

### Introduction from the Chair of Governors

In addition to our normal role of acting as a critical friend to the school, this year a lot of work has gone into exploring and preparing for our proposed transition to an academy as one of the two founder members of The Circle Trust, a new Wokingham-based Multi-Academy Trust.

Our initial optimistic plan to convert in July was held up by the snap election, and further delays with the Department for Education means it's now more likely that we'll convert during the Autumn term.

As has been outlined before during the positive consultation process in the spring, we see lots of benefits in terms of collaboration, efficiencies and being better able to control our future; we're really looking forward to getting the trust up and running and then growing it to work with other local schools.

Austerity has continued to be a major challenge for Nine Mile Ride along with most other schools within Wokingham. We've continued to prudently manage the finances ensuring that we keep within budget whilst still continuing to provide resources and quality teaching for our children. So far, representation to the Government hasn't led to any increase in funding, and the proposed new funding formula (which doesn't appear to make a significant difference anyway) seems to keep being pushed out. We certainly encourage parents to make their views known to their MP!

As ever, we are so lucky to have the support of the fantastic Friends of Nine Mile Ride, whose fundraising



Chair of Governors, Andrew Beckett, trying not to drop his camera at Osmington Bay

provides numerous extras to benefit the whole school, particularly in these hard times. Thank you!

I'd like to thank two governors who stepped down earlier in the school year. Jean Warwick's term ended at the beginning of the school year – although she has continued to volunteer within the school, and Rev. Mark-Aaron Tisdale left to take up a new rectorship near Peterborough. We wish them well for the future! After a parent governor election process in January, Simon Ortmayer joined the Governing Body, and in April we appointed a new co-opted governor, Barbara Wojna. Welcome to both!

We hope you find it interesting to learn more about what the Governing Body does to support and challenge the school throughout the rest of the newsletter!

**Andrew Beckett**  
Chair of Governors

### Communications & Facilities

The role of the Communications and Facilities Committee is multi-faceted and includes the continuous review of the condition of school premises whilst overseeing a maintenance plan; the development of a strategic site plan; ensuring compliance with H&S regulations; appropriate Risk Assessment and Policy review and maintenance, together with oversight and strategy development for communicating with parents, pupils and other stakeholders.

A lot of the 'intangible' work normally associated with the preceding list has continued over the last year such as the adoption and implementation of a new Fire Safety Policy, Annual Health and Safety Walk, Business Continuity Plan review and a rework of the school evacuation procedures.

Of particular note was the completion of the long awaited and much needed refurbishment of the Year 3/4 toilets, the installation of new outside lighting and acquisition of new computers for the school.

Other successes include a new Office 365/Sharepoint IT platform for staff and governors together with a re-invigorated weekly newsletter to parents. We have also renegotiated a new cleaning contract which offers a better standard whilst saving circa 10% on the previous contract. Quotes were evaluated for the Foundation area 'all weather covers' and a contract placed with work carried out during the May 2017 half term. A great addition to the Foundation Stage area!

Another benefit achieved in the last 12 months is agreement on the provision of School Holiday Clubs by the Beehive on NMR premises,

this has the dual benefit of enhanced wrap around care for pupils/parents as well as additional income for the school.

Work also continues refining and hastening the outstanding maintenance list of works with the Local Authority whilst continuing to develop and refine the Strategic Site plan for the school to ensure that Nine Mile Ride Primary remains fit for today; fit for tomorrow and fit for the future!

Clare James  
Chair of Communications & Facilities Committee

## Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning is one of the core committees of our Governing Body, as its primary purpose is to ensure that we challenge the school to improve on both the attainment and progress of all children in the school. In order to do this, we've been looking at new ways to review the data so that we can identify, challenge, and monitor the school to ensure that new strategies such as Talk for Writing and joining the PiXL organisation have impact. By focussing on the numbers of children from all groups who have not made expected or greater than expected progress we can identify gaps that need to be closed.

We've also conducted a thorough review of how the Pupil Premium Grant is spent, to ensure that it has impact for the children for which it is intended. Similarly, we have thoroughly reviewed the Sports Funding grant which is being used to ensure that the excellent sports provision at Nine Mile Ride reaches even more of the children!

We've also been working towards reducing the number of policies that have to be updated and reviewed, to allow staff and governors to focus on what matters; providing an outstanding education and learning environment for our children, and an attractive workplace for staff.

