

# The Role of the Governors at the Stamford Endowed Schools

The Governing Body is responsible for determining the aims and overall conduct of the Stamford Endowed Schools. In conjunction with the Principal and the Heads, it sets and reviews the policies, plans and procedures that will ensure the best possible education for present and future pupils of the Schools. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring the proper control of the Schools' finances. It is also responsible for ensuring compliance with regulation, with the guidance of the Charity Commission and with the law.

The Schools are charities and they have a number of governing documents. They are the Articles of Association of the Company, the approved Charitable Scheme for the Schools and their Articles of Government.

The Charitable Scheme limits the number of Governors to 18 and they are chosen for their range of skills and experience which will help support the Schools. The current Governors come from a range of backgrounds; education, business, the professions. Some are former parents, others are current parents and some are past pupils of the Schools. These Governors do not represent their groups or associations but bring helpful and wide ranging knowledge as a consequence of their particular background. The Chairman of Governors, who is currently Dr Michael Dronfield, is ultimately responsible for the appointment of Governors. All Governors are deeply committed to the continued success of the three schools.

In order for the Governors to fulfil their responsibilities they rely on the Clerk to the Governors to administer meetings, to prepare minutes etc. The Clerk is also the Director of Operations of the Endowed Schools.

So that the Governing Body can work effectively there are a number of Committees each with their own Chairman. The Finance and Estates Committee looks at the Schools' financial performance and how funds can be made available for fulfilling the Schools development aspirations. The Capital and Property Sub-Committee, looks at the management of the Schools' property and any new building projects and refurbishments. The Education Committee receives reports about the Schools' academic performance and extra-curricular activities and spends time considering the quality of teaching and learning. With an increased amount of regulation the Governance Committee ensures that the Schools are legally compliant and, in consultation with the Schools, sets and monitors the implementation of policies. This committee also looks at the range of skills within the Governing Body so that as retirements occur, there will be replacements with appropriate experience available. Each of these committees meets once a term.



The full board of the Governing Body also meets termly though there may be additional, special meetings during the year. Their key function, collectively, is to set and monitor the aims of the Schools and to receive reports from the committees for additional discussion. At each meeting Governors receive a report from the Principal about issues which either require Governors' decision or keep them informed about the activities of the Schools.

Some Governors have responsibility for a specific aspect of the work of the Schools and will report this to a committee or to the full board. Each School has a liaison Governor and also one to engage with their staff. There are Governors responsible for boarding, health and safety, child protection, special educational needs, policies and marketing.

One of the most important tasks of the Governors is in appointing the Principal, the Heads and the Bursar. These key appointments have a substantial influence on the success of the Schools and it is a responsibility which the Governors do not take lightly.

While the day to day running of the Schools is the responsibility of the Principal, Heads and Bursar, Governors will regularly meet with senior staff and also make considerable effort to attend school events enabling them to engage with staff, parents, pupils and well-wishers. Through this Governors have a clearer understanding of the life of the Schools and are better placed to offer their help and support.

Stamford Endowed Schools  
February 2018

