

fortismere

Being a Governor at Fortismere

Thank you for your interest in our school, and becoming a Governor at Fortismere. This briefing contains a summary of key points about our school, and the expectations we have of our Governors.

About Fortismere

Fortismere is a high achieving, dynamic, mixed foundation secondary school, and is highly regarded by the local Muswell Hill community that it serves. We have a strong focus on outstanding progress and attainment for all of our students, as well as cultural enrichment. In our last Ofsted report we were rated as Outstanding. Additionally, in 2016 The Times newspaper rated our school as 12th out of the 20 best non-selective comprehensive schools in the country.

Our sixth form has 450 places over two years. There is a broad range of subjects to study, including traditional A levels, BTEC and subjects like Further Maths and Economics. We also provide excellent guidance for students towards further education of all kinds, as well as additional mentoring for those making Oxbridge applications or preparing for Medical or Law entrance exams.

Our examination results are outstanding but we are never complacent and each year we seek to raise attainment and ensure outstanding progress for every student from the time they join us to the time they leave. At GCSE, results over the last two years have been consistently above 85% in terms of students gaining five or more A* to C grades. Maths and English have been consistently high in the 80+% range. At A level, 70% of students' grades were A* to B grades last year.

We believe that outstanding progress and attainment will be achieved by:

- constantly challenging and raising the aspirations of all students;
- insisting on the highest standards in terms of attendance, punctuality and behaviour;
- providing the right support and teaching strategies;
- and timely, well planned interventions.

We place great importance on traditional values in terms of courtesy towards and consideration for others, and respect and acceptance of others' differences. Our intention is to develop young people that are well-educated and capable of benefitting from and contributing to society when they leave school. We endeavour to provide a curriculum that will provide students with the skills, knowledge, experience and imaginative and understanding for a lifetime of independent learning and enjoyment, as well as an awareness and respect for moral values and the community.

The School Vision

Fortismere will continue to be an outstanding, popular and successful school. It will win hearts and minds through adding value to its students and staff, playing a key role in its wider community and leading innovative practice that impacts nationally and internationally. All staff from both, teaching and non- teaching teams will share this vision and be committed to contributing to a dynamic learning environment which results in significant and measurable year on year improvement in all key stages. Fortismere will have an active mind, a finger on the pulse and a big heart.

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Governors Role

Purpose

To contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils which involves the setting of a strategic plan for the school, acting as a critical friend and holding the school to account for student outcomes, and use of public resources.

Who we are looking for

We want to recruit Governors who share our vision and passion for the continuing success of the school, and have the capability, commitment and capacity to be effective. Sometimes, we will be looking for particular skills and experience which we think we need. In other cases, we welcome candidates and new Governors from all backgrounds and with any or no specific experience of education or governance.

Accountability

Our governors are accountable to each other and to the entire school community – parents, students and staff, whom we serve. There is a written code of conduct which we all agree to abide by. Additionally, some Governors are elected or nominated to particularly represent specific parts of the community, for example our staff, parents or the London Borough of Haringey.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The role of the governing body is a strategic one. It is responsible for the conduct of the school, and must promote high standards of educational achievement. All governors at Fortismere recognise that they should focus on three key strategic areas:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.

Tasks

Individual governors are expected to:

- To work as a member of a team.
- To speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school .
- To respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public.
- To act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements.
- To commit to training and development opportunities.
- To get to know the school: its needs, strengths and weaknesses.
- To learn and interrogate financial and performance data.

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Time commitment and availability

Being a Governor at Fortismere involves significant commitments of time and work. At a minimum, you will be asked to

- Attend meetings of the Full Governing Body
- Attend and participate in more detailed subcommittees for example in the area of student progress and achievement, finance, estate management and admissions
- Attend appropriate training
- Specialise in particular aspects of the school's work, for example safeguarding, special educational needs or financial control.
- Be regularly in school in your role as governor, monitoring school development and participating in relevant panel work such as admissions, complaints, behaviour and staff matters
- Undertake 'desk based' preparation for, and work in support of the above

The required time commitment varies, but is unlikely to be below 15 hours per month during termtime, some of this in school during and around the school day.

Confidentiality

All governors will be required to work in a way that protects and respects confidentiality of pupils and school business. The proceedings of committee meetings are mostly a matter of public record once minutes are agreed, but there are many occasions where you will be party to confidential discussions and data about the school, students and staff.

Child protection and safeguarding

Fortismere has a duty of care to implement effective policies and procedures to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. In order to achieve this all staff and Governors must share this commitment and the Governing Body is ultimately responsible for safeguarding staff and students.

This commitment includes accepting a responsibility for ensuring that all concerns about a child's safety or well-being that come to the attention of Governors, staff or volunteers in the course of their work will be followed up and dealt with as quickly and as sensitively as possible. It also includes ensuring that all activities are provided in a safe environment.

Because Fortismere is committed to safeguarding all children, a criminal record disclosure will be required prior to appointment of Governors – a DBS check. Governors are also expected to undergo formal training in the safeguarding of young people.

Term of Office

The term of office for any governor is four years. Governors may then be re-appointed or re-elected. Should personal circumstances change, governors may also resign by giving written notice to the Clerk