



Wargrave House

'The Autism Specialists'



Becoming a Governor at Wargrave House

"On a journey together,
learning about life"

'Wargrave House
is an exceptional
school'

OFSTED 2014

"The quality and
consistency of care
that residential
pupils receive is
outstanding"

OFSTED Residential
Inspection 2017

'Students love
coming to school'

OFSTED 2014

"Wargrave House is a service
that enables some very
vulnerable young people to
develop a sense of
belonging, ownership and
community that enhances
their wellbeing and self-
esteem which results in very
positive outcomes for
students and their families."

NAS Accreditation 2018



What are the personal benefits to be gained from being a Governor?

The main benefit you can gain from being a governor is a sense of satisfaction through involvement in one of the most important volunteering roles in education. The collective decisions you make, as a member of the governing body, will help shape the future of children here at Wargrave House.

Other benefits will include:

- ◆ The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones
- ◆ The opportunity to practise work talents. As part of a team, being a school governor will give you the opportunity to work with a wide range of people from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds
- ◆ The opportunity to gain an understanding of the decision making process of school governing bodies and an awareness of the education system as a whole
- ◆ The opportunity to make a real difference and the chance to contribute to the good of the community, leading to personal satisfaction and a sense of achievement
- ◆ The opportunity to undertake training on various aspects of governorship

Who are we?

Wargrave House Limited is a registered charity (No.1104715) which operates as a residential special school and independent specialist college supporting children and young adults diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder. Located in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, we are approved by the Department of Education and provide a valuable specialist service to over 14 local authorities for some of the most vulnerable young people in our region.

Our educational focus centres on the holistic needs of the child or young adult, integrating therapeutic approaches to develop skills for learning, communicating and being independent, alongside working to support the real issues families of children with autism face. Our dedicated Board of Trustees delegate the day to day running of the school and college to a team of senior managers and governor volunteers who act as 'critical friends'.

What are the responsibilities of a Governor?

Governors are responsible for promoting high standards of educational achievement and enabling the head teacher and the staff to deliver these. Governors are involved in planning the long-term future of Wargrave House, in overseeing its aims, values and ethos, and in monitoring its performance.

How much work does being a Governor involve?

Time spent on governor duties varies by school/college. Governing bodies generally meet at least once per term and are supported by committees that discuss key areas such as finance and learning & teaching. If you decide to become a governor it is important that you are able to attend the majority of full governing body meetings; some reading will also be necessary as preparation for these meetings. Participation in one of the committees is by invitation of the governing body and is a matter of individual preference.

Although it is difficult to quantify the time commitment involved, it is likely to average out at 4 hours per calendar month. Most meetings take place on weekdays starting from 4pm. It is worth finding out if your employer has a policy that makes allowances for the time you spend as a governor.

How big a commitment is this?

The normal term for serving as a governor is four years. If you want to be an effective governor and provide stability and continuity to a governing body you will ideally be able to commit to this period of time. As a volunteer you can choose to leave the governing body at any time.

What qualities or qualifications do I need to be Governor?

You do not need any special qualifications to be a governor. The most important qualities a governor will bring to a governing body are enthusiasm and commitment. You are likely to be working with people from a variety of social, religious and cultural backgrounds so it will also help to be a good listener, taking time to understand the views of different people. Governors bring a range of skills, experience, interests and perspectives from many walks of life. This will aid the decision-making functions of the governing body.

Why encourage staff to volunteer?

School/college governance has many parallels with running a business, and getting involved makes good commercial sense as well as providing an excellent opportunity for companies seeking to get involved in the community. By supporting staff in their role as governors an employer has the opportunity to gain significant benefits, including an enhanced company profile, staff development and shaping the local workforce.

Key Business Benefits from Community Involvement:

- ◆ Employee development
- ◆ Strong and positive links with the community
- ◆ A more informed workforce
- ◆ Projecting company/business values
- ◆ Better customer relations/PR
- ◆ Opportunity to shape future workforce
- ◆ Staff recruitment
- ◆ Demonstrate company skill

Why people with work and management skills?

Wargrave House is a non-maintained school/college and as such is autonomous, dealing with a budget in excess of £3 million and more than 100 members of staff. People from all areas of society including the world of work bring a different perspective to the governing body that is also very beneficial.

Skills learnt in the workplace can add real value to governing bodies. Volunteers with an external, work based perspective who are willing to challenge assumptions and promote innovation, will be increasingly important as the school and college deal with major issues such as the expansion of knowledge and resource; the pace and type of change, the implication of new governance and legislation and the influence of new technology.

People have a range of transferrable work skills that can add value and strengthen governing bodies e.g.

Marketing	Decision Making
Problem Solving	Financial Planning
Team Working	Project Management
Strategic Planning	ICT
Personnel	Communications

I am interested in finding out more – who should I contact?

We would like to invite you to support us in our journey to make a real difference to the lives of this very special group of people and enjoy the rewards of working with us. So if you are interested in becoming a Governor and would like to find out more, please contact Tracy Smith, Clerk to the Governing Body, who will be pleased to arrange for you to visit Wargrave House and meet with senior staff to see for yourself the vital work that we do.

Tracy can be contacted on:

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

