



# Stathern Primary School Governing Body

## *All About Us*



***If you are interested in joining the Governing Body, please contact Clare Allen via the school office – [theoffice@stathern.leics.sch.uk](mailto:theoffice@stathern.leics.sch.uk)***



My name is Clare Allen and I have lived in Stathern, with my husband Mark, for 15 years. I have two children, Danny who is in Year 6 at Stathern School and Henry who is in Year 2. I have been involved in education for 25 years as a teacher, governor and adviser. I was the Headteacher of a local primary school before leaving to be at home with the boys. Whilst being a stay-at-home mummy, I graduated with a master's degree in Applied Child Psychology. This allowed me to really explore how children develop cognitively and how school contexts make such an impact upon their personal and social development. Our schools should be empowering our children to thrive, enabling them to cope and encouraging them to be excited about life and learning.

Now that my boys are both at school, I work as a governance and school improvement consultant for the National Governance Association and Leicestershire County Council. I am also involved in Doctoral research with the Institute of Education at Nottingham Trent University.

What I love the most about Stathern Primary School is how the staff team are committed to provide a curriculum that is relevant and exciting. The learning makes a difference to the lives of children and it promotes the desire for our young people to make a difference to others and the world in which they live.

I am Chair of Governors and responsible for Head Teacher Performance Management.



I am Ken Bray. Joan and I have been resident in Stathern since 2002 when we moved out of Nottingham. We have three children and three grandchildren. Since I retired from a lifetime as a logistics manager at Boots the Chemist in 2005, I have been involved in volunteering in the village and have served on both the Parish Council and the School Governors. Currently, I am Vice Chairman of the School Governing Board and Chairman of the Parish Council and find it is a good balance. Fortunately, it still leaves me time for a little tennis, cricket and birdwatching.

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Hi, I am Lisa Leathborough and I have lived in Stathern since December 2013 with my husband, David, and our two children, Mia (8) who is in class 3 and Adam (4) who is in class 1. I work full time as a senior legal inspector with Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and also sit as an Assistant Coroner in Nottingham. I joined the governing body in August 2017 and am currently the governor with responsibility for Special Educational Needs and Disability. I am a member of the School Development Committee as well as the group of governors looking at village and school growth. Being a part of the governing body at Stathern Primary School has been incredibly rewarding. I have particularly enjoyed helping to develop the school's ethos, vision and values as well as supporting the staff to provide a safe, positive and inspiring learning environment to ensure that each and every child at the school is able to achieve their individual potential.



Hello, I'm Mark. I've lived in Stathern since 2006 when I moved here with my wife (and cats) from Glenfield on the outskirts of Leicester. I've recently retired from full-time employment at a local University where I was a Professor of Forensic Science and Associate Head of the School of Pharmacy, but I continue to lecture on a part-time basis, assess forensic science provision in the UK and internationally and also try to grow vegetables for a local restaurant. My interests include tending my allotments, photography, history, travel and music.

I'm a passionate believer in education and the power it has to improve lives; the start we give to children is incredibly important. This is my second stint as a school governor following a period at a large, inner-city community college in Leicester; things are a bit different in Stathern! Whilst relatively new to Stathern Primary School I'm immensely impressed with the people there, the ethos and most of all the pupils. I'm looking forward to working with the staff and pupils of the school and in particular looking at Early Years Foundation Stage and Religious Education.

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Hi, I'm Roy Evans. I've been a member of the Stathern community for 4 years, moving to Main Street with my wife Lizzie in November 2016. By day I am a Business Development Manager for a European freight company and in a spare time a keen but not so able golfer.. I'm passionate about ensuring the children of Stathern and surrounding areas are given the best possible foundation to excel in whatever they may choose in future life, and so am delighted to be sitting on the governors board at Stathern Primary School.



My name is Joan Sharp, and I have lived in Stathern with my partner John for almost two years, I have a daughter and a grandson and John has two daughters and four grandchildren. My interest in becoming a Governor stems from my previous experience both in schools and the Leicestershire Education Authority (LEA). My background was finance and management when I was Company Secretary for three engineering factories until my marriage ended in 1989. I then decided on a complete change of career. I successfully applied to work for the LEA as a Group Bursar implementing the first local management of schools in Leicestershire. Over a period of years I supported 29 primary schools with their budget and financial management. I followed on to become the school Business Manager in a county secondary school. I retired in August 2008 and when John and I got together we decided to move to a quiet village location as we are both interested in the countryside, conservation and community activities. We liked the feeling of friendship and community spirit which the welcoming village of Stathern provides. I see the children going to school happy and enthusiastic and note the various activities and opportunities the school provides.

I have been a Women's Institute (WI) member for many years and since my retirement I have trained as an Independent Financial Examiner for the WI on a voluntary basis. I now audit the annual accounts of several WI's. I like being a Governor because I see the proposed housing growth in the village presenting challenges for the school due to the additional numbers of pupils and the increased need for accommodation, play and sports facilities. I look forward to being part of the process to manage change whilst retaining the reputation and high standards which the school currently enjoys.

