

Help Shape Our "Castle": Join Us as a Parent Governor at Carisbrooke College

At Carisbrooke College, we believe that "Education is Our Castle" - a strong, welcoming space where every student can find where they belong and build the confidence to grow. Just like a castle stands firm through time, a great education gives our young people the strength to face challenges, the space to explore, and the security to discover who they are.

But a castle is only as strong as its community. To help us support, protect, and build this environment for every single child, we are looking for a passionate Parent Governor to join our Academy Committee.

What it means to be a Parent Governor

As a parent or carer, you have a unique, invaluable perspective on how our school works. You see the daily impact of school policies, hear what other parents are talking about, and understand the real-life experience of our students.

As a Parent Governor, you won't be managing the day-to-day running of the school - that is the job of the Headteacher and staff. Instead, you will be the vital link between our families and school leadership. You will:

- **Bring the Parent Perspective:** Ensure the views and voices of parents and carers are heard and considered in strategic decision-making.
- **Help Build a Stronger Community:** Work in partnership with school leaders to understand and overcome local barriers and parent voice challenges.
- **Help Shape the School's Future:** Ensure every child in our community has the opportunity to thrive inside our "castle."

What you will do

Our Academy Committee works alongside the HISP Multi Academy Trust Board of Trustees to provide strategic leadership and accountability. As a Parent Governor, you will collaborate with other governors to:

- **Monitor Educational Performance:** Review school data and reports on student progress, attendance, exam results, and behaviour.
- **Support & Challenge School Leaders:** Partner with the Headteacher and the Trust School Improvement Team to identify areas of growth and monitor school improvements.
- **Oversee Safeguarding & Well-being:** Ensure our safeguarding practices are robust and that the school remains a safe, inclusive environment for everyone.
- **Ensure Wise Spending:** Monitor how the school budget is spent to ensure value for money and that resources directly benefit the students.
- **Conduct School Visits:** Visit the school to see policies in action and report your findings back to the committee.

What we are looking for

You do not need to be an education expert or have prior experience in governance to make a huge difference. We are seeking a parent or carer who brings:

- **A Commitment to our Community:** A genuine interest in the welfare, education, and happiness of all Carisbrooke College students.
- **Empathy & Broad Perspective:** An understanding of local challenges, parent voice, and the diverse needs of our families.

- Critical Listening & Inquiry: The ability to look at information, ask constructive and supportive questions, and think strategically.
- Good Communication: A collaborative approach and a willingness to work as part of a team.

What's in It for you?

School governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the UK. By stepping up, you will make a lasting contribution to the school, while gaining highly valuable strategic and professional skills:

- Strategic board-level experience in planning and decision-making.
- Development in strategic planning, financial/budget monitoring, and data analysis.
- Experience in providing constructive challenge and holding senior leaders to account.
- Professional growth in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

The commitment

- Term of Office: 4 years.
- Meetings: 6 meetings of the Carisbrooke College Academy Committee per year (which includes 3 combined stakeholder monitoring and meeting days).
- Preparation: Reading school reports and preparing questions for senior leaders ahead of meetings.
- Training: Full training, mentoring, and support are provided by the HISP Multi Academy Trust to help you feel confident in the role.
- *Please note: This volunteer role is open to parents and carers of current students, but is not open to Carisbrooke College staff.*

Ready to make a difference?

If you want to help us shape the future of Carisbrooke College and advocate for our students, we would love to hear from you.

For an informal, friendly chat about what the role involves, please contact Sara Higgs, Chair of the Academy Committee: Email: sara.higgs@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk