

## **CIRENCESTER COLLEGE CORPORATION SEND FOCUS GOVERNOR (VACANCY)**

### **WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR**

We are looking to appoint a new governor with experience and expertise to support the strategic approach of the organisation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The ideal candidate will have a background and expertise in education, social work, youth work, healthcare or a related SEND field. Experience in the context of the 16-19 sector would be ideal but not essential; a willingness to learn about the further education sector is critical.

We are looking for someone with:

- A background in SEND statutory requirements and priorities for education
- An understanding of SEND legislation
- An awareness of types of SEND
- An understanding of inclusive education practices
- An ability to ask insightful questions about SEND provision and outcomes
- Experience of promoting inclusive values in board-level discussions
- An ability to advocate for the interests of learners with SEND fairly and with sensitivity
- An ability to work effectively with the SENCO and leadership team

(Desirable but beneficial):

- An awareness of the post-16 landscape
- An awareness of Ofsted's inspection framework, regarding inclusion and support for SEND students

### **ABOUT SEND**

The SEND Focus Governor will be the Corporation's champion for learners with SEND and those with inclusion needs. They will support and challenge the college to ensure that no learner is treated less favourably, denied opportunity or left behind because they have additional needs. They will also support and challenge the college to ensure that staff have high aspirations and expectations of all learners with SEND.

The Focus Governor will meet regularly with the SENCO to ensure that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to ensure that all statutory governing body responsibilities are met.

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Cirencester College is a specialist sixth-form college in a rural setting on the outskirts of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and serves much of Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire, Swindon and West Oxfordshire. There are over 3000 students, along with apprentices and adult learners, supported by more than 300 staff.

The college provides a bridge between school and university, apprenticeships or employment. Students experience the academic challenge, pastoral support and enrichment expected at the best sixth form but with a more adult ethos, based on mutual respect, in order to prepare successful, independent people.

The College offers an unrivalled choice of subjects – from a great choice of A-levels, a growing number of T Levels, other vocational courses and professional apprenticeships – and this is a major reason why so many students make Cirencester College their first choice. The College also offers a small number of courses aimed at adults.

## ABOUT THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

Governors play a crucial strategic role in the success of the college. Working collectively as a board, governors ensure that the college meets its statutory responsibilities, maintains high standards of education, and delivers value for public money.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Setting the college's vision, ethos, and strategic priorities.
- **Accountability:** Monitoring and challenging the college's performance, including student outcomes, safeguarding, equality and diversity, and financial health.
- **Support and Oversight:** Providing constructive challenge to the Principal and leadership team alongside informed support.
- **Compliance and Assurance:** Ensuring the college complies with legal and regulatory requirements (e.g. Ofsted, DfE, Charity Commission).
- **Financial Stewardship:** Overseeing budgets and ensuring effective use of resources and public funds.

Governors attend meetings of the full Governing Body (typically twice per term) and contribute to one or more committees aligned with their expertise (e.g. Audit, Remuneration, Search and Governance).

Individual governors also serve as "Focus Governor" where they can most directly contribute their professional expertise in support of the senior leadership team.

## BENEFITS OF SERVING AS A GOVERNOR

Becoming a governor provides a unique opportunity to make a real difference in young people's lives and contribute to your local community whilst also enhancing your own professional and personal development.

### Benefits include:

- **Personal Fulfilment:** Contribute to the success and wellbeing of young people at a crucial stage in their lives.
- **Professional Development:** Gain insight into the governance and strategic leadership of a large, complex organisation – valuable in any career.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Collaborate with professionals from diverse backgrounds in a collegiate and respectful environment.
- **Training and Support:** Access to high-quality training and induction programmes to help you succeed in the role.
- **Community Engagement:** Play a part in shaping the future of education in your area.

This is a voluntary role. Out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

## REQUIREMENTS OF BEING A GOVERNOR

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences. You do not necessarily need to be an expert in education, but you should bring curiosity, commitment, and integrity to the role. No previous governance experience is required—just a willingness to learn, contribute, and work as part of a team.

### We are looking for individuals who:

- Are committed to improving educational outcomes for all students.
- Can think strategically and analytically, using data to inform decisions.
- Are willing to question, challenge, and support senior leaders effectively.
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Can commit time to attend meetings, read papers, and undertake training.
- Demonstrate values aligned with inclusivity, diversity, and public service.

**Time commitment:** Approximately 6–10 2-hour meetings per academic year, with additional preparation time. Most meetings take place in college on Monday evenings from 5-7pm. Meeting dates are agreed ahead of each academic year to support diary planning.

Focus Governors should also aim to come into college at least twice per term. Governors are also asked to attend three college events per year.

**Eligibility:** All governors must be over 18 and not disqualified from serving as a governor or charity trustee under current legislation.

**Appointment process:** Suitable candidates will be invited to attend an interview with a panel of governors. A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and satisfactory references will be required for successful candidates.

### **INTERESTED IN APPLYING?**

If you're interested in applying or finding out more, please contact Suzanna Miles at [suzanna.miles@cirencester.ac.uk](mailto:suzanna.miles@cirencester.ac.uk)

Or visit <https://www.cirencester.ac.uk/about-the-college/corporation/become-a-governor/>

Cirencester College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Cirencester College welcomes applications from all sectors of the community and is an equal opportunities employer.

Join us in shaping the future of Cirencester College and the lives of the young people we serve.