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Hi, my name is Sarah Cross and I have lived in Stathern for nearly 5 years and been a governor for over 2 years. I have 3 sons, a daughter and a stepdaughter. My 3 sons are all at Stathern School: Alastair (9) is in Year 5, Gregory (nearly 7) is in Year 2, and Spencer (5) is in Year 1. My daughter, Asharee (just turned 3) will start at Stathern School in 2 years time. My 13 year old Step Daughter is in Year 9 at Secondary School.

I love the school and everything that it stands for, especially the family and community feel where the children of all ages mix and support each other so well. The caring and resilience that all the children at the school show is even more important in this current unusual world that we are living in. I am really enjoying the privilege of being able to support the School, the staff and the children in my role as Safeguarding Governor, as well as being part of the Finance Committee.

I work as the Digital Director for PepsiCo's European Sector, covering all their Manufacturing plants across this region, although I am currently on Adoption Leave until April 2021.



I am Karen Lambert and I am proud to be the new Headteacher at Stathern Primary School. I have been working as a senior teacher in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire for 24 years and am excited by the prospect of leading Stathern School, building on its current successes and evolving the school to maintain the high standards that people rightly expect from it, whilst nurturing the children, encouraging compassion and ensuring the pupils in my care strive to have a positive and huge impact in the world! I have been involved in governance for over 20 years and have been a parent and community governor in local primary schools and a local secondary school, recently supporting a failing school. I have spent a lot of time working with Ofsted in that school and other successful schools and feel I have a great grasp on the current educational landscape. I feel incredibly lucky already be part of such a passionate and dedicated team of staff and governors that really has the interests of the children at the heart of what they do. I have felt amazingly supported by the team as we enter a new and different era in education, forging a way ahead with clear strategic direction but being supported to ensure that our operational needs are supported and met. The children at Stathern Primary School all have unique interests, talents and passions and watching them grow and learn with the rest of the Stathern Family humbles me. I feel privileged to work with all the Stathern stakeholders

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My name is Helen Widdowson. I have been teaching for 15 years now and joined Stathern Primary School in 2018 as Senior Lead Teacher, Class 4 teacher and also as staff governor. I consider myself very privileged to work in a school with such an incredible ethos and vision where the children really are at the heart of all we do. My passion lies within the classroom and the school's making a difference vision - ensuring pupils are taught a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to today's ever changing world. I am immensely proud of all that we do here at Stathern to value every child and further their academic skills, varied personal interests and develop their social skills and character growth ready for their future.

When not in the classroom, I spend my time running around after my two very active children, Ethan aged 7 and Sophie aged 5. Between being a mum and a teacher I find the time to squeeze in my own fitness, running being the sport of choice. I am a true believer in the positive impact that being physically active has on a person and love nothing more than to challenge myself with new distances and speeds - anything from a speedy 5km to an ultra-marathon.



My name is Marcus Helps and I have lived in the village for the last 3 years. I moved here from Bingham with my wife Jo, two boys – Arthur (5) and Euan (3) plus our terrier Ronnie. Arthur started at Stathern in September 2019 and his brother will follow in September 2021. My background is in multi-site management in pubs, bars and restaurants, but a few years ago I ended this career and retrained as a joiner/cabinet maker. As well as renovating our new home I set up in business making bespoke wooden furniture from my home workshop. I believe in getting involved in local community activity wherever you can add value, and have been wowed by the school itself, the staff and governor teams and the shared passion and drive to deliver the best possible experience for the kids.

I am on the Finance and Health & Safety Committees and am the Learning & Development Governor.



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My name is Sally Camm. I have loved living in Stathern since 2012 and have had the pleasure of being a Governor for nearly seven years. I have 2 little boys, one who attends Stathern School in year one and another who will join in two years' time. I feel privileged that they will be able to attend such a wonderful school on our doorstep which is so proactively supported by its local community. I have quite a diverse employment background, having previously managed teams working in areas of Brand Marketing; Corporate Affairs; Risk and Compliance and Operations and have worked as a Chief of Staff for the Chief Executive of Credit Card Company Capital One, where I worked for many years. Most recently I worked in HR which has brought an interesting and useful perspective to the work I do as a Governor. I now work for Experian supporting the business on Culture, Engagement and Transformation. Over the years I have participated in and chaired a number of Charitable Boards both locally and nationally and it has been a pleasure to use those skills to support our school. I love being outdoors and I am happiest running, climbing and riding and having adventures (although since starting a family the adventures tend to be a bit closer to home!)



My name is Liz Foulston and I have 2 children at Stathern, William (Yr 3) and Jennifer (Reception). I live in Melton Mowbray but we wanted a village school and chose Stathern Primary School for its care of the whole child. My experience since my children started at Stathern has been very positive. I am passionate about all children receiving the best possible education especially in their early years as this really sets them up for life. I am currently a Private Tutor in Maths and Science for older children - mainly at GCSE and also help my husband run a publishing company. I am very excited about this opportunity to serve as a Governor and be involved in helping the school be the best it can be.