

Karel Walters – Shelford Parent Governor Statement

I would be very pleased to serve as a governor for Great and Little Shelford Primary School.

I am a Dutch father of two children, one of whom is currently in Year 1 at the school. What began as a short move to the UK for work has turned into a long-term home for my family, and the school is now an important part of our lives. Seeing my child grow and develop here has given me a real appreciation for the care, effort, and commitment of the staff.

I have worked at Arm as a CPU design engineer for the last 12 years, where I have spent much of my time working with diverse teams to deliver complex projects within constraints of time, funding, and people's wellbeing. This has taught me how to balance ambition with realism, and how to make thoughtful decisions that support both outcomes and the people involved. I would hope to bring this perspective to the governing body.

My own education took place across several schools and universities in the Netherlands, as I moved frequently when I was younger, eventually completing a PhD. Experiencing different educational environments has given me a strong appreciation for how important stability, good leadership, and a supportive culture is for children to thrive.

With one child already at school, and another who will join in the coming years, I have a genuine, long-term interest in the school's continued success. I care about maintaining a positive and supportive environment where all children and staff can do their best. Alongside this, I am particularly interested in helping ensure that the school's buildings and infrastructure are well maintained and able to support a safe, effective, and inspiring learning environment. As a governor, I would aim to listen carefully, contribute constructively, and support the school in a way that reflects both the needs of its community and the practical realities it faces.