


A message from Simonside Primary School governors November 2025

Thank you..... to all the parents and carers who spoke to a group of governors on one of the recent Open Evenings held in school. There were lots of positive comments about the staff, including the support given to individual children and families. These have been shared with Mrs. Hills and the staff.

In response to the question about '**What could school do better?**'  many parents and carers expressed concerns over the increased traffic around the school site and offered some suggestions for improved traffic control measures. These included increased road markings and signage, the use of speed bumps and changes to pedestrian crossing locations. Governors have contacted our local councillor, J. Robinson, who has already notified Newcastle City Council's Directorate of Operations, Neighbourhood and Regulatory Service of her concerns. Governors have also raised these concerns directly with the department and have received a comprehensive response which includes:

'The main problem appears to be vehicles double-parking on both sides of the junction, which is not in accordance with the Highway Code. I have advised several people to report such incidents to Northumbria Police via 101 or their online reporting form, as this is an enforceable offence.



I have also added this location to our Safer Schools Fund list for consideration of double yellow lines at the junction of Bedeburn Road and Lowbiggin. Each request is assessed and prioritised against other schemes across the city, particularly around schools. If this location scores highly enough, we will look to progress it further.

In the meantime, I have asked our Highway Control Officer to arrange for the waiting restrictions at the junction of Bedeburn Road and the access road leading to Pizza Planet to be replenished, and our Parking Enforcement Team to carry out targeted enforcement in the area.

There are already speed cushions along Bedeburn Road, and as this is a bus route, we are limited in what further physical traffic-calming measures can be introduced. However recent speed data indicates that vehicle speeds are generally within the legal limit, and there have been no recorded personal injury collisions on Bedeburn Road in the last five years'.....

Governor visits

As well as attending meetings, governors make regular visits to school. We look at the work of the school and speak to staff and children. One of the most important aspects of any school is **safeguarding**, which is the focus of many of our visits and discussions. Our next visit to school will be on **Tuesday 4 November 2025**. We will be looking at the site, speaking to staff and children and considering all the safe practices school has in place. Governors would like to hear the views of parents and carers so we may approach you if you are in or around school. **Please come and talk to us.**

  Just before the half-term holiday, Jess Mohan (one of the parent governors) spent the afternoon in school. Governors always write a report or note of visit after being in school. Here is part of her report:

'I had the absolute joy of being invited into school to watch Jamilah perform at school on Tuesday and what a treat it was.! The children were completely captivated, singing every word of 'Water' with such heart and harmony. Their enthusiasm was infectious.....

The energy in school was buzzing - 'Water' echoed throughout the classrooms and corridors as the children kept singing!'

Parents and carers who would like to draw attention to an issue should contact their parent governor representatives (J. Mohan and M. Harbottle)

via the school office. 

Thank you... to all of Simonside's parents and carers for their support and continuing involvement in the life and work of the school.

Governors will be holding their next full LGB meeting after school on **Thursday 13 November 2025**.

We are also meeting on Tuesday 11 November to look at school's online safety and RSE policies. Statutory policies can be viewed on the school website.