

HUGH JOICEY C.E AIDED FIRST SCHOOL

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Love one another, Love learning & Love nature

Governor Spring Term Update for Families

Welcome to the first governor termly update for Hugh Joicey. We hope this provides families with an insight into the role of the governing body and how governors play an important part through support and holding the head teacher accountable to ensure the highest possible standard of education is delivered for your children.

School governors offer strategic guidance, rather than getting involved in the operational aspects of a school. This involves:

- Working with other governors to plan the school's strategic direction.
- Overseeing the school's financial performance, ensuring money is well-spent.
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account.

A school governor's relationship with the school's leadership team involves challenging existing processes to drive school improvement. School governors usually attend around six meetings per year.

We are very fortunate that we have a full complement of volunteers to support Hugh Joicey and ensure it thrives as a school for the community.

Structure and membership

The full governing body consists of 11 governors and meets once a term with the Head Teacher. The Primary Committees from the governing body are Teaching & Learning Committee and the Resources Committee which also meet termly.

Primary Committees	Resources Committee (Finance including premises, staffing, pay, health & safety)	Teaching & Learning Committee (Safeguarding, School Improvement, LAC, Pupil Premium Progress and SEND)
	Andrew Joicey	Adele Pearson-Atkinson
	Anne Morning	Margaret Murray
	Rupert Wailes-Fairbairn	Rupert Wailes-Fairbairn
	Keith Gribbin	Charlotte Osborn
	Gemma Douglas	Kathryn Watson
	David Speakman	Matthew Lockie

Meetings this term

This has been a busy period, where in February chairs attended the virtual termly update for Chairs and Ex-Officios by the Joint Education Team of the Diocese. This is a helpful summary provided by the diocese's education team on a variety of topics that governors should be aware of. The most significant was the OFSTED Consultation. The consultation will run for 12 weeks, from 3 February to 28 April 2025. We would encourage all families to respond at the following link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ofsted2025/>

The [consultation document](#) (opens in new window), and other supporting materials are available from the [Ofsted website](#), please refer to them when completing the survey.

In March, the Spring full governing body meeting was held on 3rd March 2025 at Hugh Joicey.

Governors, were given a comprehensive Head Teacher report which covers an overview of school data on class progress, attendance, SEND and safeguarding. Mr Roberts and Miss Clark from pre-school were also able to provide a positive update on the new wraparound care system and the pre-school's plans and funding progress for their new extension.

The Resource Committee also met in March to go through the new budget scenarios to help plan ahead for the transition to Primary and ensure a new insurance policy was in place for the school's premises. The committee thank Mrs Morning and Mr Roberts for their updates and the work behind the scenes to ensure we deliver value for money.

Staffing Update

The governing body would like to take time to thank Lynda who is retiring from her administrative role within the school office for 24 years. She has served the school in more ways than her role was designed and played an important part of the daily running of the school and we wish her the very best in her retirement which is thoroughly deserved.

Governors supported Mr Roberts in recruiting a replacement for Lynda in March, a tall order indeed and one which was hotly contested. We would congratulate Mrs Cara Fairbairn on her successful application and warmly welcome her to the school's staffing community.

We look forward to meeting families on 1st April for a further update on our planning towards becoming a Primary School and will be able to welcome Diane Lakey (Head teacher at Ellingham) as a guest speaker.

Meet the Governors

Here is the first of a two-part introduction to our governors on their role, interests and links to the community.



Ms Adele Pearson-Atkinson
Co-chair of Governors

Start date 8.1.19

My husband and I moved to the area in 2018 and wanted to get involved in the fantastic local community. When the 'Fourum' magazine popped through our door a couple of weeks after we moved in with an advert for school Governors I got straight in touch with the school and have never looked back. I've been involved as a Governor since January 2019 and I love the 'family' feel we have as a small rural first school and the fantastic grounds and facilities we are blessed with.

I have been a school leader for the past 14 years, having been a teacher for the past 20 years. My day job involves lots of different aspects, I'm a Co-Head of a SEND school in County Durham as well as being Director of Academy Improvement of a Multi-Academy Trust of five SEND schools in North Yorkshire and the North East Region. I carry out work for the Department of Education and other advisory bodies as well as being the System Leader for Education for the NHS North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network. I'm passionate about the power of community and collaboration to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Adele is our Governor for Special Needs and sits on the Curriculum committee.



Mr Rupert Wailes-Fairbairn

Vice Chair of Governors PCC Foundation

Start date 22.11.12

I live and farm at South Berrington and am particularly interested in the natural environment. We completed the conversion to organic in 2024 and it is wonderful to see how the soil and nature is responding. My hobbies are working dogs and horse riding.

Ford School is located in a unique Heritage area in Northumberland, close to the Church of St Michael and All Angels. I wanted to become a Foundation Governor and be part of the School that binds the community together.

I am a Head of Rural at Lycetts Insurance Brokers.

Rupert is part of the Resources Committee and the Curriculum Committee.



Rev Charlotte Osborn

Ex-officio

Start Date 10.2.21

I am Rector of Ford and Etal and Foundation Governor Ex Officio since 2021. Additionally, I am Vicar of Lowick and Kyoel with Ancroft and Ex Officio Governor of Lowick and Holy Island Schools

I love exploring the coast and countryside of north Northumberland on foot and by bicycle. I'm a keen but ageing squash player and so have recently taken up pickleball.

As a former teacher, to be connected with Hugh Joicey First School brings me great joy.

Charlotte is part of our Curriculum Committee and Admissions Committee.
Charlotte is the link Governor for RE & Collective Worship.



Mr David Speakman
Parent Governor

Start Date March 2023

My name is David Speakman and I became a Parent Governor at Hugh Joicey in February 2023. I'm a father to two lovely children, both of whom are lucky and happy to attend our school.

My professional experience is in project and facilities management in both the education and defence sectors, and I now run my own business focusing on providing renewable energy solutions to the automotive industry.

In my spare time I enjoy keeping fit and am a keen member of the Cheviot Trail Runners.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the school community, and supporting the school leadership in whatever capacity I can.

David is part of our Resources Committee.



Mrs Gemma Douglas
DBE Foundation Governor

Start date 9.12.21

I am a former parent at Hugh Joicey C of E School, Ford, acting as parent Governor and now a foundation Governor since 2021.

I live nearby at West Ancroft farm, and have worked in the community of Glendale for over 18 years primarily within the charitable sector. I currently work for the Glendale Agricultural Society as Event Manager.

I love being outdoors and enjoy hillwalking and exploring the countryside. I am passionate about educating young people about food, farming and their local environment.

Gemma is part of our Resources Committee.

Hugh Joicey C of E Aided First School - Governors

Summer Term

Governors will be undertaking monitoring visits in the summer term to see first-hand the delivery of education for your children. This is an important part of the governing role to see the setting in action and help support the head teacher to ensure standards are met which all leads towards our next OFSTED inspection.

The Teaching & Learning Committee will be meeting onsite at Hugh Joicey on 8th April following on from the Northumberland visit on the 1st April.

The Parent Survey will be reviewed as feedback for the governing body to ensure we are held accountable and support new actions.

We will be reviewing the website to provide further information upon governors and their skills and training.

Already in the calendar is an onsite training session for all governors on Safeguarding. Keeping children safe in education is such a vital part of a school and we as governors have our role to play in making this happen and ensuring our training is in line with the most up to date practice.