Curriculum Vitae

Sarah Jane Whetham
D.O.B. 11\02\73

Address: Ivy cottage, 90 Bradenstoke,Chippenham,Wiltshire, SN15 4EL
Phone: 07980548857
Email: sarahjwhetham@gmail.com

Personal Statement

I consider myself to be a dedicated and community-minded individual with a strong sense of justice, fairness, and a practical approach to problem-solving. Born and raised in Bradenstoke I returned as an adult and am now raising my own children here.
I have spent most of my career working with children. Starting out as a full time teacher and adapting and retraining I to become a childminder when my own children came along. allowing me to both work and support my own children's early development. I provided safe, nurturing childcare to many families in the local area.
When my children were of school age I returned to work in school and also further trained as a Forest School Leader with Wiltshire Wildlife and Conservation which became a passion. This has enabled me to lead outdoor sessions delivering hands-on nature-based education which develops children's understanding of the environment, sustainability, and teamwork. I also spent several years working as an independent artist and still produce artwork to sell and to help the community, often being asked to create props and backdrops for school and village productions and posters and signs for fetes and events.
I enjoy working with people of all generations & have a deep understanding of local needs and a strong desire to improve the lives of others.

Key attributes

Practical, solutions-focused mindset
Excellent communication and listening skills
Committed to fairness, honesty, and transparency
Strong understanding of safeguarding, confidentiality, and public trust
Experienced in working with children, families, and educational initiatives
Passionate about the environment, arts, and community engagement

Professional Experience

S.E.N Assistant P\T & teaching cover	Broadtown Primary	Working 1:1 with children with special educational needs	2011-2018
Primary teacher P/T	Broadtown Primary	Planning &delivering National Curriculum subject lessons, maintaining high standards of learning with responsibility for children's welfare with safeguarding and close parent-school communication.	

Registered Child minder	Self Employed	Providing high level childcare for babies, pre schoolers and primary aged children	2007-2011
Freelance Artist & illustrator	Self employed	Creating and selling artwork	2002-2005
Primary teacher F/T	Redlands Primary Chippenham	Planning &delivering National Curriculum subject lessons, maintaining high standards of learning with responsibility for children's welfare with safeguarding and close parent-school communication.	2000 - 2002
Supply teacher P/T	Chippenham schools Ivy lane, Redlands, Queens Crescent, Frogwell		1989 - 2000
Primary Teacher F/T	St Helens Catholic Primary Queens Rd Brentwood Essex		1996 - 1998

Education

Qualified Teacher Status – St Mary's University strawberry hill - BAHONS Theatre Studies & Primary QTS (qualified teaching status) 1993- 1996

Wootton Bassett Comprehensive School 1983- 1992

St Edmunds Primary School Calne 1977-1982

Childminding Certification – 2007, Ofsted
Wiltshire Wildlife and Conservation Leader Certification – 2016
Additional CPD in safeguarding, first aid, food hygine,

Community Involvement

Member of local village hall committee
Has been an active volunteer with children's music & rugby organisation.
Deeply involved in Wiltshire-based educational and conservation charities - wiltshire wildlife, the canal trust,

Reference - Mrs Bridget Long - headteacher Broadtown Primary School
head@broadtown.wilts.sch.uk

Cover letter

Dear Chair person and members of Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council.

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a parish councillor. As someone who was raised in this community and is now raising my own children here, I care deeply about our local area and believe I can make a meaningful contribution.

I have always worked closely with children, families, and community organisations. My career includes primary teaching, childminding, and 11 years as a forest school teacher at a local school, helping children build a strong relationship with nature and encouraging engagement with our wonderful local countryside.
I have also worked internationally as a volunteer. In 2016 I had the privilege of working for a charity helping to establish early years education for an underfunded minority community on the outskirts of Pristina in Kosovo. I will be returning there again to do some teaching projects in August this year. These experiences reflect my ability to lead, adapt, and connect with people from all walks of life.

I believe strongly in fairness, honesty, and am a good listener. I value confidentiality and understand the importance of trust when representing others. I'm dependable and approachable and always willing to step forward when help is needed and want to play my part in ensuring that voices and views of local residence are heard.

It would be a privilege to represent and support the people of our parish through this role. I'm enthusiastic about joining a team of like minded people to serve and help shape the future of our community.

Thank you for considering my application.
Warm regards,
Sarah Jane Whetham