

Governor Biographies

2025 - 2026



Mark Carter (Chair of Governors)

Mark Carter has been a governor at the School for many years. He has lived in Great Abington since 1985. His wife Jill taught at the school until her retirement in 2019 and their four children went to the School and then to LVC.

He was Chair of Governors some years ago and became Co Chair in 2022. Mark is a Co-opted Governor and a solicitor in a local law firm.

Interests include reading, food, travelling, hiking, running and the outdoors when he gets the opportunity and also of course the grandchildren and pet sausage dog Pip!



Rachel Clay (Chair of Governors)

Rachel Clay has been an elected Parent Governor since September 2019. She became Co Chair in 2022. Rachel lives in Hildersham and is herself a past pupil of Gt Abington Primary School! She has previous experience of leadership within the Early Years sector. Rachel works part time in a large veterinary hospital.



Neil Larkin (Vice Chair of Governors)

Neil became a parent Governor in 2022, he is on the LTS committee. Neil has a daughter currently in Year 6. Neil is a relative newcomer to Abington having spent most of his career living and working in East London. During that time Neil has held various posts including class teacher of Geography and Deputy Head teacher in local authority secondary schools. Neil also spent several years as an advisory teacher and a lead officer for Children and Young People Services in Waltham Forest Local Authority. Neil hails from the North-East and follows Middlesbrough FC.



William Earl (Chair of LTS)

William Earl is on the Full Governing Body and LTS committee. He works at The Leys School in Cambridge as a Geography teacher and is responsible for wider curricular activities including sport, music, drama and outdoor education. William lives in Hildersham, plays cricket for Abington and has long standing family connections to the village.



Sally Phipps (Resources)

Sally Phipps has worked in the retail logistics industry for 20+yrs and specialises in warehouse automation for a high street retailer. She is known for talking straight, being efficient and organised. Sally has lived in Abington since 2012 and is mum to two children (one in the school) and enjoys travelling with her family. Sally is a Co-opted Governor and is the Resources Chair and Governance Lead.



Jess Robinson

Jess Robinson is a Staff Governor and has taught at Great Abington since 2019. Over the past 16 years of working in Education, she has led teams across Nursery, EYFS and KS1, as well as leading areas of her interest such as Outdoor Learning, Phonics and PSHE. Jess' passions include travelling; her free time is packed with adventures all over the world, and more recently, on her paddleboard. Jess also enjoys playing and watching rugby, and encourages all children to get involved in team sports.

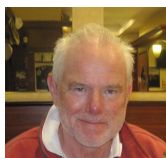
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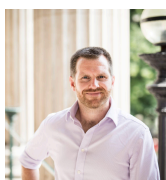
Guy Underwood

Guy Underwood has been Headteacher at Great Abington Primary School since being appointed in April 2014. Guy lives locally in Saffron Walden with his wife Michelle, two teenage boys and Stanly 'Pucci' the Spocker! Travel, golf and food are Guy's passions outside of school life. Prior to being Headteacher at Great Abington Guy worked in East London in a range of Educational roles.



Alan Cooke

Alan Cooke has been a resident of Abington for over twenty years. His son attended the primary school before LVC and Hills Road. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry most of his life, starting with big Pharma but later he was involved in three start ups and moved two companies onto Granta Park. He has a long association with the Abington 10K, as course Director and Marshal coordinator and he is on the Recreation Ground Committee. He organises the annual Abington golf competition and he is a Trustee for the PTFA.



Matt Davies

Matt was appointed as a parent governor in 2023 and two of his children attend Great Abington Primary School. He is an academic archaeologist and anthropologist and currently the Deputy Director of the Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge. His research explores the ecological history and archaeology of Eastern Africa and he has held a number of research, teaching and managerial roles at the University of Oxford, University College London, University of Cambridge and as a Director and Trustee of the British Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Matt is deeply interested in the educational journey from Early Years to Higher Education and keen to support the school in its forward looking vision.



Rob Aiano

Rob was appointed as Parent Governor in January 2024, and has one child in Great Abington primary school. He also has two other children who attend Granta school and a young baby. Rob has held a team leader role as head of two households with 24 hr care with adults with mental health and learning disabilities, later on took a role in Addenbrookes hospital. In my spare time I am a keen cyclist with my children.



Adrian Granger Brown

Adrian joined as Parent Governor in January 2024. He has a daughter in Year 2 and a son in Reception. Originally from Kenya, he relocated to the UK in 2013 with his wife. Adrian is Head of Global Tax at CMR Surgical, a Cambridge based surgical robotics company. His previous career experience includes work in the safari industry across Kenya and Tanzania. His personal interests include travel, running, and fly fishing.



Sue Blakeley

Sue Blakeley has lived in Great Abington since 2019 and has worked as a Headteacher in a Suffolk Primary School before retiring in 2025. She has an ongoing commitment to providing children with the best education opportunities irrespective of their starting points. As a mother of three and now a grandmother, she is especially interested in early years development. She loves travelling, being active at Granta Gym and cycling. She volunteers at Cambridge Botanic Garden.

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Stuart Haynes

Stuart joined as a parent governor in November 2024. He has lived in Great Abington since 2021 and has two daughters at the school. He is a drug discovery research scientist currently working to make precision cancer therapies. Outside of work he loves spending his time enjoying the great outdoors camping and walking.



Gary Buttercase

Gary joined the board in July 2025 having moved to Great Abington in January. His main areas of responsibility are safeguarding and behaviour and he represents the local authority on the board. Gary retired after thirty years in the police having worked across mainly north and east London. Throughout his career he has focused on youth crime prevention through support and diversion, helping young people with their life choices. He is very proud to be a part of the school community.