick, who is new to the Governing Body but has bravely put herself forward and been duly elected to take over as your new Chair. I wish her all the very best in the role and I know she'll be a huge asset to Brookside.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working directly with hundreds of children who have passed through our doors, having fun and teaching disability awareness via Not That Different. My plan going



forward is to rebrand and re-launch Not That Different, and to take it out to a much wider audience. I'll still be working with schools, and I'll always be available to Brookside, but there's so much more work to be done in terms of influencing change through avenues such as speaking at events, providing training, my published writing, and so on.

I will also be continuing as Governance Advisor to the Trustee Board of Flat Friends UK, a breast cancer charity which is close to my heart, following personal experience with the disease back in 2022.

Thank you to everyone for placing your trust in me. I'll miss you all, though I'll never be far away!

Introducing Sally Laverick



I recently joined the Governing Board as a Trust Governor and am honoured to have been elected as your new Chair of Governors, succeeding Reesha Armstead. I will endeavour to build on the excellent work and leadership

Reesha has provided. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board, school leaders and wider school community to continue supporting Brookside School and helping it to thrive.

I am retired, following a rewarding career of more than 40 years in Human Resources during which I held a variety of leadership roles across several industries. Throughout my career, supporting people, helping teams develop and creating positive environments has always been at the heart of what I do.

Following retirement, I wanted to continue using my skills in a meaningful way within the local community, and becoming a Trust Governor and now Chair at Brookside School felt like the perfect opportunity to do this. I am delighted to be able

to support the school, its staff, pupils and the wider community as part of the Governing Board.

The school has a personal connection for me as my granddaughter currently attends the school and my grandson is due to join next year. I am very much looking forward to being part of the school's continued success and development.

Introducing Alex Grey

I'm delighted to have recently joined the Brookside Governing Body as a Trust Governor.

I live in East Leake, having done so for over 10 years, with my wife, our son and our two dogs. Although my background is in data consultancy, where I help organisations make better decisions using data, I was keen to become a governor because I wanted to give something back and help Brookside continue to thrive.

I'm looking forward to learning more about the school, supporting the fantastic work already taking place and bringing my experience in leadership and strategic thinking to the Governing Body.

When I'm not working, you'll usually find me spending time with my family, walking the dogs, playing padel or firing up the BBQ whenever the British weather allows!

I'm excited to be part of the Brookside community and look forward to getting to know everyone over the coming months.



Governor Update

Governing Body Structure and Training

As stated above, we are very pleased that Sally Laverick has been appointed Chair of Governors,

following Reesha Armstead's resignation. Stuart Adey has also been elected as Vice Chair.

Both have extensive experience which will support them in their new roles, as well as undertaking the relevant governor training.

All governors have recently completed a Skills and Effectiveness Audit, which enables us to examine strengths and weaknesses within the Governing Body. It also helps us to easily identify training needs and offers insight into the gaps we need to fill when looking for new governors.

Two vacancies still exist on the Governing Board.

Governor Monitoring

Governor monitoring visits that have taken place during the summer term relate to Child Protection, the Nursery Provision strand of Brookside's School Improvement Plan, Lifestyle Choices and Pupil Progress. All of the reports will now be submitted to Equals Trust.

Pupil Progress

As always, our children have been working very hard on their SATs and other statutory tests this term and it's pleasing to report that they have done extremely well.

Mr Kenny will report more fully but attainment outcomes and progress measures are very strong across all areas, with a high percentage of pupils achieving both the expected and higher standards in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

A huge well done to our children and the staff team who have supported them!

And Finally...

The end of every summer term always brings with it a mixture of emotions. It's a time to celebrate our victories and successes and a time of sadness too, as we say our goodbyes to our fabulous Year 6s. In most cases, we have watched them grow from tiny tots in Foundation to now waving them off as they venture into their bright futures. We wish you all the luck in the world!

We are also sad to be losing Ally Lead (Maths, Sports and PE Lead / Year 5/6 teacher) and Emily Beach (SENCo / Year 1/2 teacher). Both have had a huge impact on the school as a whole, with their invaluable skills and experience, and on every child they have taught. We are grateful for all that you have given, your loyalty and commitment, and we wish you both the very best in whatever you do and wherever you go next.

Thank you to everyone who has a hand in making Brookside the best school that it can be: the governors, Mr Kenny and the teaching team, the office and support staff, the kitchen, midday and play team, the parents, carers and wider school community. But most of all our children, without whom, I would not have just had the BEST 16 YEARS EVER!!!

Keep on shining, Brookside! And have a brilliant and restful summer!

Reesha Armstead

Trust Governor