



Governor

Application Pack



Chair's Welcome

Thank you for downloading this information pack and for considering the role of school Governor at Future Education. I have had the pleasure of Chairing the board of Governors for the last 18 months and I can honestly say it has been an equally rewarding and interesting experience throughout.

I've met some incredibly inspiring and talented people – both colleagues and students – and I take pride in supporting a school which truly changes the lives of some of Norfolk's most vulnerable children. As a small but focused board of Governors we are able to have a very meaningful say in the direction of the school as it has undergone a period of significant change and growth.

We would now like to expand our board to bring in fresh perspectives and skills to complement our own, and to take the school on to the next stage of its journey. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with expertise or interest in SEND, Therapeutic services, or lived experience which relates to the services provided by the school.

Full training will be provided, and if you require any adjustments, adaptations or support to take forward your application or to participate as a Governor, please be reassured that we are committed to supporting you. I look forward to receiving your applications and possibly working with you!

Daniel Childerhouse | Chair of Governors



Headteacher's Welcome

Hello and welcome to those considering joining us at Future Education. I'm Debbie Edwards, the Headteacher here, and I'm genuinely excited about the prospect of welcoming new members to our school's governing body. Our school is a special place, dedicated to nurturing students aged 13-16 with social, emotional, and mental health needs. It's a community where every day brings new challenges, but also incredible rewards.

What makes us unique isn't just our curriculum or our approach to learning, but the warmth and spirit of our school family. Our team's dedication goes beyond textbooks; we're committed to helping our students find their feet in a world that often feels a bit too big or too confusing. We celebrate every small victory, understand every setback, and persist with unwavering belief in the potential of each student.

We're on the lookout for Governors who can connect with our ethos and help bring fresh ideas to the table. Whether it's your professional skills, life experiences, or simply a passion for supporting young people, your contribution can make a real difference. Being a part of our governing body isn't just about oversight; it's about being part of a journey that changes lives, including your own.

So, if you're ready for an enriching and heartwarming experience, we can't wait to hear from you. Let's work together to make Future Education not just a school, but a beacon of hope and a place where every child gets to shine.

Debbie Edwards | Headteacher



About Us

Future Education is a caring and aspiring independent special school for young people aged between 13 and 16 who have social, emotional and mental health needs.

We offer an academic and therapeutic curriculum designed to ensure the needs of each young person who attends the school are being met. Our ethos is centred on personalisation, enabling our young people to achieve both at school and for their future, whilst supporting our families as essential parts of our school community. The school also maintains close links with the charity who founded the school – Future Projects and we share in their vision to create vibrant strong communities where everybody can live independent, safe and happy lives.

All young people who attend the school have an EHC plan and as a result, we work closely with all partners involved in a young person's education and wellbeing, including social workers and healthcare professionals.

By working successfully and collaboratively with all involved with the school, we firmly believe that all Future Education students have the ability to succeed by removing their current barriers to learning, helping them to realise their aspirations and for each student to reach their full potential both inside and outside of school.



Our Charity

Future Education is just one part of a larger charity called Future Projects, which exists to tackle poverty, deprivation and disadvantage in Norfolk. Our Vision is of vibrant and strong communities where everybody can live independent, safe and happy lives. The charity began in the year 2000 with two volunteers taking action after becoming increasingly frustrated at the social exclusion, poverty, and lack of support available in their local community. We now provide a range of projects and services across the county including our Independent Special School – Future Education.

Creating brighter
futures throughout
Norfolk



A specialist independent school which engages children with complex needs in learning, inspiring them to achieve and nurturing them to become successful adults.



A radio station which engages the community, builds skills and provides opportunities through great music, conversation and people.



A collection of specialist support services which help those most in need through hands-on support, advice and advocacy.

Why We're Needed

The students we support all have Education, Health and Care Plans which specify the need for a Special school environment. These young people often have a range of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and are years behind their peers in terms of their personal, emotional, and academic development. Most have been out of education for long periods, and many have additional needs such as ASD, ADHD, and speech and language difficulties.

