



Mill Hill
EDUCATION GROUP

Governance Manager

Candidate Information Pack

Instilling values, inspiring minds

INTRODUCTION

This is a part-time role of approximately 32 hours / 4 days per week during term time and 8 hours per week during the school holidays (must be willing to work these hours flexibly to be responsive to emails and projects that may require different working patterns).

Working hours can be flexible subject to being available for all Governor meetings and fulfilling other school-based responsibilities.

Closing date for applications: 9:00am on Tuesday 1 October 2024

Key facts about the role:

Contract Type

PERMANENT, PART TIME

Accountable to

COURT OF GOVERNORS

Salary

COMPETITIVE

Holiday

25 DAYS ANNUAL LEAVE, PRO-RATED, WILL BE INCLUDED IN SALARY (TO BE TAKEN IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS).

Location

THE POSITION IS PRIMARILY BASED AT THE WALKER HOUSE OFFICES IN MILL HILL BUT WILL INCLUDE VISITING ALL SCHOOLS WITHIN THE GROUP. THERE IS ALSO THE OPTION TO WORK REMOTELY FOR SOME OF THE TIME DURING TERM TIME, AND FULL REMOTE WORKING DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

Benefits

- MEALS DURING WORKING HOURS WHEN WORKING AT THE FOUNDATION
- LIFE ASSURANCE
- PENSION - MATCHED AT 5%
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Mill Hill Education Group

Currently, a charitable collection of ten independent schools. Its aims of instilling values and inspiring minds has been a key focus since the founding of Mill Hill School in 1807. All schools share an educational philosophy around developing thoughtful and responsible pupils with a global outlook. School life combines academic rigour with a breadth of opportunities to develop young people able to flourish in an ever-changing world.

The Foundation has one Governing Body, the Court of Governors (the Court), who have overall responsibility for all Foundation schools. The collective role of the Court of Governors is to hold ultimate control of and responsibility for the management of the Foundation including: ensuring the Foundation acts in accordance with its Articles and charitable objects; educating, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils; ensuring compliance with the Independent School Standards, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, and the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements, as well as operating in compliance with Charity and Company Law.

Each school is led by its own Head who has responsibility for the admission of pupils and for the quality of teaching and learning, supported by a central management team that are responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the schools. The Foundation is led by a Chief Executive Officer who is responsible to the Court of Governors for the good management of the Foundation Schools and for providing clear direction to the Foundation as a group of schools.



Job Description

The Role of the Governance Manager to the Court

The Chair and Governors (Trustees) are seeking to appoint a Governance Manager at the Mill Hill Education Group.

Reporting to the Chair, the Governance Manager will offer professional and administrative support to the Court and provide advice on governance, constitutional and procedural matters. The Court seeks a talented and dynamic professional who enjoys the educational environment and will enjoy the satisfaction of contributing to the success of our Foundation.

The ideal candidate will be pro-active, approachable and a very effective communicator. Applicants are likely to be or have been a senior professional with strong administrative, organisation and planning skills, a good understanding of governance, and ideally charity law, combined with excellent interpersonal skills.

Fully self-sufficient and adaptable, they will be an outstanding facilitator between the schools and the Court with excellent attention to detail. They will have a flexible approach to work, be calm and approachable and be able to maintain absolute confidentiality.

This is an exciting time to join the Foundation and the successful candidate will make a significant contribution in helping the Court to drive through an agenda for development in governance with the ambition to achieve best practice in this area.

The Role of Governance Manager to the Court

The Governance Manager to the Court is employed by the Foundation. The position is part-time and salaried, and involves a mixture of regular committee meetings (diarised well in advance), other meetings, telephone and email correspondence between Governors and the Schools together with the coordination and management of the business of the Court of Governors. Most Governor meetings take place on weekday afternoons or early evening; but up to five Governor meetings a year take place on a Saturday. It is important that the Governance Manager is able to be flexible in carrying out the duties.