Andrew Beckett  
Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee

## Keeping our children safe

The Governors of Nine Mile Ride School are committed to keeping the children safe all the time that they are in school. We take our responsibilities about safeguarding very seriously. We work with the school to ensure that both everybody in school and visitors to the school are aware of our policies and procedures about Safeguarding.

The Governors have undertaken training this year regarding safeguarding. All governors took the online training course for Safeguarding, the Prevent (Radicalization) training and some governors attended an E-Safety training course; we expect more this year since this is now available online. E-Safety is an important aspect of Safeguarding due to the increased access of the internet by children both at home and in school.

The children who are Digital Leaders are also involved in the promotion of E-Safety. They gave the governors a lovely presentation about their challenges and successes this year. They especially raised awareness of the importance of locking computers while not in use to the whole

school including staff. They are in the process of designing an E-Safety PowerPoint presentation.

In my role as Safeguarding Governor, I also reviewed our Single Central Register to make sure that all staff and regular visitors are checked according to our Safeguarding policy. We also make sure that Safeguarding is part of our committee meetings so that we review any significant events and support the school to ensure that our children remain safe.

We welcome any feedback and concerns regarding Safeguarding issues, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yun Tay  
Safeguarding Governor

Name of Designated Child Protection Officer:	Ali Brown
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers:	Andrea Sykes Clare Demblon
Name of Nominated Governor:	Yun Tay
Name of e-Safety Coordinator	Matt Smith



The Governing Body (L-R):

(Back) Rob Daybell, Andrew Beckett, Ben Kay, Ali Brown, Barbara Wojna, Jim May.

(Front) Simon Ortmayer, Kate Tunstall, Sue Hall, Yun Tay, Andrea Sykes.

(Not pictured) Clare James, Simon Hall

## People & Money

Another year has gone by and we have had to say goodbye to a number of staff and hello to some great new additions to our team. As a governing body we see recruitment, staff development and retention as vitally important to our success. It is always bitter sweet to see staff leave us, with each and every departure being for good progression reasons. At the same time, it allows us to bring new ideas and experience in to Nine Mile Ride, and we share the management team's excitement about our new arrivals in September.

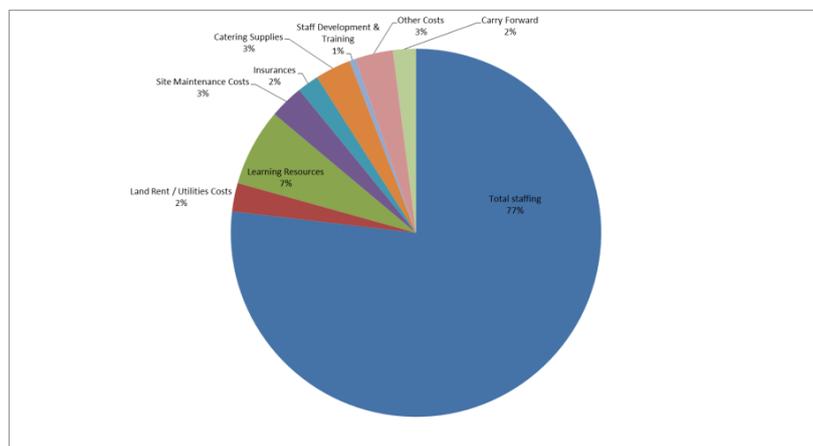
Finding brilliant teachers is always a huge challenge, hampered by the overall numbers of teachers declining, coupled with the cost of living in our area. We are delighted that at Nine Mile Ride our fantastic reputation is attracting candidates who want to come and work with us.

**Ben Kay**  
Chair of People & Money Committee

## Budget Monitoring

At the beginning of the 2016/17 financial year we decided to add a new Budget Monitoring committee to meet each month to monitor our financial performance. The new committee was added to monitor the challenges we set ourselves in the 2016/17 budget, and to help continue the focus on solid management of our funds to get the best possible outcomes for our children.

We concluded the 2016/17 financial year in a solid position again and have brought forward some funds to the current year. We managed to deliver our budget very well with continued positive outcomes for our children. The investments we intended to make were all made, so this is a fantastic achievement by the team.



Major components of the school budget

For 2017/18 we have built a budget based on a solid foundation with some new challenges. The slight dip in birth rates in the area has meant that, along with other schools in the area, we have a slight reduction in admissions in future years. In order to help mitigate any potential resultant reduction in future incomes we have planned a small surplus this year. We have planned this with a strict requirement that this must not impact on the outcomes for current or future children at the school.

