



Whitecross Nursery School 'Your Child, Our Inspiration'

Introduction to the Governing Body – January 2024

Hello, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Governing Body at Whitecross and give you a summary of who we are, what we do, and how to contact us.

We look forward to meeting you at future nursery events!

What Does the Governing Body Do?

The Governing Body are volunteers, working with the nursery staff team to provide the best possible education for the children who attend Whitecross by:

- Setting the strategic direction for the nursery school, including vision and values, and agreeing on school development plans and policies;
- Monitoring and evaluating the educational performance of the school and delivery of the vision and values of the nursery school;
- Ensuring the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves; to the local community; to those who fund and maintain it and to the staff it employs;
- Ensuring financial health, probity, and value for money.



The full Governing Body meets every half term. There are two committees in place – Resources and Standards – with each committee meeting at least once each term. We also support and attend various events throughout the year such as the Christmas concert, Parent Evenings, and Nursery outings.

Who Are We?

Our Governing Body comprises a few different types of governors, and all members have differing backgrounds and skills.

Parent Governors are elected by you, our parents, and we have two parent governors at any one time.

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the governing body based on their skills and experience. We have six co-opted governors on our board.

Authority Governors are appointed by the Local Authority. We can have one Local Authority Governor.

Staff Governors are elected by our staff team, we have one staff governor on our governing board.

Headteacher, there is a governor role for the headteacher on every school governing board.

Our **governance professional** is Julie Fowler. It is the governance professional's role to support and advise our governors in their work.

An Introduction to Your Whitecross Governors

Claire Devey, Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)

I am Mum to Alexander and Joseph who both attended Whitecross. As parents we were wowed by the professional, caring and knowledgeable team at the school and this experience prompted me to apply for a parent governor vacancy in 2017, and then take on the role of Chair of Governors in 2018. I have a business background with finance, premises, HR and project management experience. It has been an absolute pleasure working with and supporting this wonderful school and I have gained valuable additional skills and experience through my governor role.



Su Wall, Vice Chair & SEND Governor (Co-opted Governor)

Hi, I am the governor for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN) at Whitecross. I am absolutely delighted to be part of the governance team at Whitecross Nursery School. I have worked in the early years/education sector for over 25 years now with a focus on children aged 0-5yrs. My passion is working with the early years offering high-quality provision for all children to thrive in.

I am currently a senior lecturer at the University of Derby on the BA (Hons) Early childhood studies with specialist expertise in SEND, Safeguarding, Play and the great outdoor learning environment. Previous to this role, I have worked in a variety of nursery environments and I have also been a Local Authority Advisor offering support and guidance for nursery settings.



Sara Woodward (Co-opted Governor)

My son Edward started at Whitecross in January 2022, and I was very struck by the kindness and care shown by all staff towards him from the outset, particularly as he has significant health needs. It was because of such positive first impressions that I was keen to support Whitecross and become more involved. I work for the University of Derby and while fairly new to the role of Governor, I will bring many skills such as project management, collaborative working and sharing best practice to this role. I have enjoyed undertaking further training to be able to make a positive contribution and support the success of this exceptional nursery school.



Emma Nichols, Safeguarding Governor (LA Governor)

I am a mother of 2 girls (7 and 3 years old) who keep me busy when I'm not at work. I currently work for Derby City Council within Early Help and Social Care for children, alongside studying at the University of Derby to obtain a BA (Hons) in Business Management and Leadership. I have had over 17 years' experience working with children and young people in various roles. I became a Governor in September 2022. I am new to Whitecross Nursery, and it is a pleasure to be working with the committed nursery staff and other governors. I find Whitecross to be a nurturing environment and am pleased to be contributing to the future success of the nursery school.



David Galloway (Parent Governor)

I am dad to Thomas, who attended Whitecross in 2018/19, and Frank, who attended in 2020/21. From our first encounters with the staff it was clear that this was a special place and I feel it has given both boys an excellent start to their learning experience. Most importantly they have really enjoyed their time at Whitecross and grown in confidence. I joined the governing body in November 2020 as parent governor and hope that my background working in education (albeit with much older pupils!) will help me to contribute to the team.



Jess Allton, Mental Health & Wellbeing Governor (Parent Governor)

My daughter Nia attended Whitecross and we were delighted by our experience here. The staff are incredibly skilled and nurturing and have created a welcoming environment that ensures children thrive. My experience as a primary school teacher has highlighted the importance of an excellent early years education and the positive impact this has for children throughout their school life. In my class teacher role, I had a particular interest in outdoor learning as well as supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. I hope this understanding will allow me to make a positive contribution by supporting the school and staff within the role of a parent governor and as the wellbeing link governor.



Kate Parker (Staff Governor)

I joined the Whitecross staff team in September 2021 as School Business Manager. In this role I have worked closely with the Governing body, particularly around financial monitoring, health & safety, data protection and premises management. I look forward to continue supporting the work of the governing body and our wider staff team through volunteering as Staff Governor.

Governor Vacancies

Are you passionate about achieving the best possible outcomes for children?

Are you inquisitive, curious and enthusiastic?

Do you have good inter-personal skills and enjoy learning and working together as a team?

Have you ever thought about volunteering as a school governor?

Whitecross Nursery School are looking for new governors to join our friendly and welcoming governing body. No experience of governance or education is needed, just a willingness to commit your time and energy!

If you are interested in finding out more about this rewarding and enjoyable role, please visit the governing body page on our website: www.whitecross.derby.sch.uk or email our Chair of Governors – chair@whitecross.derby.sch.uk or Clerk clerk@whitecross.derby.sch.uk