



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW GOVERNORS

LEICESTER COLLEGE

Leicester College is one of the largest colleges in the country, offering further and higher education to the whole of Leicestershire and beyond. Its current mission is: **to equip people with the skills they need to be successful in education, in work and business and in their personal lives.**

Our values are:

- Ambition
- Inclusion
- Collaboration
- Excellence

Leicester College was formed in 1999 as a result of the merger of Charles Keene College and Leicester South Fields College and covers three main campus sites. The impetus for the merger was a shared commitment to improving the education and training opportunities available to existing and future customers throughout Leicestershire. In responding to the needs of the community, the College has developed over the intervening period and seeks to work strategically with other providers in formal and informal partnerships to extend choice, optimise the use of available resources and further improve quality.

The College has in the region of 1,150 full and part-time staff, an annual turnover of over £45 million and provides education and training to around 20,000 learners.

THE BOARD

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. Membership of the Board, therefore, offers a most interesting and challenging role for those to whom the provision of further education in the area is important.

The Board is made up of a maximum of 20 governors representing between them business, the local community, staff and students.

As a publicly funded body it is essential that College business is conducted in an open and transparent manner and the College's Governing Body adheres to the good practice as recommended by the Nolan Committee on [Standards in Public Life](#).

Leicester College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our 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 demonstrate knowledge or experience at a management level in a major area of employment within Leicestershire, have a specific expertise, or be able to represent a significant portion of the community which the College serves.
4. The ability to develop good working relationships with both other Board members and members of the College's senior 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 usually two, committees in addition to attending the Board. This can mean attending around 15-20 meetings a year, including development sessions and a 24 hour away day. 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 made for three-year terms of office; governors may be asked to serve multiple terms office.

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, the interest in, and commitment to, attending events such as displays of students work, competitions and award ceremonies is welcomed by the wider College community.

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 community as a whole.

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.

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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