

The role of Governors and the Governing Board



Governance of the College

Strode's has a Board of Governors (also known as the Corporation) which is responsible for the overall character and mission of the College, for directing strategy and for monitoring the delivery of the strategy. The Board is also responsible for ensuring the financial integrity of the College, for managing the terms and conditions of employment for senior post holders and for setting the framework for pay and conditions of all other staff.

The Board appoints the Principal, who reports to the Board, and is responsible for managing the College in line with the strategy. In this she is supported by a Senior Leadership Team, some or all of whom are Senior Post Holders.

There are 20 Governors drawn from different constituencies namely:

- 4 Foundation Governors
- 2 staff Governors
- 2 student Governors
- 1 parent Governor
- 10 independent Governors
- The Principal

To ensure we have the best balance of skills and experience we sometimes appoint Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are involved in the same way as full Governors, but technically do not have a vote at the Board meetings (although they do at the meetings of the Committees of which they are members). Co-opted Governors often become full Governors when there is a suitable vacancy.

There are several committees with responsibility for specific areas:

- Search
- Finance and Estates
- Audit
- Quality and Curriculum
- HR
- Remuneration and Governance

There are at least 4 Board meetings each year, plus a training evening and a full day Strategy meeting. Each committee has its own schedule, but most meet at least once a term.

The role of a Governor

The Governors are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the College – this includes agreeing the Strategic Plan and the Mission of the College. They monitor and assess the performance of the College and take steps to ensure the College performs well against the objectives that the Board has approved. The Principal is responsible for the organisation, direction and management of the College and the leadership and management of the staff.

Governors are required to accept collective responsibility for the decisions reached by the Board and its committees. Regardless of whether a Governor is nominated by a specific constituency (such as a Staff Governor) or is an Independent Governor, they may not act as if delegated by the group they represent, and may not be bound in any way by mandates given to them by others.

Governors are invited to college events such as Prize Giving, performing arts events and the Christmas carol service. They also take part in a Links Scheme where they are paired with an area of the college and are encouraged to visit the college to get a good understanding of that area of the college's operation.

Key responsibilities

- Governors should ensure that the College delivers its primary purpose – to inspire students to fulfil their potential by providing a broad and high quality education in a supporting and dynamic learning environment
- Governors are entrusted with public funds and have a duty to ensure they are spent in the most effective way possible, in pursuant with achieving the College's strategy/Governors are expected to safeguard the College's assets
- Governors should ensure that the performance of the College is adequately assessed against the Strategy Plan, budget, Annual Operating Priorities and any other operational targets set and approved by the Board
- Governors are responsible for directing and overseeing arrangements for audit and for ensuring the existence and integrity of risk management, control and governance systems
- Governors are expected to attend, and make a contribution at, Board and Committee meetings; Governors will usually sit on two Committees. They are expected to contribute rationally and constructively to debate
- Governors should attend the annual strategy day
- Governors are expected to forge links with one or more subject area or cross college area via the Links Scheme; and may be involved with the Self-Assessment Review (SAR), in particular for the areas with which they are linked
- Governors may be asked to undertake additional responsibilities such as participating in recruitment activities or in formal employee relations hearings
- Governors are expected to take part in training sessions including: self-study, as part of the Board meetings and an annual training evening