

Birch Copse School Governors – Pen Portraits September 2019	
Mathew Graham	Co-opted Governor – Chair
	<p>I currently work as a clinical lead for radiology in both the NHS and private sector within Berkshire. I have a BSc in Diagnostic Radiology and Imaging and PGcert in healthcare management with a focus on HR and operational management. I have been a member of the Governing Board since May 2015 and thoroughly enjoy working with such a dedicated and enthusiastic team. I believe my set of skills helps contribute to maintain the school’s “outstanding” reputation.</p> <p>I have previously worked as a practice educator within a local NHS trust. The time spend working and developing the university of Hertfordshire’s link program for undergraduate radiographers was personally very rewarding and I am pleased to continue my link with education in my role as governor.</p>
John Micklewhite	Headteacher – Ex-officio
	<p>I have been Headteacher of Birch Copse since April 2007. Birch Copse is my second headship and I am extremely proud of our school and the community approach we have in working together for the best of the children. The school is extremely lucky to have such caring children, excellent and capable staff, active governors and really supportive parents. Hence the school’s mission statement; Together we plant the seeds for success.</p> <p>I am also a School Improvement Advisor for the Local Authority and a National Leader of Education. This entails working with other schools to assist them on their journey. The school is a National Support School that means that staff will support teachers in other schools or we will have people visiting our school to see our practice.</p> <p>As a Governing Board, our goal is always for our school to continually improve. Being a school that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted does not mean that there are not things we want to improve. We follow the growth mindset theme that we share with children, be the best you can be.</p>

<p>Daniela Vought</p>	<p>Parent Governor</p>
	<p>I am Parent Governor and my son is currently in Year 4. I have been a teacher of mathematics for the past 15 years and I am also Assistant Head Pastoral at the secondary school I work at. I am passionate about providing children with the best possible opportunities so that they can achieve their potential and feel ready for the next stage of their education. I am very comfortable with data analysis, finance and auditing matters as well as being part of recruitment panels. I believe that an active and genuine team ethos is vital to the success of the students and hence the school, and I look forward to continuing to work with the rest of the Board of Governors in order to support the school and make it the best it can be. As a governor, I have special responsibility for Safeguarding in the school.</p>
<p>Gillian Hearn</p>	<p>Parent Governor</p>
	<p>I work at Kendrick school, Reading as a PE teacher and Head of Year in the sixth form. I have three children, who have all attended Birch Copse, my eldest started in 2006 and my youngest is currently in Year 6.</p> <p>I have been a parent governor since 2014 and enjoy working with the school to develop the curriculum experience for all pupils. Staff and pupil wellbeing is a particular interest of mine and I believe strongly in a broad and balanced curriculum enabling all pupils to achieve their potential in every area of the curriculum</p>
<p>Jane Hardie</p>	<p>Co-opted Governor and Joint Vice-Chair</p>
	<p>I first became a governor in 1991 when I had 3 children at the school and have seen huge changes during this time. I have been lucky enough accompany various school visits and in particular the Year 6 visit to Cornwall many times. and every year I am proud of our children and the lovely comments we receive.</p> <p>My work has almost always been connected with schools; I worked in a secondary school office, trained and supported Admin staff, worked for the DfE helping schools make the most of their budgets. Currently I am a bursar at a local Nursery School for children aged 0-5 years old. I have special responsibility for Finance and serve on the Pay and Performance panel.</p>

<p>Dan Brookings</p>	<p>Parent Governor</p>
	<p>I am a Research Scientist working for UCB in drug discovery and have been working in science for the past 20 years. Through my work I see every day how a great education, developing enquiring and inquisitive minds at a young age, not only helps individuals achieve their full potential but also benefits wider society by driving the innovative breakthroughs and inventions of the future.</p> <p>As a father of two boys who have benefited enormously from the fantastic educational experience and pastoral care at Birch Copse I want to play my part in helping the school continue to provide a wonderful education for our children and maybe uncover the Einsteins of the future!</p>
<p>Elzbieta Meredith</p>	<p>Local Authority Governor</p>
	<p>I joined Board of Governors at Birch Copse Primary School in 2016. I was born in Poland and graduated MSC Economics and Engineering at Silesian School of Economics and Languages (Katowice, Poland). I moved to UK in 2002 when I began to work in financial role. Since then I become CIMA qualified Chartered Accountant and I currently work as Regional Accountant in health sector.</p> <p>Throughout my career I have been responsible for delivering financial controls & efficiencies and I hope to bring my experience and passion into the school. I feel it's an increasingly important part of all education providers and with the financial challenges facing education sector, I hope to help the school to overcome these.</p>
<p>Michael Smith</p>	<p>Co-opted Governor</p>
	<p>I current work as a commercial director for Capita in its Local Public Services practice group supporting local authorities in London, South and Districts. I have a law degree, an international business degree, and a graduate diploma in Korean language.</p> <p>I have been a member of the Governing Board since March 2019. I am originally from Australia and have lived, studied and worked in Asia and Europe. I live in the area and am really thrilled to have the opportunity to be a governor at the school.</p>

