

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. She has recently retired from a local dental practice where she also trained 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.

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 sons are now in Years 2 and 5. 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 sixteen 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.

Sareta Fontaine

Since 2013, Sareta has been an active member of the North Community. Her two eldest children joined mid-year when her family moved to Colchester from London, and her youngest later joined Nursery.

Now, with only one child at North, Sareta became a Parent Governor dedicated to providing a supportive environment that allows students to reach their full potential before transitioning to the next level of academics.

In addition to her role at North, Sareta is a writer, content creator, founder of an online magazine, and podcaster. She advocates for genuine equality, diversity, and inclusion and has created a space for the underrepresented.

Sareta has a background in fashion and media and is keen to provide opportunities for students, graduates, and those who may want a change of direction or a creative escape from their 9-5's.

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, the youngest is in Year 2 at the school. You'll find him doing the school run so feel free to speak to him in the playground!

Adele Jennings

Adele joined the governing body when her daughter, Matilda, attended the school. She 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. Outside of the school she loves spending time with family & friends, cooking and travelling.

Duncan Stewart.

Duncan is married with children in Year 2 and 6. 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 had two happy children at the school – her youngest is in Year 4. 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.