

Questions and Answers about Queen Elizabeth Humanities College Governing Body

Why do schools have governors?

The governing body of a school is responsible and accountable for all the major decisions about the school and its future. We have a legal responsibility to make sure the school promotes high standards of educational achievement. We are responsible for appointing and reviewing the performance of the Headteacher and are usually involved in other staff appointments.

What do the governors do?

Together with the Headteacher we set the future direction for the college, decide how the college's budget should be spent, and monitor and evaluate the college's performance. In doing this we make decisions on things like performance targets, policies, staffing, and the college's development plan. We provide the Headteacher with support and advice, drawing on our knowledge and experience from outside college. We ask searching questions whilst respecting his position as professional leader of the college – this is often compared to acting as a 'critical friend'.

Who can be a governor?

Anyone over 18 with an interest in education can be a governor. Our governing body is drawn from the college's community and includes parents, school staff, representatives of the Local Authority and the community.

Who are our governors?

Louise Gibbs	Local Authority governor and Chair
Ann Smith	Local Authority governor and Chair of Students & Curriculum committee
Bernard Hunt	Local Authority governor
Tony Burt	Community governor
Gill Churchill	Parent governor
Carol Ralph	Parent governor
Jayne Foster	Parent governor and Chair of Marketing & Publicity committee
Nick Parker	Parent governor and Vice Chair
John Thornbury	Parent governor and Chair of Resources committee (staffing, finance, site)
Jane Masters	Parent governor
Christine Hayes	Staff governor
Isabel Dunn	Staff governor
Michael Goodman	Staff governor – Headteacher
Alma Westwood	Clerk to the governing body

How often do we meet?

There is a full governors meeting every half term and various committees meet separately to look at specific issues such as the curriculum, finance, staffing. The minutes of meetings are available from the college office. We also visit college during the working day to meet with our faculty links, spend time in classrooms and talk to the staff.

Are governors paid?

No! All our work is voluntary. Across England there are around 350,000 governors, making us the largest volunteer workforce in the country.

How do you contact governors?

Mrs Oakes in the college reception will pass on a message and letters, or can give you contact details. It is also possible to speak to governors at all parents' evenings.

When should you contact governors rather than the Headteacher?

Whilst we are always happy to hear from and talk with parents, the Headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the college, so initially most queries and specific issues should be addressed to Dr Goodman. Because we have a specific responsibility for reviewing complaints and exclusions, it is sometimes important that we don't get involved in the first instance.

For example, if you had concerns about a specific behaviour incident at the college then you should discuss it first with your child's form tutor. If that failed to resolve the issue, or you were concerned about the general approach to behaviour management, then that would need to be discussed by the governors and you should contact us.

In most cases, the way we want the college to operate is set out in various policies (such as the behaviour policy, homework policy, complaints policy etc) which we review on an annual or bi-annual basis. The current policies are always available in the college office and some are on the QEHC website.

If you don't think a policy is being followed, or that it is unclear, or even simply that it is wrong, then that should be brought to our attention.

If in doubt, then please feel free to contact either the governors or Dr Goodman and if necessary we will point you in the right direction.

The governors and staff are all committed to making Queen Elizabeth Humanities College the best possible learning and development environment for all students and are always happy to answer any additional questions you may have.