The Governance Manager should play a keen role in the life of the Foundation and all its Schools, maintain a visible profile and build strong relations with the Chair, the Chairs of the sub-committees, and the Foundation's central management team.

The Governance Manager will need to maintain the utmost confidentiality in relation to all information. As a result, they may not engage in any role whatsoever involving other schools.

He/she is responsible to the Chair and has such role, authority and responsibility within the framework outlined below as is delegated to him/her by the Chair from time to time.

The principal role is to act as the assistant to and advisor of the Chair in all matters delegated to him/her and to the extent authorised by the Chair, the Chairs of Sub-Committees and other Committees. By way of illustration and not limitation, this person is expected to:-



Meetings

- Agree, arrange and promulgate the dates of all meetings of the Court and its Committees and all other meetings including strategy and training days
- Prior to meetings, to liaise with the Chair, CEO and relevant Executives to agree the agenda and procedure for the meeting including a time plan for the meeting
- Ensure agendas contain standing items and actions from the last meetings
- Procure and distribute papers for Court and Committee meetings at least seven days in advance of the meeting
- Ensure that the meeting room is booked, AV, IT and catering requirements are arranged if necessary
- Collect questions submitted by Governors in advance of the meetings and pass these to the CEO or relevant Executive
- Attend and take the minutes of all Court and Committee meetings
- Ensure papers adhere to the guidelines set out in the Governors' manual
- Ensure meetings are quorate
- Ensure prompt circulation of draft minutes to the Chair prior to publication
- Minutes to be succinct - recording subject, key discussion points, resolutions and votes - but with enough detail to be understandable by those not at the meeting
- Liaise with the Director of Finance and Resources (DFR) over the production of the annual Trustees Report and Accounts

Governance

- Manage and perform administration in relation to the Charity Commission and Companies House on a routine basis
- Carry out administration for the Court ensuring that the line between governance and management is understood by all and adhered to
- Liaise with the Governance Committee and administer the process for identifying, interviewing and appointing Governors (with reference to the desired mix of skills and the current skills audit) and notify vacancies to the proper appointing body and prepare the retirement of Governors by rotation or otherwise and ensure that an appropriate process exists for succession-planning
- When a new Governor has been identified, undertake the appropriate checks and induction process
- Ensure all Governors are aware of their statutory responsibilities, especially their responsibility for the safeguarding of all pupils at the Foundation
- Maintaining full and appropriate records of all governance activity including Governors' declaration of interests and a skills matrix

- Overseeing occasional audits of governance (either internal or external), as instructed by the Chair or to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidance or Code of Conduct
- Ensure the Foundation's policies (including those in the Governance manual) are reviewed, maintained and updated to ensure they remain relevant and are communicated as necessary
- Ensure that the risk register is reviewed by the Executive team and presented to the Court and its Committees at each meeting
- Ensure the systems through which Executives report to Governors are fully robust and effective in helping Governors to fulfil their statutory responsibilities
- Arrange suitable training for Governors to ensure they remain up-to-date and maintain a training register
- Organise and make appropriate arrangements for the establishment of any panels of the Court that may from time to time be required to hear appeals or to deal with disciplinary matters, grievances and parental complaints (including the identification of independent members to join these panels where appropriate)
- Arrange and facilitate individual annual Governor reviews
- Ensure that members of the Court are suitably indemnified for their roles
- Research, share and offer advice on best practice in governance
- Oversee Link Governor roles and responsibilities and arrange termly Link Governor Visits
- Act as the first point of contact for Governors on all matters
- Keep Governors up to date on any relevant matters in between meetings
- Ensure that the governance sections of the Group and individual school websites are kept up to date
- Ensure Executive and staff follow up on actions arising from meetings
- Plan and arrange staff presentations at Governor meetings e.g. safeguarding updates

General Management and Administration

- Manage and coordinate the workflow between Committees, consolidating and arranging the circulation of agenda, papers and minutes of these meetings
- Maintain the Court's electronic file sharing service, record of meeting minutes and declarations of interest of the Court and Executive team
- Work closely with the DFR and Compliance Manager to ensure Foundation policies are reviewed and approved on a regular basis in accordance with the policy review schedule, legal compliance and order of business for the Court and its Committees

