

# join us

## School Governor

Final closing date: 5pm 19 June 2024  
However applications will be considered on a rolling basis so early application is encouraged





Thank you for your interest in becoming an Archer Academy School Governor. We hope this information reinforces your interest, excites you about the role and answers any questions you may have.

As a school governor, you will play a vital role in shaping the education and future of the children in our community. We are seeking individuals with a passion for young people's education and wellbeing, an interest in our local community, and the ability to work collaboratively with others.

As governors we work as a team so we need a good balance of skills, interests and knowledge (including lived experience) to do the best job we can. We want to reflect the diverse backgrounds of our school community and whilst experience of working at a strategic level, in education or in other trustee roles can be helpful it is not essential, as full training and support will be given.

We are especially keen to hear from you if you have interest or expertise in any of the following areas:-

- Education
- Wellbeing & Safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Finance & Fundraising
- Our local community
- Diversity & inclusion
- Communications
- Cyber Security/IT

So if you are interested in supporting the success of our school and the education of our students, are able to work well with others and are willing to give the necessary time to this role, we would love to hear from you.



# Our vision



Leadership is exceptional. The headteacher's clear, unwavering vision focuses on supporting pupils' high achievement across the curriculum. Leaders at all levels are very skilled.

**Ofsted 2019**

## **REALISING POTENTIAL**

Helping students to achieve personally, socially and academically to the best of their abilities. Our outstanding teachers set high standards and challenge each and every student to fulfill their individual potential, both in their studies and through extra-curricular activities.

## **INSPIRING CREATIVITY**

Providing an enjoyable and inspirational education that encourages students to be analytical, inventive and self-motivated. This commitment to creativity and analytical thinking applies across the whole curriculum as well as our extra-curricular opportunities.

## **ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

Ensuring that students respect others and value working with others for mutual benefit. The Archer Academy is a school with its roots in the community, and so responsibility and participation are fundamental to our ethos.



## THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Governors hold the school to account, acting as a supportively critical friend. We don't have any input into the day to day running of the school (such as curriculum, homework or school trips), instead we work closely with the headteacher and other senior leaders to offer strategic oversight in order to improve both pastoral and academic outcomes.

All governors are expected to attend Full Governing Board meetings which take place 7 times/year, last 2 hours and take place in the evening. We also have at least 1 annual awayday and there are 6 informal Strategy and Planning meetings a year. In addition you will be asked to join at least one of our committees, such as Pastoral and Wellbeing, Finance, Risk Management, Education & Standards, Resources or Fundraising and attend any relevant training sessions. Most governors are also a Link Governor for an academic subject or other important area of school life, which involves meeting with staff and reviewing information to understand the challenges and successes in the area concerned. The rest of the work, such as reading papers for meetings or reviewing committee policies, can be fitted in around the rest of your life.

As a school governor, you will be responsible for making important decisions that impact the school and its community, such as setting the school's strategic direction, monitoring performance, and ensuring resources are used effectively.

Some examples of how school governors can have an impact and make a difference include:

*Improving educational outcomes:* As a school governor, you will have a direct impact on the educational outcomes of the school. You will work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to set targets and monitor progress against them, and make strategic decisions to improve educational outcomes.

*Promoting inclusion and diversity:* School governors play a crucial role in promoting inclusion and diversity within the school community to ensure that it is providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their background or circumstances.

*Building strong relationships with parents and the community:* School governors can act as a bridge between the school and the wider community. You can work with the school to build strong relationships with parents and other stakeholders, and help to ensure that their voices are heard.

*Managing resources effectively:* School governors are responsible for ensuring that the school uses its resources effectively and efficiently. You may help the school to identify cost savings or work with the school to develop fundraising initiatives.

*Developing and implementing policies and procedures:* School governors have a key role in developing and implementing effective policies and procedures that impact the school and its community.





## WHAT DO I NEED TO BE GOOD AT?

To be successful in this role, we are looking for people with a diverse range of skills and experiences. These may come from experience at work, through volunteering roles and from home and community responsibilities too. We don't need to all be expert at everything, but as a team we need to ensure we have the skills and experience we need around the table. All governors need to care about education and wellbeing, be committed to improving outcomes for young people, and have a desire to make a positive impact in their local community. Some of the competencies that we are looking for include:

- Willingness to be an active, hardworking and dedicated governor – we ask for a commitment of 2-3 days/month (14-21 hours) during term time. This is mostly made up of meetings, pre-reading, school visits, training etc.
- Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and develop new skills.
- Communication and interpersonal skills - able to listen, reflect and challenge constructively ask incisive, probing questions, and work collaboratively with others.
- The ability to look at data and information, using it to make informed, evidence based decisions.
- A commitment to equality and diversity, and an understanding of the needs of different communities.
- Strategic, analytical thinking and the ability to contribute to the development of the school's long-term vision.
- Ability to be a good critical friend – asking challenging and useful questions, whilst supporting staff to do the very best job they can
- Experience in education and/or governance would be an advantage, but it is not essential.

