

Job Description

The Board as a whole is collectively responsible for promoting the success of the Furness College by leading and supervising its affairs.

The duties of the Corporation are specified in the Instrument and Articles of Government. Collectively, individual governors contribute their professional, specialist and general management skills to the Corporation (and its committees) in a non-executive role. Governors are required to be as flexible as possible in the conduct of their responsibilities and duties, ensuring that the oversight of the College and its business is seen as a positive contribution that does not interfere with the day-to-day management of the College.

The main duties of governors are to:

- The governing body is collectively responsible and accountable for institutional activities, approving all final decisions on matters of fundamental concern within its remit.
- Working with the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, the governing body sets the mission, strategic direction, overall aims and values of the College. In ensuring the sustainability of the college the governing body actively seeks and receives assurance that delivery of the strategic plan is in line with the legislative and regulatory requirements, college values, policies and procedures, and that there are effective systems of control and risk management in place.
- The governing body safeguards and promotes college reputation and autonomy by operating in accordance with the values that underpin the Code of Good Governance, its various elements and the principles of public life.



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- The governing body promotes a positive culture which supports ethical behaviour, equality, inclusivity and diversity across the college, including in the governing body's own operation and composition. This includes ensuring underrepresentation and differences in outcomes are challenged and, where practicable, corrective action is taken to ensure fair outcomes for all.
- The governing body ensures that governance structures and processes are robust, effective and agile by scrutinising and evaluating governance performance against the Code of Good Governance and recognised standards of good practice.

Furness College's Board of Governors currently has 11 independent governors, the Principal, two student governors and two staff governors.

The Board usually meets four times a year, plus a half day strategy and wider development session. Independent governors usually also serve on one or more committees.

The key committees are currently:

- Finance and Resources Committee
- Learner Experience Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee.

Typically, these meet three or four times a year.



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The independent governor's role on the Board

- To participate fully and actively in the meetings of the Board and its committees.
- To contribute to the strategic direction of the College
- To review the performance of the College against the key performance indicators approved by the Board.
- To establish constructive working relationships with fellow governors, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, recognising that day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Principal and Senior Leadership Team.

External

- To act as ambassadors for Furness College externally.
- To engage with members of the wider Furness College staff and students at college events.

Conduct

- To promote the Furness College shared vision and mission.
- To act in accordance with the accepted standards of behaviour in public life and College values.
- To exercise the Board's responsibilities in the interests of Furness College as a whole, rather than as a representative of any constituency and to accept collective responsibility for decisions made by the Board.
- To act fairly and impartially at all times in the interests of Furness College as a whole, using independent judgement and maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.
- Able to demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, equality and diversity, and its practical application.



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The seven Nolan Principles of Public Life are also appended to the end of this candidate pack. The Principles set out clearly the type of behaviours that we believe everyone who works with or for Furness College needs to exhibit.

Time Commitment

- To be willing and able to devote the time needed to be an effective governor, including attending meetings, reading agenda and papers, completing mandatory and other training, and attending significant Furness College events as appropriate. The time commitment required is around 15 half days per year. Meetings are normally held at 5pm being a convenient time for those in employment.

Attributes

The College is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, particularly from under-represented groups, which includes women, disabled people and people from minority ethnic groups. The Board is keen to ensure that differing perspectives participate in board-level discussions and the College is committed to equality of opportunity both as an employer and as an educational institution.

The Board is looking to recruit candidates from all backgrounds and work experiences. We are currently particularly interested to hear from anyone with experience in the fields of education, legal, audit or compliance.



Independent governor – person specification

Experience/knowledge

- A commitment to understanding and fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of a governor, and maintaining knowledge in this regard through professional development
- Strong personal commitment to further education and to the aims and values of Furness College
- Experience of operating at a strategic and/or corporate level
- The ability to negotiate outcomes and influence others to agree with those outcomes
- The ability to analyse complex and detailed information, readily distil key issues, and develop innovative approaches and solutions to problems
- Ability to operate as an effective member of a team with fellow governors
- Ability to communicate effectively with a broad range of stakeholders
- Ability to establish constructive and supportive yet challenging working relationships with the Principal and Senior Leadership Team.
- Ability to evaluate and monitor the work of Furness College
- Willingness to devote the time needed to be an effective governor
- Commitment to continuous personal improvement, including informal appraisal by the Chair of the Board from time to time
- Legally eligible to be a director and a charity trustee
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity

