

Jan Blackwell (Chair of Governors)

Mum to three children, Jan first became associated with North Primary School in 1991 when her eldest joined the nursery. An active member of the NSA she was Treasurer for several years. In 1996 she became a member of the governing body, and was appointed chair of governors in November 1998. She endeavours to attend all committee meetings in this role, and comes into school on a Wednesday morning to meet with the Head and spend time with the children mainly in the Reception classes. Her work in dentistry was originally with children, evolving into treating those with special needs. Currently she works in a local dental practice and trains dental students as part of the University of Essex. For relaxation she enjoys reading sewing, cooking, and to travel.

Juliette Maxam (Vice Chair of Governors)

Juliette was originally a parent governor and is now a local authority governor. Her three sons attended the school and one also went to the nursery. Juliette brings skills and experience from her career in journalism and PR and communications to the governing body. She is vice chair of the governing body, chair of the curriculum committee, and sits on the personnel and performance management committees. Although her children have long since left North School, she still lives in the community and is committed to the school's values and ethos. She is always happy to talk to parents.

Ben Addley

Ben has been a governor at North Primary School since April 2014, firstly as a parent governor (with two children at the school) before becoming a co-opted governor in 2017. Ben's duties as governor include chairing the personnel committee, monitoring science and e-safety and being an active and vocal member of the curriculum committee and the full Governing body. Away from North School he is a senior scientific advisor to the Government, an honorary associate Professor at UCL and an RFU qualified rugby coach. In his spare time he loves cooking for his family and reading the odd history book.

Beth Dagge

Beth has a long association with North Primary School - her mum taught here for many years. Beth attended North as a child and her son is now in Year 1. As a parent, she has been struck by the friendly, community feel that emanates throughout the school and is keen to play a role in supporting this. She has fourteen years' experience as a teacher, working in both key stage one and Early Years. As a governor, she hopes to bring together her experiences as both a parent and a teacher to support the school and help it continue to prosper.

Ben Howard

Ben's day job involves event publicity and he is also DJ in a number of venues in the town. He became a parent governor so he could represent all sections of the school community and present a balanced viewpoint of parents on the governing body, to help all of the children get the best possible opportunities and chances from their time at North School. He is father of two children, one at the school and one soon to start nursery here. You'll find him doing the school run so feel free to speak to him in the playground!

Adele Jennings

Adele is the mum of Matilda (currently in year 5) and has been a governor since May 2016. She is very proud to be able to volunteer with the school across all areas including curriculum, personnel, premises and finance (as chair of the committee) as well as having the role of Data Protection Officer. Adele is from Australia (Tasmania to be specific), but has lived in the UK for the last 20 years. She is a trained IT Project Manager currently running her own businesses (in the Travel & Social Media sectors). Outside of the school she loves spending time with family & friends, cooking and travelling.

Adrian Locke

Born in London to Brazilian parents, Adrian moved to Colchester in 1991 to study at the University of Essex. He now works at the Royal Academy of Arts in London as a curator where he helps create a broad range of temporary art exhibitions. After living in New Town for many years, he moved with his wife Jo to the Dutch Quarter, fifteen years ago. His daughter Lily is currently in Year 6, having attended North Primary School since she was in Reception. Adrian has been a governor at North Primary for nearly three years.

Duncan Stewart.

Duncan is married with two children, the eldest being in Year 2. He has lived in Colchester since 2003, and works for a local multi-disciplinary Property and Consultancy practice as a senior Chartered Architectural Technologist. A Christian family, they regularly attend the local church Kingsland in Stanway. He has always taken a keen interest in the local community and tries to support / get involved where possible. In his spare time he is a Special Constable for the Essex Police. He is passionate about children having the best possible start in life and is keen to support the challenging yet amazing work being done at the school.

Mubeena Siddiqi

Mubeena has been a part of the North Primary School community since 2015 and has two happy children at the school. Her background is in counselling psychology and she works at a local charity that supports children who have experienced abuse and trauma. She is a proud witness to the dedication and passion displayed by staff at North and hopes to be able to support their continued effort in promoting a positive social, emotional and learning environment for all pupils.

Sheila Walker

Sheila has been associated with North Primary School since 1976 when she joined Colchester Badminton Club who, at the time, played in the junior hall. When her second child joined the Nursery she began volunteering. In 1997 she was employed as a Teaching Assistant and moved into the school's first IT Suite in 1998. She is currently the IT Technician, teaching computing to children in Years 1 to 6. She is also the organiser of the Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay, Weymouth. Sheila was appointed as a staff governor in 2012. Outside of school her interests are history and travelling.