

Meet our Governors...



Barry Crawford - I am a father to 3 boys and grandfather to 6 boys, 5 of whom are now attending primary school or first school depending on the education authority. Because they all live in different parts of the country I do not see them as often as I might, but I do drive regularly to Bedford to collect 2 of them from school. I really look forward to that.

I spent over 40 years as a solicitor in Chelmsford, dealing mainly with family matters and child care. This has proved very useful in my role as Safeguarding governor. I have been a governor at Great Bradfords for 5 years, before that I was Vice Chair of the Governing Board of a large secondary school in Chelmsford.

Although I reached retirement age over 5 years ago, I am still working almost full time as a Judge with the Court Service, dealing with benefits appeal throughout the South East. I have volunteering interests in a dog charity, as well as local steam trains, airplanes and



Helen Elliston - I joined as a governor last year (2020). I have worked in public sector finance for the last 30 years, focusing mainly on local government and education.

Great Bradfords Infants holds lots of special memories for me as I was a pupil a very long time ago!

When I'm not working I'm usually acting as a taxi service for my teenage daughter and I like to spend as much time as possible on the Suffolk Coast.



Victoria Pilkington-Fox - I have been a member of the governing board for the last 3 years, I have a daughter in year 2 and a son year 4 Juniors.

I very much enjoy this role as it has broadened my understanding of how the school is operated.

I currently hold the position of Art & DT link governor along with class links within the school.

I enjoy visiting the school and seeing how the children develop in class from reception all the way to leaving us in year 2.



Lisa Hilborne - I am a newly elected Chair of Governors for Great Bradfords Infant and Nursery school. I was a primary school teacher for 22 years, retiring in July 2018. During my career I had the opportunity to lead different curriculum areas and was part of the senior leadership team. I am still very interested in education, the Global curriculum and the wellbeing of children.

I am a grandmother of 7, the eldest being 20 and youngest 10 months! I enjoy my garden, and also like reading, walking, travelling the world (not so much at the moment!) and my latest hobby of dressmaking!

I am very much looking forward to meeting my class and becoming more involved in the school during the new academic year.



Holly Sandford - I am an LSA in the school and hold the position of Staff Governor. I enjoy this role which helps me to have a broader understanding of how the school operates to help every child be the best they can be. When I'm not in school I spend my time reading and baking with my daughter. I also try to swim regularly and attend the odd parkrun to keep fit!



Hannah Smith - I am the link governor for EYFS and SEND. I have a background in Early Years and have a genuine love of learning - especially learning through play!

I have two children - one in reception and the other over in the junior school, they keep me busy and I love the holidays to go exploring and travelling with them.

I am a keen skier with a real love for all things snow sports related and a huge netball fan. I play for a local team and am a coaching assistant to a youth team.



Helen Thomas - I have only been a member of the Governing Board since February 2020, although in this time I have learnt a great deal about the school and look forward to getting more involved.

I have two daughters that attend Great Bradfords, one in the infant school, and one in the junior school.

In my own time I enjoy going out for dinner, cooking and taking our dog out for walks.



Annmarie Wagstaff - I am recently re-elected to the Governing Board, after having served a period from 2017-2020, a year of that as Vice Chair. During this time I was linked to Science and English and held various roles on different committees. I am very much looking forward to getting back into it, I'm passionate about school and what it offers our children, and am keen to ensure all decisions made are in the best interests of our children. Great Bradfords is close to my heart as it is the primary school that my children attend, I attended, but also my dad before me!

My background is Civil Service, having spent the last 15 years working in the Ministry of Justice, this year I made the move to the Department of Work and Pensions. I have a keen listening ear and a sharp eye, both useful qualities for the position of Governor.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, visiting and helping my grandparents, reading, walking and baking with my daughter.



Matthew Warne — I have recently joined the Governing Board as a Parent Governor. Originally from Braintree I have spent the last 19 years in Dorset and have relocated back to Essex.

I volunteered for the role this September (2021) as I am keen to get involved with my local school and make a positive impact on the children's education in any way I am able to.

I am a dad to 2 young children, my son started Infant School this September and my daughter will join the nursery and school in the future. I currently manage a restaurant and have worked in hospitality for the last 19 years in a variety of businesses.

I look forward to my time within the role and watching the children progress and develop through their education.

I spend my spare time with my wife and children, we love to go for days out and spend time together.