**Rob Daybell**  
Chair of Budget Monitoring Group

## Inclusion

It seems hard to believe that another academic year is nearly over and as we look forward to the next one, we have exciting opportunities on the inclusion front with the forming of our Multi-Academy Trust with St Crispin's. Mrs Demblon (NMR Inclusion Manager) has already been meeting with her counterparts at St Crispin's and is very much looking forward to collaborating with them and sharing resources where practical. St Crispin's also takes inclusion very seriously and has recently created a specialised unit called 'The Oaks', which supports pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This year, the Government and Ofsted are quite rightly putting a focus on disadvantaged children. I have attended a couple of dedicated evening forums, where experts in this field have discussed the issues and provided lots of material to assist governors in ensuring that we challenge our schools to 'diminish the difference' in achievement and progress between the average pupil and those classified as disadvantaged. This is something I know Nine Mile Ride are very much committed to achieving and the team work extremely hard to ensure that every child is given the support they need to reach their potential.

Funding as always remains a major issue so if any parents or guardians think their child(ren) may qualify for the 'Pupil Premium', please do let the school know and you will be given guidance on how to apply in strictest confidence. This will ensure that all our disadvantaged children are adequately funded and the school can

provide the required level of support to every child. Full details of how the pupil premium funding is spent can be found on the school website and is an interesting read. The support any one child needs can vary from being able to attend an after-school club to give them confidence, right through to one on one tuition where needed.

As well as our disadvantaged children, I also maintain a focus on our Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) children and those for whom English is a second or additional language (EAL). I try to meet with the Mrs Demblon once or twice a year to discuss measures in place to support children and any challenges she is facing. I also visit school to observe children in the class room and small group settings.

My role is to champion the cause of all the disadvantaged and SEND children in every aspect of governorship; at committee and full governing board meetings and at the Head teacher's annual review. We regularly review assessment data and can therefore quickly pick up any trends that suggest children are not making adequate progress, to challenge the school and ensure adequate measures are in place to support these children. I remain confident that Nine Mile Ride is providing first class support for all children in their care, from challenging the most able, right through to ensuring the disadvantaged and SEND children are provided with the support they need to push their boundaries and excel.

Susan Hall  
Inclusion Governor

### The Current Governing Body

Name	Type	Term Ends
Mr Andrew Beckett	Chair – Co-Opted	29/03/2019
Cllr Jim May	Co-Opted	29/03/2019
Mr Simon Ortmyer	Parent	18/01/2021
Mr Simon Hall	Co-Opted	29/03/2019
Mrs Sue Hall	Co-Opted	29/03/2019
Mrs Yun Tay	Co-Opted	29/03/2019
Mrs Barbara Wojna	Co-Opted	27/03/2021
Mr Ben Kay	Vice Chair Co-Opted	31/01/2017
Mrs Clare James	Parent	22/10/2019
Mr Robert Daybell	Parent	22/10/2019
Mrs Ali Brown	Staff - Headteacher	n/a
Mrs Andrea Sykes	Staff Co-Opted	11/02/2020
Mrs Kate Tunstall	Staff	18/10/2016
Mrs Katharine Dawson	Clerk	n/a

We will have three vacancies on the new local advisory board in the Autumn and are actively looking for new Governors/Advisors. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Chair, Andrew Beckett ([andrew@herringhouse.co.uk](mailto:andrew@herringhouse.co.uk))

Year	Girls	Boys	Students
Year R	26	24	50
Year 1	22	28	50
Year 2	29	21	50
Year 3	21	27	48
Year 4	25	25	50
Year 5	23	27	50
Year 6	32	18	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>348</b>

School numbers 2016/17

We believe that creating the right environment for our children will allow them to achieve their full potential. In addition to the work we do as a Governing Body, we cannot achieve this without the fantastic support provided by you, the parents and carers. Your feedback is important to us, and you can contact us at any time at:

[governors@ninemileride.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:governors@ninemileride.wokingham.sch.uk)

**Chair of Governors:** Andrew Beckett

c/o Nine Mile Ride School, 430 Finchampstead Road, RG40 3RB

[andrew@herringhouse.co.uk](mailto:andrew@herringhouse.co.uk)

**Clerk to Governors:** Katharine Dawson

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