

Become a Governor at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form

We have the opportunity for members of the community to join our governing body.

The role is ideal for anyone who wants to broaden their professional development and play a vital role in shaping the future of the Academy for its students, staff and community.

Who are we?

We are a thriving Academy with a core purpose to inspire and enable young people to make a positive difference. We are located in a beautiful rural setting with 1,595 students on roll, including our Sixth Form.

Complacency is not in our nature and we proactively seek to strengthen and improve our offer. By striving to create a supportive and inclusive culture that values and celebrates academic achievements and personal enrichment, we hope that students feel empowered to set no limits on what they can achieve.

Churchill Academy & Sixth Form is part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, a multi-academy trust, which forms a wider community by bringing together four secondary schools and 26 primary schools from across North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset.

What does it involve?

The Academy's Local Governing Body (LGB) is responsible for providing confident strategic leadership, and robust accountability, oversight and assurance over the Academy's educational and financial performance.

All of our governors are volunteers. Governors donate their time and skills to support and guide the Academy in its pursuit of school improvement.

The Local Governing Board meets six times a year, with one meeting allocated to each term. Meetings are held in the evenings on Tuesdays from 5:30 pm and last approximately 2/2.5 hours. Meetings are held at the Academy, but governors have the option to join via a virtual video conference call.

Governors also support by attending panels and scheduled sub-committee meetings, such as staff or student disciplinary panels or the Health & Safety committee meetings, which tend to be held during the school day.

Governors are invited to take part in school evaluation activities, such as visits by our school improvement partner, Challenge Partners, and Ofsted inspections.

The Role of the Governor

As a governor, you'll work with the board to support and challenge the Academy on strategic direction and its provision for students.

You'll play a vital role in bringing an outside perspective to the governing board. You will make positive, meaningful and constructive contributions to the strategy without getting drawn into operational details. The role is best described as "eyes on, hands off."

In addition, Governors can support the Academy by attending or helping at events such as concerts, performances, sports events, presentations and celebration evenings.

The Role Requirements

This is a voluntary role with an initial four-year term in office.

Governors must be available to attend the six LGB meetings and have the flexibility to join ad hoc panels when required.

Governors do not have to have experience in education but are advised to stay up to date with secondary education news to help support their knowledge of the sector. Governors must also be DBS checked and complete training specific to the role, which will be advised.

Governors are also supplied with information and documents, which should be read and treated with complete confidentiality. The information should be used to help governors to contribute during meetings with both challenge and support.

Composition of the Governing Body

We value diversity and inclusion and want to ensure the richness of our Academy community is represented in our governance. Therefore, we are actively seeking to broaden the diversity of our governing body to ensure we continue to align the perspective of our governing board with the Academy's demographic. We welcome applications from all individuals but we would particularly welcome applications from

people from groups currently under-represented on the governing board, including but not limited to: young people (aged 18 - 40), women, ethnic minority groups, members of the LGBT+ community and people with disabilities.

Any combination of knowledge and skills in the following areas would also strengthen our board:

- Education
- Finance
- Law
- Fundraising
- Risk management
- Performing Arts
- Governance and compliance
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

If your skill set lies outside of this list, it should not deter you from applying. We are keen to hear what other skills you could bring to the board.

How to apply

To apply for the role, please provide a personal statement (maximum 250 words) explaining why you want to be a part of the Local Governing Board and what your contributions will bring. We'd also like you to share any governance experience and skill set.

All candidates will be invited to an interview to complete the application process and you will be informed of this after the closing date. Appointments will be based on the number of vacancies available and candidates will be elected by the Trust board.

Please submit your application via the Google Form [linked here](#). The closing date for submissions is Sunday 8th September 2024.

If you have any queries, please contact the Clerk to Governors, Emily Hamill at emh@churchill-academy.org.

Additional details

The Governor:

- will be a representative of Churchill Academy & Sixth Form and Lighthouse Schools Partnership.
- is a representative in their role, as their individual views will be taken as "representative." Governors are not expected to canvass views from the wider community, or attempt to represent the views of others; Governors will use surveys and panels for this purpose.

- must consider what is best for the Academy and the students. They must put aside personal interests and hold a strategic view of the interests of the entire Academy community.
- may help the governing board to governors develop strategies and plans for school improvement by offering their thoughts and experiences.
- may support the governing board to interpret data.
- may offer support and challenge in their role as a governor.

Whilst we encourage you to apply, we must stress that those who apply must be committed to the role and regularly attend meetings, and panels whenever possible.