



CUDDESDON

GOVERNOR – RIPON COLLEGE CUDDESDON

Role Description

About Ripon College Cuddesdon

Ripon College Cuddesdon (RCC) is one of the Church of England's largest theological education institutions, with a long tradition of forming clergy and lay leaders for generous service in God's Church. Founded in 1854, the College now serves students across a range of residential and non-residential pathways and works in close partnership with the Universities of Oxford and Durham, dioceses across England, and institutions within the Anglican Communion and beyond.

RCC treasures its reputation for disciplined worship, academic rigour, theological breadth and contextual engagement. It seeks to reflect the comprehensiveness of the Church of England, welcoming a diversity of traditions, perspectives and experiences within an ordered and collaborative community.

Purpose of the Role

A Governor of Ripon College Cuddesdon serves as a charity trustee, sharing collective responsibility for the stewardship, governance and long-term wellbeing of the College. Governors support the College's leadership, hold it to account for the delivery of its mission and charitable purposes, and help ensure that RCC remains well-governed, financially sustainable and faithful to its ethos.

Governors act collectively; individual Governors do not represent particular constituencies or interests.

Key Responsibilities

Trusteeship and Governance

- Act as a trustee of Ripon College Cuddesdon, ensuring that the College pursues its charitable purposes for the public benefit.
- Comply with charity law, the College's governing documents, and relevant regulatory and safeguarding requirements.
- Act in the best interests of the College at all times, exercising reasonable care, skill and judgement.
- Contribute to balanced, well-informed decision-making, with appropriate attention to risk, sustainability and reputation.

Board and Committee Membership

- Attend three meetings of the Governing Body each year, normally held at Cuddesdon (near Oxford). Online attendance is possible, though periodic in-person attendance is strongly encouraged.
- Serve on at least one of the Board's standing committees (Finance; Education & Formation; Governance; Estates & Personnel; Branding & Marketing). Committees typically meet three times per year (Finance four times), with online attendance possible.
- Prepare for and participate actively in meetings, contributing constructively and collegially.

Strategic Contribution

- Support and challenge the College's leadership appropriately, acting as a critical friend.
- Bring relevant skills, experience and perspective to bear on the College's strategic direction, resilience and development.
- Take a general interest in the life and work of the College, including its students, staff and wider partnerships.

Leadership within the Board

- Some Governors may, over time, be invited to take on additional leadership responsibilities, including chairing committees, subject to the needs of the Board and agreement of the Governing Body.

Time Commitment

The role typically involves:

- Three Board meetings per year (including preparation)
- Three to four committee meetings per year
- Occasional additional engagement (e.g. strategy days, governor development, or specific advisory input)

The role is unpaid, though reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed.

Person Specification

Essential

- Eligible to serve as a charity trustee under UK charity law.
- Commitment to the mission, ethos and values of Ripon College Cuddesdon and the Church of England.
- Willingness to work constructively within a theologically broad and diverse community.
- Ability to exercise sound judgement, ask thoughtful questions, and contribute collaboratively.
- Sufficient time and commitment to fulfil the responsibilities of the role.

Desirable

- Experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas:
 - Governance and leadership
 - Finance, audit or risk
 - Estates, property or capital projects
 - Human resources or organisational development
 - Education, formation or safeguarding
 - Marketing, communications or organisational sustainability
- Previous experience as a trustee or non-executive, though this is not essential.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Ripon College Cuddesdon is committed to broadening the diversity of its Governing Body and warmly encourages expressions of interest from individuals who bring a wide range of skills, backgrounds and lived experience. The College values difference as a source of strength and enrichment and seeks Governors who are open to working generously with others whose perspectives or traditions may differ from their own.

Appointment and Term

Governors are appointed in accordance with the College's governing documents and relevant nomination processes. Appointments are normally for a fixed term, with the possibility of renewal, subject to Board approval and governance requirements.