



What is the role of a Governing Body?

School governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the UK. They provide schools with strategic leadership and accountability for educational and financial performance.

The three core functions of a school governing body are to:

- Hold school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school
Governors create robust accountability for school leaders through rigorous analysis of performance data and financial information.
- Set the school's vision and values, and the strategy for achieving this vision
The school's vision centres on student progress and achievement. Working with senior leaders, the governing body sets strategic objectives to help the school reach its goals.
- Ensure the school's financial success and probity
The governing body must ensure that the budget delegated to the school by the local authority is managed effectively, and with regard to value for money.

What are a Governing Body's Responsibilities?

- Develop the school's vision and strategy
- Set a culture of high educational standards, which promotes staff and student wellbeing
- Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all students, including those with special educational needs (SEN), can access the curriculum
- Monitor provision for students with SEN
- Monitor the school's educational performance, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents, students, staff, the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Approve the school budget
- Monitor and evaluate the school's financial performance
- Approve and review school policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure the school is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
- Carry out the appointment and performance management of the Head teacher
- Monitor and evaluate the school's staffing structure(s)
- Monitor health and safety in the school
- Work in co-operation with the local authority, having regard to any guidance it issues

What role are we looking for specifically?

We are looking for a committed and conscientious individual who is interested in playing an active role in the future development of the College and education of our students to join our Governing Body as a co-opted governor.

A co-opted governor is an individual from the community who has the skills and experience which the governing board require.

We are particularly looking for a new governor who either has links with the local community or who has experience in liaising with community organisations. Experience in marketing and promotion would also support with complementing the skills of the current governors.

What skills and experience does a governor need?

Essential:

- Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem-solving and analysis

Desirable:

- Marketing and communications skills
- Experience of a community role or links with the local community
- Knowledge of education
- Health and Safety experience
- Understanding of data
- Leadership and management skills

What time commitment does a governor role require?

The Latimer Arts College full governing body meets 6 times across the year. These are currently held on a Thursday night from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

The term of office is 4 years.

For those with suitable skills and interest, the Finance, Personnel and Premises committee meets 3 times per year. These are currently held on a Monday night from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

There are no other sub committees.

Preparation for meetings includes reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders.

You will also be expected to undertake any training required to enable you to discharge your role effectively. We subscribe to online training modules and ask governors to undertake units across the year.

Governors are also expected to visit the school while it is open to students at least twice per year. You will be allocated to a specific department as link governor. Initially we will buddy you up with an experienced governor to assist your transition into the role.

The College also holds a series of extra-curricular events that governors are encouraged to attend, such as performing arts events, Open Evenings and awards ceremonies.

This is an exciting opportunity for a committed individual who can contribute their time and skills to help us improve the education and outcomes of our students.

If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, you can get in touch with the Chair of Governors by contacting governors@latimer.org.uk or contacting the College on 01536 720300.