In addition we are looking for some governors with specific skills:, Education, Wellbeing & Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs (SEN), Finance & Fundraising, Our local community, Diversity & inclusion, Cybersecurity/IT and Communications.





## About the school

Archer Academy was opened in September 2013 to meet the needs and desires of parents, primary school governors and the local community, for a first choice, non denominational, coeducational secondary school. Archer is significantly over subscribed with over 1100 applications for entry each year and our GCSE results consistently place us in the top 10% of schools nationally. Archer Academy was graded outstanding in all areas by Ofsted in 2019.

We have 162 students in each year group and are a campus school, a model which we believe allows us to create a distinctive atmosphere on each site. Our students complete Lower School, Years 7 to 9, at our Eagans Close campus, a state of the art building with incredible facilities. Students then graduate to Upper School at Beaumont Close, just a few minutes' walk away, in Year 10. Our campus provides each cohort the chance to grow and develop amongst their closest peers and creates a real sense of progress when students graduate to the college like atmosphere of Upper School, a rite of passage they aspire towards. The campus model also reinforces the small, community feel of our school.

We are currently an 11-16 school working in a strategic partnership with Woodhouse College for sixth form provision. This partnership is dynamic and evolving rapidly, securing a third transition point for our students and professional development opportunities for our staff. We are ambitious to continue to develop this provision over the coming years and see ourselves very much as an evolving 11-18 school.

## Challenges and opportunities

Like all schools, we face both challenges and opportunities to enable all our students achieve their potential. For example, nationally against a background of challenging school finances, there are difficulties with staff recruitment, a well documented young peoples mental health crisis and we are dealing with the covid aftermath which affected so many children's academic and social development. However, our school is also fortunate to be able to create many opportunities to benefit our students. We have an engaged and supportive parent body, active volunteers, such as our green arrows who built our school garden, a caring approach to pastoral care with equine therapy and wellbeing week and a creative approach to developing the whole child. We have excellent links with our community and continue to harness our strengths to strive to improve in all areas.



## WHAT DO OUR CURRENT GOVERNORS SAY ABOUT THE ROLE?

We are very lucky to have always had committed and engaged governors. This is what some of them have said about the role:

*“Governance is incredibly rewarding. I enjoy working with a group of dedicated, intelligent people who have differing backgrounds and experiences that I wouldn't necessarily otherwise get to experience.”*

*“I have always enjoyed volunteering and have had a number of volunteering positions over the past 20 years. I became a governor because I wanted to give back to my local community, and I felt I had skills, knowledge and experience to contribute, particularly around fundraising and community development. It has also given me a chance to develop new skills particularly around governance, finance and HR.”*

*“As a governor, I am able to make a unique and valuable contribution to my local community and play a part in improving children's education, which is so critical to unlocking future opportunities.”*

*“I've really enjoyed working with such a fantastic team of people - staff and governors - to achieve a shared goal. It's given me a unique insight into the work and challenges school leaders face and it's been great to be a part of a valuable contribution to the school.”*

*“I enjoy seeing the development of young people and how the school works hard to support every type of student and their families.”*

*“It's an opportunity to give back to the local community in a tangible way”*

*“Learning about the challenges the school faces and seeing how solutions are found with the support of governors is really enriching.”*

*“It is good to help shape something that is so important.”*

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY

For more information about the Archer Academy, please visit our website [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk)

Being a governor is a voluntary, unpaid role, but the board is able to reimburse reasonable childcare costs and travel expenses in specific circumstances. Governors do not need any specific qualifications. If you become a governor, we will organise a safeguarding background DBS check and any other relevant training, but there is no cost to you. Governors also act as Directors for Company law purposes.

If you would like to speak to one of our governors to find out more about the role or to answer any questions you may have, please email us at [claires@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:claires@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

### To apply, please send an email outlining

- **why you are interested in being a governor at the Archer Academy, and**
- **the relevant skills, knowledge and experience you can bring to the role,**

**to [claires@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:claires@thearcheracademy.org.uk) by 5pm 19 June 2024 at the latest. If you have a CV you are welcome to include it but this is not essential. We will be dealing with applications on a rolling basis and encourage you to apply early.**

Thank you for your time in reading this pack and for considering supporting our school community in such a vital, important role. We very much hope you will apply for one of the governor roles available.