



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Local Academy Board Member Profiles.

Safeguarding, SEN and Wellbeing Committee

Rachel Green (Safeguarding and LAB Leader)

I am the Local Academy Board Leader (Chair of Governors). I have been a secondary school teacher for 18 years and have a Master's in Education. I have been a Birches parent since 2012 and currently have a child in Reception. During this time, I have volunteered in Nursery and Year 4 and have been an active member of the PFA. I have been the Safeguarding Governor since 2019.

Helen Harley

I am a parent governor on the newly formed Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee. I have two children in Birches, in Years 2 and 4. I have 20 years HR experience, working for a health and social care organisation. Amongst the great variety of my responsibilities, the health and wellbeing of colleagues is a key priority. I believe that school is more than a place to learn, it is a community that we can all be part of and this is why I choose to be a governor - to share my skills and experience to make sure that children reach their full potential and feel safe and happy during their time at Birches.

Andrew Holmes

I joined Birches First School Governing Board as a Parent Governor in April 2016, became Vice Chair in March 2017 and stood as Chair from May 2018 until Oct 2020. Due to going back into full time work I stepped down as Chair but wish to continue contributing to the school. I have taken a position on the Safeguarding, Welfare and SEN Committee of the newly formed LAB. My professional background is in software development and I have held lead roles with responsibility for teams of software engineers. I now work as a software developer for a renewable technologies company.

Teaching and Learning Committee

Kathryn Bailey

As a recently retired Headteacher I am able to bring 35 years school experience to Birches First School LAB. Over the last 19 years I worked as a local Head and have knowledge and understanding of the local community. I understand the demands and opportunities faced by schools at present and look forward to supporting the school in particular through my role on the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Karen Lawley

I very recently became a co-opted governor at Birches First School, joining in November 2020. I have many years' experience in education having worked as a teacher for 25 years, with a wide range of responsibilities including Mathematics specialist. This was followed by 10 years as a Local Authority Education Consultant working across all Key Stages with a focus on the teaching and learning of Mathematics.

I am committed to helping the school ensure that every child has access to the best education and opportunities, enabling them to thrive and flourish.

Rebecca Timmins

I have been a co-opted governor at Birches First School for almost 3 years. I have experience in quality improvement and service development within the NHS and work as a Senior Lecturer at a local University. I have expertise in educational research, online learning, leadership in education and am currently doing my Professional Doctorate in Education. I am also a fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

I am passionate about getting the best from children and providing them with opportunities to ensure they can excel. I joined the Governing Body in order to support the staff at Birches and enable them to ensure all children achieve to the best of their ability.