



## School Governor and Trustee [Legal specialist] (non-executive) (voluntary position), More House School

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The Board of Governors of More House School is seeking to appoint a Governor with extensive legal experience (ideally with a legal qualification) from December 2024. This is a voluntary position with an expected term length of at least three years with a maximum of nine. The appointee will support the school's leadership and governors in strategic forward planning and all matters finance related. Post-holders will be responsible, together with their fellow governors, for the overall governance of the charity, monitoring performance and securing compliance with statutory requirements, and for the development of the school's aims and objectives.

*Our vision is to lead in transforming the futures of intelligent pupils who experience specific learning difficulties, developmental language disorder and associated conditions, by empowering them.*

Our School Values are: Kindness - Spirit - Responsibility

### Overview:

Located south of Farnham on the beautiful Surrey and Hampshire border, More House School is an independent boarding and day school for 500 boys aged 8 to 18, delivering a broad and rich mainstream, academic curriculum across key stages 2, 3, 4 and 5, including GCSE, A' Level, BTEC and university entrance. The School is celebrated as a national centre of excellence and is consistently awarded the highest grade in inspection.

Pupils are clever and empowered to overcome the barriers posed by their special educational needs. All pupils take a breadth of GCSEs and most continue in the School's Sixth Form (of approximately 80 students). Despite all pupils facing adversity in their learning, More House School achieves public exam results above the national averages at GCSE and A' Level, and a majority of leavers progress to university.

There are currently twelve serving Governors with a range of skills and expertise in Education, Finance, Law, Medicine and Safeguarding. Joining the More House School board as a governor offers unparalleled opportunities for professional development and networking with a diverse group of professionals committed to educational excellence. Governors are required to attend four full board meetings a year in person at the school site in Frensham, with additional attendance at termly or half-termly committee meetings depending on each governor's membership (Finance & General Purposes, Teaching, Learning and Therapy, and Safeguarding and Welfare). The Full Governing Body meetings and Finance & General Purposes meetings tend to be held in the evening. This Governor role would include membership of the Finance and General Purposes committee, meeting half-termly.

Governors provide support and challenge to the Headmaster, Bursar and Senior Leadership, to ensure that the school functions within the legal and regulatory framework of the sector and in line with the school's governing document. As a governor, you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students and the school, making a tangible difference in the lives of young people who overcome significant barriers to excel academically. Governors



also ensure that the school maintains sound financial management of the school's resources, ensuring expenditure is in line with its objectives, and investment activities meet accepted standards and policies. Governors of the school are also charity trustees and directors of the not-for-profit company Gard'ner Memorial Ltd.

Governors act as ambassadors and advocates for the school and must act independently in accordance with Charity law. For this reason, it is extremely unusual for the parent of a pupil currently on-roll to be appointed to serve on the board of governors.

[www.morehouseschool.co.uk](http://www.morehouseschool.co.uk)

*Ofsted Outstanding 2023*



## **The School:**

Nationally celebrated, More House School provides an exceptional, mainstream education for intelligent boys with Specific Learning Difficulties and weakness in their developmental language skills. Providing a transformative education repeatedly recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted over more than a decade, we offer a specialised learning environment for day and boarding boys from Year 4 to Year 13. Our pupils are taught to recognise their strengths and develop their self-belief so that they achieve independence and extraordinary results at GCSE, BTEC and A' Level, above the national averages. A majority progress to university.

The School has an 85-year history of supporting boys with additional challenge in their educational experience. Now with 500 pupils, the School has grown significantly in recent years and has the largest number on roll ever. It is recognised as being the largest SEND-specialist provision in the United Kingdom and is heavily involved in outreach work. More than half of pupils have their places funded by their local authorities.

Delivering a mainstream independent-school experience, both academically and socially, the very broad curriculum affords all pupils the opportunity to discover their strengths, challenging them to fulfil their academic and extra-curricular potential. Pupils benefit from classroom teaching which recognises that each pupil is individual in his profile of skill strengths and weaknesses, and which focuses on adaptive strategies which look beyond pupils' individual diagnoses and prioritises the support of the four core elements of language, attention, processing and working memory. All teachers are supported to develop their understanding and professional practice in this respect, both on arrival and throughout their employment, through high-quality, nationally-accredited training delivered in-house.

Class-sizes are small, with a maximum of 15 pupils, and almost all pupils receive timetabled support through the on-site Learning Development Centre which comprises Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and specialist Dyslexia-qualified Literacy and Numeracy Tutors.

Judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in its last five School inspections, our most recent inspection (March 2023) graded More House School 'Outstanding' overall, and 'Outstanding' in each of the six sub-sections of the report. The School's provision for residential boarders was most-recently inspected in November 2023 and likewise graded Outstanding in every respect. More House is CReSTeD approved, listed in their Specialist Schools category, and is an active



member of the Independent Schools Association and the Boarding Schools' Association.

The School is set on a wooded hillside in nearly thirty acres on the Hampshire/Surrey border and within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Attractive modern facilities lie above the playing fields. London Waterloo is one hour away by train from close-by Farnham railway station, and there is easy access to the M25, M3 and A3 major routes. Guildford is twenty minutes' drive away, Basingstoke twenty-five, and Southampton an hour.

In recent years, the School has built its School of Engineering and CAD facilities, opened a new Humanities block and School Chapel, completed our brand-new library and Media Studies centre, and grown our learning support facilities. 2018 saw the expansion of the campus and the conversion of a large domestic building into our new Sixth Form centre, which was opened in January 2019, improving further the facilities for both teaching and independent study. In December 2022, we installed a new Strength and Conditioning fitness gym for students and employees. Future plans include an ambitious building project improving further our Science laboratory facilities, extending the School's medical surgery and improving facilities for therapeutic counselling. We are also seeking planning permission for another project which will realise increased resources for Sports.

### **About this post:**

The duties of a governor include:

- Supporting the aims of the school and its mission statement, and ensuring that these are achieved.
- Determining the overall direction and development of the school through good governance and clear strategic planning.
- Promoting and developing the school in order for it to grow and maintain its relevance in society.
- Acting in the best interest of the school, beneficiaries and future beneficiaries at all times.
- Interviewing and appointing the Head and COO (when required) and monitoring the work and activities of the senior team.
- Maintaining absolute confidentiality about all sensitive/confidential information received in the course of governors' responsibilities to the school, and to accord with the conflicts of interest policy.
- Contributing expertise to the discussions of the Governing Body.
- Attending committee meetings, specifically half-termly meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- As necessary, Governors may be required to sit on a panel to hear parental complaints or other panels, etc.
- It is the collective responsibility of the Governing body to ensure there are effective safeguarding arrangements and procedures at the school.
- The non-executive post-holder will report to the Chair of Governors and, as a trustee of the charity, is accountable to the Charity Commission.



There is a degree of commitment required of a governor to:

- attend as many meetings and school events as possible;
- be prepared to commit sufficient time to visit the school periodically during working hours, and to study reports and background papers;
- attend training courses and seminars and complete e-learning;
- Keep up to date with statutory guidance including Keeping Children Safe in Education.

### **Person specification:**

- Legal qualification, and extensive experience in this field.
- Capable of sound judgement and diplomacy.
- Ability to challenge and support, and be a critical friend to the senior leadership team.
- Experience in a similar role or board level experience.
- Experience of handling securely, highly confidential information.
- Strong, secure and personal commitment to the School's ethos and aims in promoting the best possible outcomes for pupils, including safeguarding their welfare.

The role of Governor is very rewarding and enjoyable. A current governor recently commented 'Serving on the More House School board has been an incredibly rewarding experience, providing me with a unique opportunity to contribute to a community that is truly making a difference in the lives of its students. The collaboration, dedication, and passion of this team are unparalleled, and I am proud to be part of it.'

### **Safeguarding:**

This role is deemed to be one of working in regulated activity, meaning that the post-holder may expect to come into unsupervised contact with children and young people frequently in the discharge of their duties on-campus. As such, the expectations of conduct, required of all adults working at More House School, apply to this position, as does a full Safer-Recruitment vetting process of any appointee. A key responsibility of all adults working within the School is that of ensuring the effective safeguarding of all children and young people, through adherence to the School's policies; full-training is given.

Applicants must undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS check. More House School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

### **To Apply:**

Please visit our website [www.morehouseschool.co.uk](http://www.morehouseschool.co.uk), and complete the online application form: [More House School - Support Staff Application Form](#)



The selection process for this important role includes two key stages: an informal discussion with the Chair of Governors to explore your interest and alignment with the school's ethos, followed by a more formal interview with the Nominations and Governance Committee to assess suitability and discuss potential contributions to the board.

**This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS clearance and the receipt of satisfactory references before a formal job offer is confirmed.**

**More House School is firmly committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.**