



## INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE GOVERNORS

### LEICESTER COLLEGE

Leicester College is one of the largest colleges in the country, offering further and higher education from three main sites in the city of Leicester. Its mission is:

**Developing skills, supporting businesses, engaging communities,  
changing lives**

Our values are:

- **Respect**
- **Inclusion**
- **Sustainability**
- **Equality**
- **Excellence**

Leicester College was formed in 1999 from the merger of Charles Keene College and Leicester South Fields College. The impetus for the merger was a shared commitment to improving the education and training opportunities available to throughout Leicestershire. In responding to the needs of the community, the College has developed over the intervening period and works strategically with other providers in formal and informal partnerships to extend choice, optimise the use of available resources and provide high quality technical and vocational education and training to around 15,000 students annually.

The College has around 1,100 full and part-time staff and an annual turnover of over £50 million and is one of the largest employers in Leicester.

### THE BOARD

The Board (also known as the Corporation or the Governing Body) is made up 20 governors representing between them business, the local community, staff and students.

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction and overall mission of the College and for ensuring the efficient and effective use of resources, its solvency and the safeguarding of its assets.

An appointment as a governor is a public appointment. All governors are required to abide by the Board's Code of Conduct, which is based on the seven principles of public life (the 'Nolan' principles): selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Governors also become trustees of an exempt charity. Some people may not be eligible to be governors. Please check the [Charity Commission](#) website to confirm that you will be eligible.

Leicester College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of students and we expect all governors to share this commitment. Background checks including references and an enhanced DBS check will be required for this role.

## **THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS**

The College delivers education and training to all the major areas of business, industry and public service. As such, links with the major industries or expertise based on a range of other specialised areas including education, finance, equality and diversity, human resources, law, marketing, IT, management of facilities, or any other major specialism are beneficial in carrying out the role of governor. The Governing Body conducts a skills audit and at certain times, governors with specific expertise or experience will be sought to ensure a complementary mix of skills across the Board.

As a College rooted in its local community, it is also important that governors have an appreciation of and a commitment to Leicester and Leicestershire. The Board membership should also be representative of the diversity of the community the College serves.

The qualities required of a governor include:

1. The ability to apply the educational vision of the College within strategic debate and place the College's mission and best interests at the heart of all decision making.
2. The ability to assimilate information from papers and at meetings and be able to contribute effectively towards the decision-making process in the Board environment.
3. The ability to represent a section of the community which the College serves or have specific expertise, knowledge or experience at a management level relevant to the College.
4. The ability to develop good working relationships with both other Board members and members of the College's Executive Leadership Team.
5. The willingness and ability to commit the time needed to prepare for and attend meetings, training and visits.

**More detail is set out in the Governor Job Description**

## **THE COMMITMENT**

The time commitment needed to be an effective governor varies according to the current needs of governance and the role of the individual. Most meetings are usually held during the evening although some committees meet during the day. All governors join at least one, and often two, committees in addition to attending the Board. This can mean attending around 15-20 meetings a year, including development sessions and an overnight away day. While most meetings are face to face on College sites, some may be online or through a hybrid of on-site or online. Governors are also

encouraged to come into College, by invitation, to meet with students and staff and see the day-to-day life of the organisation.

Appointments are for three-year terms of office; governors may be invited to serve multiple terms office up to a maximum of three terms.

All governors, including staff and student governors, work on a voluntary basis. The College meets reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by governors in the performance of their duties. These might include travel expenses for attending external training courses or meetings.

## **THE BENEFITS AND REWARDS OF BEING A GOVERNOR**

College Governors have a vital part to play in the successful development of the further education sector. Membership of a college governing body requires commitment and care and a willingness to become involved in the life of the College. Governors must be prepared to visit the College to become familiar with its staff, its facilities, its educational offer and the quality of teaching and learning. In addition, governors are encouraged to attend events such as displays of students work, competitions and award ceremonies.

The rewards of being a Governor are high. Board membership offers the opportunity to influence and contribute to the achievements and success of the College and its students, and through them, to the successful development of the local community.

It is also an excellent opportunity to build relationships with members of a Board which is committed to promoting education and social mobility within Leicester, to make new professional contacts and enhance your own skills and experience at a strategic level.

As a new governor you will have access to a range of training and support as well as opportunities to get to know the College, its students and staff in order so you can make the best contribution possible in the role.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information can be found on the College's website.

<https://leicestercollege.ac.uk/governance/>

or by contacting:

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