



# The Isle of Wight Education Federation Governance



Isle of Wight  
Education Federation



# Welcome

Welcome to our learning community here on the Isle of Wight.

The Isle of Wight Education Federation comprises of Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form. We are three distinct learning communities with close links that benefit all of our students. By combining our skills, knowledge and expertise, we ensure students get the very best deal possible.

Our aim is simple: We want to be the best. The best for students, the best for parents, the best for staff who work here and the best for the Island.

The task of the governing board is to govern the schools through the implementation of three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Executive Headteacher and Heads of Schools to account for the educational performance of the students
- overseeing the financial performance of the schools

Our schools are on a journey of improvement and we are proud of the work undertaken so far to ensure the most successful futures for our students.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the governing board, so if you think you might be interested in joining us, please read on and get in contact with us if you would like any more information.

## **Richard Bridgeford and Jenny Hastings Co-Chairs of the Governing Board**



# Our Schools



## Carisbrooke College

Age range: 11-16  
Number on roll: 600  
Head of School: Karen Begley

Carisbrooke College is situated in the west of Newport, looking south towards Carisbrooke Castle and west towards Tennyson Down. In Spring 2019, Carisbrooke College moved into its new purpose-built building, housing 600 students and associated staff as well as the Einstein Centre for 16 young people with autism or other social and emotional difficulties.

Students benefit from state of the art facilities which provide the perfect environment for learning.

## Medina College

Age range: 11-16  
Number on roll: 800  
Head of School: Matthew Parr-Burman

Medina College is situated on the banks of the river Medina, a ten minute walk from the centre of Newport. The College inhabits a very attractive campus with buildings which are in excellent order and extensive grounds and playing fields. Students benefit from superb specialist arts facilities and relationships with organisations such as Solo, organisers of the Isle of Wight Festival, which provides exciting and unique opportunities.



## The Island VI Form

Age range: 16-19  
Number on roll: 500  
Head of School: David Mumford

The Island VI Form is a dedicated 16-19 college situated in the centre of Newport in a beautiful, historic building which has been refurbished specifically for VI Form education provision. The site has a university campus feel in which students thrive.

Being the largest provider of A Levels on the Island, The Island VI Form is able to offer a broad and diverse range of subjects and a curriculum that can be tailored to the needs of individual students.

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# About governance



## Who are Governors?

Governing boards are made up of individuals who bring a wide range of skills, experiences and backgrounds. They are volunteers who give up their time to ensure that schools are providing the best education for the next generation. They work together to set the vision and strategic aims of the school and monitor and evaluate performance towards those aims. They set policies, formulate plans and agree targets to help the schools achieve their best possible outcomes.



## Time Commitment

Most governors are appointed for a term of four years. There are 11 full governing board meetings per academic year and all governors are expected to attend these.

Governors are also expected to read papers and prepare questions prior to meetings and, occasionally, you may be asked to carry out school visits, attend training and sit on additional panels as required. Individuals should expect to spend around 10 days a year on their Governor duties.



## Membership of the Governing Board

Our governing board is made up of 1 staff governor, 1 local authority governor, 2 parent governors, 3 partnership governors, 11 co-opted governors and the Executive Headteacher.

Our governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and each bring unique skills to the governing board.



## Benefits

Governance is a voluntary role so there is no monetary payment for the role. However, you will benefit in many other ways.

Serving as a governor is a great way to gain experience of professional skills such as chairing, strategic planning, budget planning and team work; these are all highly valued by employers.



## Robust Accountability

The governing board aims to support and challenge the senior leadership team. We play a crucial role in holding the Executive Headteacher to account for securing the

best possible outcomes for students. By challenging key decisions and asking pertinent questions about performance, we aim to guarantee high standards in education.

Governors can have a huge impact on the education of young people and there is no greater feeling than knowing you have made a difference!



## Who can be a Governor?

Anyone over the age of 18 can become a governor, subject to some exceptions. Governors come from all walks of life and many different backgrounds.

Governors do not need any formal qualifications. They just need appropriate skills and experience, an interest in education, a commitment to prepare for and attend meetings and undertake any relevant training.

We want our governing board to reflect the Island community and would encourage people from all sections of the community, especially the minority ethnic groups, to put themselves forward.



## Financial Stability

We have a strategic role in the financial management of our schools. Our key responsibilities in this area include setting financial priorities through the schools'

development plans, three year financial plans and the annual budgets. We ensure the delegated budgets are spent in accordance with the school improvement plan and statutory curriculum requirements.



# Personal qualities required of a governor

Commitment and enthusiasm are the two most important qualities required of a school governor.

You will need a strong commitment to the role, a strong commitment to making sure there are high aspirations for local children and a commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for them.

You will need to be naturally inquisitive with a willingness to learn, to question and analyse.

You will need to be able to communicate confidently and have good inter-personal skills. Problem solving skills would also be very helpful.

You will need to have appropriate levels of literacy in English and sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data. Training can be provided though.

You will possess the ability to assimilate information, make judgements and take decisions.

You need to be able to meet a variable time commitment and be a flexible member of a team.

Experience in one of the following sectors would be beneficial, but not essential: Finance; Human Resources; Legal; Health & Safety; Project Management; Education.

Above all else though, if you are enthusiastic, curious, passionate about education and have a listening ear. You would make a great addition to our governing board.



# What can we offer you?



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- An opportunity to make a real impact on the development of two rapidly improving secondary schools and a VI Form.
- An opportunity to be a part of a team with a joint sense of purpose – ensuring the best outcomes and future success of local children.
- An opportunity to contribute to the strategic development of education on the Isle of Wight.
- A challenging but hugely rewarding role where you can make a real difference.
- An opportunity to use skills and previous experiences to benefit the local community.
- The chance to work with a diverse group of people who share a passion for education whilst supporting and learning from each other.
- Induction and ongoing training and support.

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# Vacancies

Please see the Governance section of the website for full details of current vacancies.

Our governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and industries, from banking to gardening, engineering to social care. They would all recommend being a governor to family and friends and experience great satisfaction from seeing our students benefit from the decisions they have made. This makes the role both rewarding and empowering.

We are interested in anyone who thinks they have the personal qualities required of a school governor as set out on page 5 of this booklet. In addition, we are particularly keen to hear from anyone who has the following experience:

- Background of senior school leadership or school improvement.
- Experience at this level in a range of settings and/or Local Authorities.
- Experience in schools improving from Requires Improvement to Good and beyond.

Being a Governor is a commitment and we want to make sure volunteers know as much as possible before making the decision to come on board. One of our existing governors would love to meet you for an informal chat about the work of the governing board and what you could bring to it.

# Contact

If you are interested in joining our Governing Board or have any other general questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Get in touch in one of the following ways:

By email: [emma.shambrook@iwef.org.uk](mailto:emma.shambrook@iwef.org.uk)

By Phone: 01983 526523 (please leave a message with the Receptionist if the Clerk is not available)

By letter: hand delivered: to Reception at Carisbrooke College, Medina College or The Island VI Form

By post: c/o Medina College, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2DX





The Isle of Wight Education Federation | Fairlee Road | Newport | Isle of Wight | PO30 2DX  
Tel: 01983 526523 | Email: [emma.shambrook@iwef.org.uk](mailto:emma.shambrook@iwef.org.uk) | Web: [www.iwef.org.uk/governance](http://www.iwef.org.uk/governance)



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