

Chair of the Governing Body - Croydon College

Role Description

The Chair of the Governing Body is a non-executive role that comes with a responsibility to work in partnership with the college's senior leadership team whilst leading our Board of Governors to establish the organisational culture and ethos of our college. As our Chair, you will bring values-led leadership to our Board, whilst ensuring the college evolves and adapts so that it continues to meet the needs of its students, the community and wider stakeholders.

The Chair of the Governing Body will need to lead our Board in the discharge of its duties, in accordance with the Instrument and Articles of Government. The Chair's leadership of our Board will foster the delivery of support, scrutiny and challenge to senior leaders, enabling them to implement the college's strategic plan 2024/2029 "Creating Careers".

The Chair has the following specific responsibilities:

Leadership of the Governing Body

1. Chairing meetings of the Governing Body;
2. Ensuring the Governing Body exercises its statutory responsibilities under the terms of the Instrument & Articles and fulfills other strategic and monitoring requirements;
3. Encouraging Governors to work together effectively and consensually and in line with the Code of Conduct;
4. Developing relationships with, and between, the Vice Chair, Committee Chairs, individual Governors and the Director of Governance;
5. Providing leadership and feedback to other Governors, conducting annual reviews of individual Governor performance and identifying development needs;
6. Leading, with reference to the Principal & CEO, the Director of Governance and the Search & Governance Committee where appropriate, succession planning for both the Governing Body and Senior Post Holders;
7. Leading the Governing Body in an annual review of its own performance, its effectiveness, its structures and the information it receives.

Being an ambassador for Croydon College

8. Supporting the development of the college's position as an anchor institution within the Borough of Croydon;
9. Developing relationships with key external stakeholders both locally and nationally;
10. In partnership with the Principal & CEO, representing the Governing Body at external events and meetings with external stakeholders;
11. Serving as the spokesperson for the Governing Body;
12. Being a positive, vocal ambassador for the college whilst living our values.

Working with Senior Post Holders and the Director of Governance

13. Establishing a supportive but challenging working relationship with the Principal & CEO, recognising the separate roles of strategic governance and operational leadership;
14. Developing an effective working relationship with the Director of Governance to manage and develop the work of the Governing Body;
15. Ensuring that regular triumvirate meetings take place with the Principal & CEO and Director of Governance to prepare and develop Governing Body business whilst ensuring accountability for Governing Body decisions;
16. Overseeing performance management for Senior Post Holders;
17. Participating in the full range of responsibilities necessary for the Governing Body to discharge its responsibilities to all Senior Post Holders and the Director of Governance.

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Person Specification

The Chair will:

Essential

1. Possess substantial boardroom experience, preferably as a leader of non-executive boards or committees, coupled with a demonstrable appreciation for the difference between strategic governance and operational leadership.
2. Possess an understanding, interest, appreciation, and a passion for education, preferably the impacts of the further education sector in relation to individuals, employers and local communities.
3. Strategic awareness, experience and understanding gained through professional experience at a senior level, preferably within similarly large and complex organisations.
4. Possess the skills and experience to provide, together with the Board, direction and oversight to the Executive in their development and implementation of the college's strategy.
5. Demonstrate a strong personal commitment to the college's mission and values.
6. Have significant experience of developing and sustaining relationships with external stakeholders.
7. Offer direction and oversight with regards to long-term strategic planning, demonstrating vision, positive independent judgement and a good level of financial acumen to support the college's strategic framework.
8. Meet the time commitment required of the Chair to effectively carry out the role. This is estimated to be 3/4 days a month.
9. Commit to undertake personal development in the role and lead Governors in the same.
10. A demonstrable commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across the college and the importance of safeguarding in relation to young people and vulnerable adults.

Desirable

11. Non-executive or executive experience of working at a senior level in the Further/Higher education sectors.
12. Have a track record of providing oversight, to the Principal & CEO level, and the development of the Executive Team.

Appointment

The Chair will be appointed by the Corporation in accordance with the Instrument and Articles

Term of office

The Chair will be appointed by the Corporation in accordance with the Instrument and Articles. The term of office is four years.

Notice Period

The Chair will be expected to give one year's notice of their intention to step down from the role. Notice to be given in writing to the Director of Governance.