ROLE DESCRIPTION: Chair of the Board

Role summary

In addition to playing a full and active role as a Governor, the Chair is responsible for providing effective leadership of the Board (the Corporation). This includes championing a culture of inclusivity, innovation and responsiveness, ensuring that the Board meets its statutory responsibilities, and serving as an ambassador and promoting the Group's best interests and reputation in local, regional and national settings.

1. Appointment

The Board has published rules for the appointment (and re-appointment) of Governors.

2. Key responsibilities

a. with the support of the Director of Governance, ensure the Governing Body is properly constituted, structured and that membership meets the target profile
b. ensure through the Director of Governance that the RNN Group can meet fully its statutory requirements in respect of
   - setting budgets, approving strategies and policies
   - monitoring performance against targets
   - maintaining the solvency of the Group
   - reporting to funding bodies
   - conducting business in accordance with its Instrument & Articles
c. line manage the CEO & Principal, and Director of Governance
d. establish strong, open, supportive, challenging and effective relationships with and between the CEO & Principal, other governors and the strategic leadership team
e. act as a critical friend and sounding board to the CEO & Principal to offer general and specific support where strategic or contentious issues are concerned
f. provide strategic leadership through key developments and opportunities within the FE sector
g. build relationships with and influence stakeholders in order to raise the profile of the Group, locally and regionally
h. keep informed of the main strategic issues impacting on the Group within the local/ regional economy helping to identify future opportunities for students
i. regular attendance at RNN Group events to support curriculum / commercial activities
j. follow the highest standards of corporate governance in line with the Boards' Code of Conduct

k. meet with individual Board members to conduct their annual performance review and discuss their contribution and development as governors
l. chair meetings of the Board
m. oversee the appointment of the CEO & Principal, Senior Post-holders and the Director of Governance
n. oversee the implementation of any disciplinary or grievance procedures involving the CEO & Principal, Senior Post-holders and the Director of Governance
o. hear staff or student appeals as necessary and in accordance with Group policies

3. Person specification

Skills

a. ability to chair meetings decisively and inclusively
b. strategic reasoning and thinking
c. an ability to influence without domination
d. confident public speaking and presentation
e. ability to communicate with wide and varied groups, including students and staff, to ensure their interests and views are considered
f. ability to foster supportive and constructively challenging working relationships, based upon trust

Knowledge and understanding

g. the FE sector and post-16 education - its role in society, how it functions, and its relationship with the Department for Education (DfE)
h. the wider economic landscape
i. the social and economic realities of South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire
j. public sector financial management and charity status

Experience

k. leadership in a comparably complex sector
l. working within a governance framework
m. leading, managing and holding senior leaders to account
n. team building in a non-executive environment

Personal Characteristics

o. ability to commit flexibly to the time required of being Chair of the Board
p. willingness to meet with external stakeholders, locally, regionally and nationally
q. commitment to good governance
r. commitment to lifelong learning and the Group's mission statement
s. commitment to maintaining a strong focus on continuous improvement
t. personal integrity and a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

References to other documents

- Appointment Procedure for the Chair and Vice Chair
- Standing Orders
- Instruments and Articles of Government

Date	Version	Summary of changes	Changes made by
21/09/2026	4.0	No changes	Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee
11/09/2024	3.0	Format updated in line with other role descriptions	Search and Governance Committee
19/02/2024	2.0	Role description updated in line with sector guidance	Search and Governance Committee
08/07/2020	1.0	Role description drafted	Search and Governance Committee