As such, they need significant and individualised support to learn and grow. Unfortunately, the number of young people experiencing these challenges in Norfolk continues to grow, and there simply isn't enough provision to support them all.

100%

All of our students have multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as experiencing abuse, violence, neglect, or trauma

351

Last year, we addressed 351 safeguarding concerns relating to our small cohort of SEN students

1Y 8M

Last year, we increased the average reading age of our students by 1 year and 8 months

92%

Despite the hardships they faced, 92% of our leavers went into further education, training or employment last year



The Role of a Governor

School Governors at Future Education have two primary responsibilities:

1. Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school, engaging with stakeholders and ensuring that statutory duties are met within the agreed policy framework
2. Acting as a 'critical friend' to the school by holding the Head Teacher to account for teaching, curriculum, behaviour, and safety; challenging and strengthening leadership; and contributing to self-evaluation and improvement

The role offers extensive free training and the chance to build skills in a range of areas.

Through Educare, Governors have access to unlimited online training in hundreds of topics such as Safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR, Leadership and Management, and specific topics such as Autism Awareness or Equality and Diversity.





Role Specifics

Governor

Time Commitment: Governors will be required to visit and monitor the school regularly to apply scrutiny and to support the leadership team. Additional time may be required for mandatory training, planning, and to participate in Ofsted or other inspections.

Every effort is made to work around the existing commitments of governors. The role would usually take around 3-5hrs a month in total.

Other role info: We are open to applicants from any background and with any focus, skills, knowledge or experience, but we are particularly keen to hear from people to focus on the following areas:

SEND

To champion the issue of special educational needs within the work of the governing board and to have specific oversight of the school's arrangements and provision for meeting special educational needs.

This role would suit somebody working within a special educational needs setting or with first-hand experience either at a strategic or operational level. For example: a SENCO, Social Worker, EHCP Coordinator, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Therapeutic Services

To champion the therapeutic needs of the school community and to have specific oversight of the school's arrangements for the delivery of appropriate therapeutic education services.

This role would suit somebody trained or working within therapeutic, counselling or wellbeing services either at a strategic or operational level. For example: Therapeutic Practitioner or Therapist, Therapy Services Manager, Counsellor.

Lived Experience

To champion the voice of students, parents and families within the governing board and to use your experience to help the board make informed decisions whilst maintaining links with the wider school community.

This role would suit a parent of current/former students or anybody with direct experience of accessing special education services.

Careers/Employment

To champion careers education and take a strategic interest in the school's provision so that it aligns with, and delivers, the best possible post-16 outcomes for students linked to local careers opportunities

This role would suit anybody working with the recruitment, careers or employment support sector who has a good understanding of the local jobs environment. For example; Recruitment Consultant, Recruitment Manager/Director, Careers Advisor, Employment Support Service Manager/Advisor

Key Tasks

The following is an indication of the key tasks and responsibilities the post of school governor holds:

- Support the Board of Governors to hold the Head Teacher to account for teaching, curriculum, behaviour, and safety
- Support the Headteacher and Board of Governors to set the vision, ethos, and strategic direction of the school
- Supporting the regular review of strategic frameworks within which Future Education operates
- Contribute to, support, monitor and scrutinise self-evaluation and improvement planning
- Ensure that the school operates in the best interests of pupils, parents and the community
- Positively represent the School and Charity at every opportunity
- Considering safety and safeguarding arrangements, scrutinising training arrangements and reviewing safety data
- Requesting additional reports, data and information as and when necessary
- Monitoring examination results, attendance data, exclusions and other performance metrics
- Reviewing the schools financial and curriculum plans
- Adopting, monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness and content of policies





website



website



website



How to Apply

For a conversation about the role, to arrange a visit or for an application form, please email info@futureprojects.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in supporting Future Education!