

Sarah Stevens

I started my career in advertising and marketing in London, then later Manchester, before relocating to Suffolk (Beck Row) to be closer to family in 2005. I have worked for the MOD for a number of years and currently hold the post of Community Relations Adviser at RAF Lakenheath. This role involves liaison with the USAF, RAF and the local and wider community to maximize the mutual understanding between US military/civilian personnel and the British communities in which they live and work. My job has complemented my role as school governor, allowing me to bring schools onto the bases for visits, immersion events for UK school staff, arranging for volunteers to help at schools, sometimes with maintenance and then more popular visits of Radio Santa and Sparky and the Fire Department!

I have been involved in school governance for approximately 10 years, initially at Riverside Middle School, Beck Row Primary Academy and more recently Great Heath Academy, where I have served as a Community Governor for over 2 years and Vice Chair of Governors for the last year. My responsibilities over the last 10 years have included Chair of Governors, safeguarding, finance, premises and HR, which has given me a good overview of how schools operate and the difficulties they face. My specific responsibilities at Great Heath include Early Years, community engagement and literacy.

I have 4 children, with two attending Great Heath and one more to join in 2020. I initially became a parent governor when my eldest son was at Riverside Middle School, this was the time of the announcement to move from 3 to 2 tier and I was becoming increasingly frustrated with the state of the local education system. I applied as a parent governor to gain a better understanding and hopefully help and I can honestly say this was one of the best decisions I have made! Understanding the complexities of a school has benefitted me as a parent and I do feel as though I have made a positive difference over the years.

I am enthusiastic about volunteering and our local community, I enjoy spending my free time getting involved with community projects and charities, most recently a Halloween disco for local kids.