

Annual Report Search & Governance Committee September 2021

Introduction

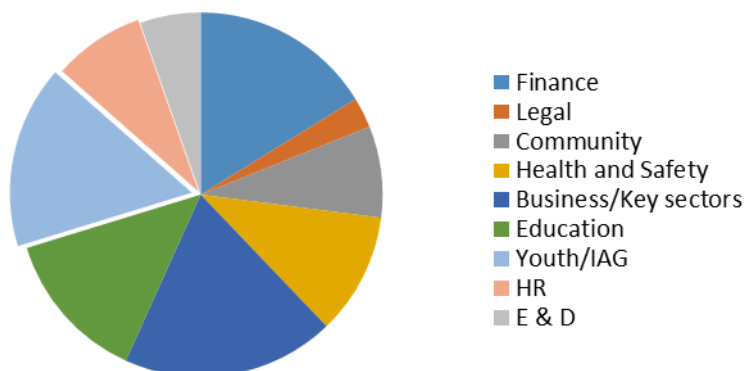
The yearly review of Board membership is an expectation of best practice in governance and demonstrates that the make-up of the Board is given regular and serious consideration.

Overview of Membership

The composition of the Board is 18, with 13 independent governors; the Principal; two staff and two student governors. In 2020-21, two vacancies were left as smaller numbers were working better with virtual governance. The vacancies were extensively advertised at the beginning of the year. Since the start of a new term, one vacancy has been filled and the second is being actively pursued. You can meet the Governors [here](#).

There is a sound skills base to the Board, encompassing knowledge and expertise considered necessary for good governance. Some governors bring expertise from more than one area.

Skills' Mix of Governors



Staff governor positions bring in-house teaching experience and experience of quality management.

Gender balance has improved from 30% in 2018 to 50% during 2020-21. It should be noted that the two District Council areas that the College serves are in the top five district Councils in England for rates of White British Residents at 97.6% and 97.3% (Census 2011), which impacts on the potential to attract ethnic minority representation to the Board.

Attendance

Individual attendance figures are published in the annual financial statements. In 2020-21, overall attendance reached 89% slightly above the national benchmark of 87.79%, with Board attendance sitting at 86.3%.

Annual Questionnaire and Review

In an annual, anonymous questionnaire, no issues of concern arose. The Board felt that the Chair and the Clerk were effective and relationships with the Executive were good. More widely the Board felt that their 'electronic' governance had been as good as could be expected.

It was noted that Student Governors had participated well during 2020-21 and that the Board had taken good interest in the well-being of students, culminating in a student governor report to the Board.

Training

Most governors participate in training, or in working groups looking in greater detail into specific areas. Governors attended online national training in 2020-21, attended regional and national conferences and undertook safeguarding refresher training.

Standing Orders

These are refreshed on an annual basis and set out the delegations to working groups, committees and the Principal, and the Code of Conduct by which the Board agrees to abide. The standing orders are published on the website [here](#).