



Governing at Trinity School

Governors play an essential role in the good running of the school and add significantly to what the school can achieve. With the right blend of skills and professional experience, our governing body is able to advise the school, ask the right questions, and provide appropriate accountability for the school's leadership. as in all good trusteeship, the relationship we are looking for with our governors is that of being an informed and critical friend.

Governors are not expected to have any prior connection to Trinity, though some are alumni and some are current or former parents. We value a wide range of professional experience in our governing body, particularly in safeguarding, education, the welfare of young people, finance, property, marketing and fundraising. Some experience of schools and being a governor or trustee is useful, but it is not essential. Training in safeguarding and other matters is provided as part of the induction process for new governors.

The John Whitgift Foundation and the School

As part of the Whitgift Foundation, alongside Old Palace and Whitgift Schools, Trinity is governed by the Court of the John Whitgift Foundation (JWF). Responsibility for Trinity is delegated by the Court to the Trinity School Committee (TSC), on which a number of JWF Court members sit alongside other governors. The TSC meets at least termly.

The TSC has five sub-committees which also meet termly and report to it:

- Teaching and Learning (covering all aspects of our educational provision)
- Welfare (covering pastoral care, safeguarding and health and safety)
- Finance
- Estates
- External Relations (covering marketing, admissions, community and alumni/development).

Each of these sub-committees has a Chair, who also sits on the TSC, and up to four further members.

New governors normally join a sub-committee in the first instance, and some may later join the TSC or Court.

What commitment is expected from governors?

A sub-committee member or a member of the TSC will be expected to attend one or two meetings of up to two hours every term. These are usually held at school, but are sometimes remote or hybrid, as governors require. Governors will need a similar amount of time to read the papers and prepare prior to each meeting, and these are provided online. The Chair of a sub-committee will attend that committee each term as well as the termly TSC meeting. There may occasionally be ad hoc meetings or communication between governors, as matters require.

In addition to meetings, we expect governors to visit the school and to attend events. It is important that governors become familiar with school activity and that staff and parents know who our governors are. When at school, governors are encouraged to join lessons, meet staff, and to see the students' wider experience of school.

The normal term for a governor is three years, but this can be extended to up to two further three year terms by agreement. All reasonable expenses related to being a governor are covered by the school.

How to apply

If you believe that you can help us and would like to take your interest further, please send a brief email outlining your interest to the Headmaster's PA, Sharon Wilson, smw@trinity.croydon.sch.uk. Please also attach a short CV outlining your professional and voluntary experience. We will then be shortlist candidates and invite them to meet with the Headmaster in the first instance.

Governor appointments are subsequently confirmed by the Chair of the TSC, currently David Seymour, and the Chief Executive of the Whitgift Foundation, who is Roisha Hughes.