



# SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

## The Role of School Governor

Surbiton High School is a friendly, vibrant and ambitious community where people matter, results count and where passion for excellence drives everything we do. We are part of United Learning and the United Church Schools Trust.

As the leader of Surbiton High School, the Principal is held directly accountable by United Learning for the School's management and performance. However, our Local Governing Body (LGB) plays a crucial role in ensuring the School's success by supporting, challenging, guiding and advising the Principal and Senior Leadership Team to ensure that the pupils continue to receive the highest quality education.

As a member of the LGB you will contribute to the overall governance of Surbiton High School. Your role will be to challenge and support the School to deliver its core functions by holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils; overseeing the financial performance by making sure the budget is well spent; supporting the School with its strategic direction; reviewing the School's implementation of United Learning policies (for example Child Protection); having an input on repair and maintenance concerns; sitting on panels and committees; and by attending termly meetings as well as events and staff meetings throughout the academic year.

### Key requirements

#### Ethos and values

- To demonstrate a wholehearted commitment to the education of children and young people; to the values and ethos of United Learning and to the aims and ethos of Surbiton High School.
- To focus first and foremost on the needs of children and their education.
- To understand and embody the distinction between governance and management.
- To add value to the School and its leadership, by obtaining a deep knowledge of the School and demonstrating a total commitment to and passion for the School and its success.
- To maintain separation between personal relationships and the role as a member of the LGB, by declaring any potential conflict of interest as soon as it arises, and acting in a subjective and dispassionate manner at all times. This is particularly relevant for any LGB member who is a relative of a current pupil or who has an existing professional relationship with the School, such as through the provision of commercial services.
- To comply with the strictest of standards in terms of confidentiality and behaviour.

#### Commitment

- To show a willingness to give priority to termly LGB meetings with full and punctual attendance. It is appreciated that governors are volunteers but agreeing to join the LGB implies a commitment to attend all meetings. If more than two consecutive meetings are missed, the Chair may need to ask the member to consider his/her position.
- To take an active role and be fully engaged with School life, through frequent attendance at events, matches and performances, visiting the school regularly to observe lessons and daily life, contributing to careers and alumni activities, being prepared to offer coaching and



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mentoring to pupils and/or staff and assisting with open events and recruitment days if asked to do so.

- To contribute helpful, constructive and supportive comments during LGB meetings; allowing everyone to have an equal voice and never seeking to undermine the work of the School, the LGB or the individuals involved.
- To take an active role in sub-committees or inter-meeting work when asked to do so. Such committees may deal with the more detailed work alongside school personnel, e.g. a finance, curriculum or marketing sub-committee.
- To provide brief but effective written reports as required and in accordance with any specified deadlines.

## **Professional Skills and Community Knowledge**

- To bring to the LGB their skills and experience and community knowledge whether professional or personal in order to enrich the work of the LGB and the School.
- Specific professional knowledge and experience in the field of Architecture/Estates Management, Secondary/Higher Education or Pastoral Care would be highly desirable.
- Previous experience as a governor, trustee, or in a similar advisory role would be valuable.
- Familiarity with the independent education sector and its regulatory landscape would be desirable.

## **Personal Qualities**

- Sound judgement, strategic thinking, and the ability to analyse and interpret information.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to challenge and support constructively.
- Personal and professional integrity and the ability to exercise discretion, respect confidentiality and demonstrate an understanding of governance responsibilities.
- A commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion, and pupil well-being.
- Ability to work collaboratively with others.
- Ability to think creatively and imaginatively.
- Positive, enthusiastic and energetic approach to life.

Surbiton High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all who work and volunteer at the School to share this commitment. A role on the LGB is conditional on the successful outcome of safer recruitment processes which will include online/social media checks, an Enhanced Disclosure and Child Barred List check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the taking up of references.



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## To Apply

Please apply by completing the **Application Form** which is available on our School website [here](#) and sending this, along with **a copy of your CV** to [recruitment@surbitonhigh.com](mailto:recruitment@surbitonhigh.com)

**Closing date for Applications:**

**8:00am, 29 May 2025**

**Interviews to be held week commencing:**

**9 June 2025**

*Please note that the School reserves the right to appoint at any stage during the recruitment process.  
For any queries relating to the role or your application, please email [recruitment@surbitonhigh.com](mailto:recruitment@surbitonhigh.com)*

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## About Surbiton High School

***We aim to inspire, encourage and empower our staff and pupils to be the very best they can be.***

Surbiton High School is a school with a real heart and soul, where we look beyond the A\* to offer a breadth of opportunity which allows every pupil to flourish and every staff member to develop and succeed.

Our inspirational teachers are committed to delivering a rich curriculum and programme of co-curricular activities which challenge our pupils to explore ideas for themselves. We feed our pupils' minds, but we also care passionately about their character development and happiness. Our approach to education means that Surbiton High School pupils achieve the very best exam results and are also compassionate, authentic young people with strong values, keen to make a positive difference in the world. Our Educational Support Staff are the backbone of the School, and are dedicated to supporting our aim of creating an intellectually rigorous and challenging academic environment which runs smoothly and efficiently.

Surbiton High School has approximately 1,600 pupils aged between 4 and 18. Our Preparatory Schools are divided into the Girls' Preparatory School and Boys' Preparatory School, and the Senior School is girls only from age 11 upwards.

We are looking for applicants who are passionate about inspiring those around them, bringing out 'The Best in Everyone' and working with us to remain a leading school of choice (rated 'excellent in all areas' by ISI 2023).

Read more on our website: [www.surbitonhigh.com](http://www.surbitonhigh.com)



### United Learning

United Learning is a group of schools which aims to provide excellent education to children and young people across the country. We seek to improve the life chances of all the children and young people we serve and make it our mission to bring out 'the best in everyone' – pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. Uniquely, our Group includes significant numbers of schools in both the public and the private sectors, working together for mutual benefit.

### Equal Opportunities

Surbiton High School is a member of the United Church Schools Trust, Charity Number 1016538 and is an equal opportunity employer. We expect all employees and volunteers to act in a manner which is consistent with the Trust's principal objective: to provide education based on Christian principles. While we recognise that employees and volunteers may come from other faith groups (as indeed do many of our pupils), we expect everyone in our community to conduct themselves appropriately in the light of this objective. As a School we, in turn, respect the different faiths of our colleagues and pupils, and welcome them and their contribution.