

Governor Role Description

Role Title: Governor

Responsible to: The Board of Governors, the College and the wider community

Pay Scale: Voluntary role. Expenses will be paid.

Time Commitment: approximately 65 hours per year/average 1 day a month.

This covers:

1. Preparation time and attendance at termly Board and Committee meetings
2. Attendance at Strategic Planning Meetings: October and May
3. Stakeholder engagement and training events throughout the year.

Term of office: 4 years. Governors can serve a maximum of two 4-year terms of office.

Purpose of the Role:

1. To contribute to the values, purpose, educational direction and strategic planning of the College.
2. To support the decisions of the Board once they have been reached on the basis of collective responsibility.
3. To contribute professional and specialist skills, as well as experience to the Board, in a non-executive role: Governors provide oversight of the College and its business, making a positive contribution that does not interfere with day-to-day management (which is the remit of the CEO and Senior Leadership Team).
4. It is anticipated that collectively Governors will draw on lived experiences that are wide ranging and diverse, re: socio-economic backgrounds, cultures, faiths, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age and disability.

Main Duties of the Governing Body:

1. Formulate and agree the **mission and strategy** including defining the ethos of the college.
2. Be **collectively accountable** for the business of the college taking all decisions on all matters within their duties and responsibilities.
3. Ensure there are effective underpinning policies and systems, which **safeguard students** and facilitate the **student voice**.
4. Foster **exceptional teaching and learning**.
5. Ensure that the college is **responsive to workforce trends** by adopting a range of strategies for engaging with employers and other stakeholders.
6. Adopt a **financial strategy and funding plans** which are compatible with the duty to ensure sustainability and solvency of the college.
7. Ensure that **effective control** and due diligence takes place in relation to all matters including acquisitions, subcontracting and partnership activity.
8. Oversee the design of a robust **environmental sustainability strategy** and adopt standards and frameworks which enable effective implementation.
9. Meet and aim to exceed its statutory responsibilities **for equality, diversity and inclusion**.

10. Ensure that there are organised and **clear governance and management structures and** that there are regular **reviews of governance** performance and effectiveness.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential:

1. Ability to demonstrate a full understanding and apply the principles of good governance, including collective responsibility, discharge of fiduciary duties and upholding of the Nolan Principles of Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership).
2. An existing (or ability to quickly gain) awareness and understanding of national and local educational issues and their impact on the College.
3. Ability to contribute to the establishment and monitoring of strategic objectives for a large organisation.
4. Ability to demonstrate understanding and commitment to the principles of safeguarding and the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.
5. Ability to develop an awareness of the concerns of business, employability and the skills issues of the local economy.
6. Expertise in a field that is of particular relevance to the oversight of the affairs of the College and in delivering the Strategic Plan (some vacancies may require specific qualifications or a particular skill or experience).
7. Ability to work positively with others as part of a team and engage in constructive debate and challenge while maintaining the position of being a 'critical friend' to the College.
8. Ability to exercise responsibilities with independence and discretion, respecting rules on confidentiality.
9. Passionate about education and the difference that it can make to individuals and communities.
10. Prepared to make the work of the governing body a high priority.

Desirable:

11. Some experience in a public or private sector appointment, paid or voluntary position at a Board level and/or an appreciation of issues that affect the senior management role
12. Some experience as a Charitable Trustee/Company Director/Governor in an educational context.
13. Ability to develop a broad-based view of issues and events and assess their long-term impact.

Please note: you will be required to be in possession of an Enhanced DBS Certificate, or be willing to undertake an Enhanced DBS check, as a condition of volunteering at the College.

South Devon College is committed to Safeguarding/Prevent and promoting the welfare of its learners. It expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Adapted from materials received from the ETF programme: 'Technical Aspects of being a Governance Professional' (April 2021).