

# ROLE PORTRAIT FOR GOVERNORS AT PRESTON'S COLLEGE

## A summary of the role and responsibilities

Governors are members of the Board of Preston's College (the Corporation) and trustees.

The role and responsibilities of governors include:

- setting and monitoring the strategic framework of the Corporation;
- oversight of College activities;
- providing strong leadership to both the senior team and the community the College serves;
- ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources;
- ensuring that the College is solvent and that finances are well managed;
- approving annual estimates of income and expenditure and budgets;
- participating in committees of the Board in accordance with each governor's own professional knowledge, skills and abilities.

All governors must adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles): Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. Governors should also be respectful, professional, prudent, and passionate about education and good governance.

Visit: <https://www.preston.ac.uk/the-college/governance/board-minutes-documents/> for further details of the Corporation Board's roles and responsibilities.

## KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Analytical  
skills

Strategic  
thinking

Interpersonal  
skills

Communication  
skills

Digital  
skills

## Experience/Knowledge/Background

A successful board provides strong governance by ensuring there is an appropriate mix of governors with diverse skills, experience and backgrounds. Experience of one or more of the following areas would be helpful:

- working/involvement in FE or education sector;
- audit, risk, governance, finance or technology;
- experience as a board member/governor or trustee.

## Personal attributes

The Department of Education\* has identified the following personal attributes of board members that are as important as skills and knowledge:

\*DfE's A Competency Framework for Governance (January 2017).

### Committed

**Devoting the required time and energy to the role and ambitious to achieve best possible outcomes for young people. Prepared to give time, skills and knowledge to developing themselves and others in order to create highly effective governance.**

### Confident

**Of an independent mind, able to lead and contribute to courageous conversations, to express their opinion and to play an active role on the board.**

### Curious

**Possessing an enquiring mind and an analytical approach and understanding the value of meaningful questioning.**

### Challenging

**Providing appropriate challenge to the status quo, not taking information or data at face value and always driving for improvement.**

### Collaborative

**Prepared to listen to and work in partnership with others and understanding the importance of building strong working relationships within the board and with executive leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils/students, the local community and employers.**

### Critical

**Understanding the value of critical friendship which enables both challenge and support, and self-reflective, pursuing learning and development opportunities to improve their own and whole board effectiveness.**

### Creative

**Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open-minded about new approaches to problem-solving; recognising the value of innovation and creative thinking to organisational development and success.**

## Time commitment

- Prepare for and attend four Board meetings, three committee meetings and a strategic planning meeting in each academic year. Governors are also invited to attend other activities at the College to engage with staff and students.
- Take part in induction and internal and external training.

## Practical requirements

- Have access to internet and email facilities.
- Able to travel to Preston's College for evening meetings and occasionally afternoon meetings.

## Support provided

Induction and ongoing training and support is provided to all governors.

**For further information and a more detailed person specification, please contact: Clare Rayner, Clerk to the Board, [crayner@preston.ac.uk](mailto:crayner@preston.ac.uk), 01772 225046**