

November 2025
Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Governors at Birch Copse School, we are extremely proud to serve on the Governing Board at a wonderful and unique school. This was confirmed by Ofsted in the current Inspection [50256803 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50256803) There is so much good stuff, so many compliments, contained in the report it is hard to pick individual comments but, here are a few that stood out to the Governing Board:

- “Reception onwards, pupils grow to become highly motivated, confident and independent learners.”
- “Pupils benefit from an exceptionally wide range of character-building opportunities.
Pupils learn how to harness their talents and skills to contribute to school life.”
- “The school’s work on pupils’ personal development is exemplary.”
- “The school has a highly ambitious curriculum which supports all pupils to achieve exceptionally well.”
- “Conduct through the school is calm and purposeful. In lessons, behaviour is superb.”

We are rightly very proud of this report.

An important part of the Governor role is to share what we are doing within the school so that everyone can understand better why we have governors and what we do. I was helping on one of the many visits the children enjoy – this time with Year 3 and 4 – and asked a child if they knew what Governors did. Their reply was “you make sure Mr Micklewhite keeps us safe and spends our money on appropriate things”, this pretty much sums up what we do. Officially, we play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction, accountability, and financial oversight of a school.

We come into school regularly and talk to the children to see firsthand how they are enjoying their school experience and whether they feel safe and happy. We have always found the children totally engaged and very happy to talk to us regarding what they are doing. Over lunch the reception and Year 1 children talked to me about rainbows, unicorns and their pets! Following a learning walk of one new governor they commented “Throughout my time in school the children were extremely polite and happy to talk to me. All were articulate, enthusiastic and positive about their learning and their school experience. What a lovely visit. I look forward to my next one!”

We offer a wide, varied and challenging curriculum to ensure each child reaches their full potential in a place where they feel and are safe. Various clubs and groups are also offered to enhance each child’s wider school experience, some of which are run and organised by the children.

I am lucky enough to go on several school visits and residential trips, and it is obvious that the children are mindful of the school values in as much as they accept a challenge, persevere and support each other and I am always very proud of their behaviour. Many people stop us to comment on how lovely they are playing together, how polite and well behaved they are.

As the Governing Board we are always aware of the need to support Birch Copse in maintaining outstanding work, and to identify areas for improvement. The excellence of the school would not be possible without the amazing dedication of all the staff. This past year has been particularly challenging due to the illness of Mr Micklewhite but thankfully the children have not been affected at all. This is testament to the strong leadership and brilliant staff at our school.

Take care
Regards

Jane Hardie