<p>Paul Massey</p>	<p>Staff Governor</p>
	<p>I am a staff Governor having worked at Birch Copse for over 15 years. I completed a student teaching practice in Year 6 back in Autumn 2002 and fell in love with the school. I was employed as a newly qualified teacher the following year and became Deputy Headteacher in April 2008 when I also became a school Governor. I have taught every year group during this time and currently teach maths in Year 6. Assessment, teaching and learning and extra-curricular activities are fields of particular interest for me with regards to my work as a school Governor.</p> <p>I truly believe Birch Copse to be an excellent school which is based on a thriving and supportive school community. I am passionate about children having the very best start in life and believe that Primary Schools are key to this. Our ethos and high expectations have meant that Birch Copse has always been a setting where children have the best opportunities to achieve their maximum potential in all areas of the curriculum and are fully prepared for the next stage in their educational journey. Our School Values underpin this along with a focus on ensuring children from Birch Copse are great citizens – something which is regularly commented on by visitors to the school and whilst we are on school trips. I am very proud to be associated with Birch Copse.</p>
<p>James Masterton-Smith</p>	<p>Co-opted Governor</p>
	<p>I work as an operations director for a US software company, based in London. Much of my role involves strategic planning and analysis for the European arm of the business where I have worked for the past year.</p> <p>Prior to that my career has been spent in similar roles, including the past 12 years at Apple and Google. I have an MBA with a finance focus, which I studied part time four years ago and thoroughly enjoyed returning to education many years after studying my Geography degree at Reading.</p> <p>I'm lucky enough to have lived in this part of the world for the past 8 years and have two small children at a nearby local primary school in West Berkshire. Being a parent, as well as through my own recent education experience, I am passionate about the quality of education - particularly literacy - and the huge benefit to children in getting this right from the start.</p> <p>I joined the Governing Board in November 2019 and am thrilled to have the chance to contribute to such a wonderful school and community as Birch Copse.</p>

<p>Richard Beck</p>	<p>Parent Governor</p>
	<p>I currently work for a large corporation where I gained applicable skills to the role of school governor. I lead a team and am significantly involved in defining strategies for various parts of the business, managing budgets, setting direction and accountabilities for my direct team and the wider organisation. I work with many different groups of people around the world, ensuring all ideas and views are listened to and believe diversity of input benefits us all.</p> <p>My career has been in technology, as a chartered professional engineer, and I am passionate about education, especially STEM subjects. I'm keen to learn new skills and understand the workings of the school in more detail. Having been the PTA treasurer for 3 years, which helped me to get to know more of the staff and parents, I'm even more energised to see the school go from strength to strength and look forward to playing a part in that on the Governing Board.</p>
<p>Marta Karolina Pawlak-Uramowska</p>	<p>Co-opted Governor</p>
	<p>I am a Corporate Finance Manager in a government agency based in London. My work has focused on public sector transactions, corporate governance of large government entities and government support for business and industry. Before I joined the public sector, I had worked for Big4 in grant funding and transaction services. I have Master Degrees in Finance and International Relations gained at Warsaw School of Economics; I am a part-qualified accountant (ACCA).</p> <p>I joined the Governing Board in March 2020. I hope that with my financial background and public sector experience, I can contribute to the Governing Board and support the staff and pupils.</p> <p>As a parent of a small child currently attending pre-school, I am interested in the early years and primary education. My family moved to Reading two years ago, and being a governor in Birch Copse enables me to be involved in the local community.</p>
<p>Helena Basham</p>	<p>Co-opted Governor</p>
	<p>Originally from the Yorkshire coast I came to Reading to attend University in 1999, met my husband and have never left. I have lived in Tilehurst for over 10 years and have two sons aged 7 and 3 both attending local educational settings.</p> <p>I have been in the education sector all my working life, starting out in primary I moved to secondary maths teaching and have been both a Head of Department and SENDCO, for 7 years I ran a Local Authority special needs provision. I am currently working as a nurture group maths lead in a local secondary school and completing training to become a specialist teacher of dyscalculia.</p> <p>My passion is for inclusion and helping to ensure our young people are leaving school with the skills required for adult life.</p>