- Draft letters of appointment and other correspondence on behalf of the Chair as appropriate
- Assist with the arrangements for occasional dinners and other social functions
- Process Governors travelling and training expenses for approval by the Director of Finance and Resources and subsequent consolidation into the Charity's accounts.
- Monitor the interface between link Governors and their respective areas of interest in support of the Foundation's Strategic Development Plan, ensuring there is good communication and understanding of developments between the Foundation leads and the Court
- Assist the Schools and subject area/functional area link Governors as necessary to ensure links with the schools are effective
- On the direction of the Chair, arrange routine appraisals of the CEO
- On the direction of the Chair, assist in the processes for the appointment of the CEO and other senior roles as required

Compliance

- Monitor due compliance of the Court with its delegated and statutory duties, including training in matters relating to safeguarding, ISI compliance, H&S regulations and legislative duties
- Monitor adherence to the Objects of the Charity and ensure compliance with the Foundation's Articles, Governance Manual and Scheme of Delegation, proposing amendments where required
- Complete the Charity Commission Annual Return on behalf of the Trust
- In consultation with DFR monitor and notify developments in company law and charity commission regulations relevant to the operation of the Schools

Strategy

- Ensure the Court regularly reviews the Foundation's strategy
- Ensure that implementation is monitored
- Planning strategy / away days as required

Communications & Liaison

- Act as the point of contact with the Executives, on behalf of the Court
- Act as a point of contact between the Court and the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS)
- Act as the point of contact with the Charity Commissioners in relation to any application for a Scheme, Order or direction approved by the Court or its trading subsidiary, Mill Hill School Enterprises (MHSE)
- Responsible for communication with Governors between meetings

- Pass on to Governors any relevant information regarding the issues and concerns of the Executive, staff and pupils
- Administer the Governors' electronic filing system

Life Guardians (Alumni)

- To support the Life Guardians Committee (as if it was a Committee of the Court). in up to seven meetings per year
- Where there are conflicts of interest the Governance Manager must step away from the other side and ensure support towards the Court

Trusts

- To provide support to the CIO (as if it was a Committee of the Court)

Staff

- To arrange the annual listening meeting between Staff Representatives and Governors
- Act as the main point of contact for staff to contact the Chair or the Court of Governors

General

- To take part in such staff training as may be agreed
- To undertake such other appropriate duties as may, from time to time, be required
- Understand the Foundation's compliance with GDPR to enable sufficient advice to be given to the Governors
- Visit each school at least once a term to meet with the Head and staff and report back to the Court any areas of significance

Whistleblowing

The Court of Governors recognise the duty of the Governance Manager to raise a genuine concern if in his/her honest and reasonable belief the concern directly relates to issues of governance or the reputation of the Foundation. There will be no retribution or disciplinary sanction taken for raising such a matter if it is done in good faith.

Personal Specification

The role of Governance Manager requires a capable and experienced individual with first class administrative and organisational skills. Whilst candidates are unlikely to be proficient in all areas, they will be required to demonstrate evidence that they have a significant number of the following skills and personal qualities and can draw on relevant experience:

Essential:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills to build strong relationships with all stakeholders within the Foundation including senior management, Governors, parents, teaching staff and support staff
- Highly motivated, proactive self-starter with flexibility, a good sense of humour and a willingness to take on ad hoc projects and pieces of work when necessary
- Strong general management and administrative skills gained in a complex organisation with multiple stakeholders
- Meticulous attention to detail coupled with first class organisational skills
- Credibility, integrity and stature, able to build trust and command respect

- Demonstrable understanding of the independent school sector and an understanding of charity law, governance, risk management and compliance
- Strong intellect backed by fluent and cogent written and oral communications skills;
- Proven and effective business, administrative and organisation skills
- Able to perform well and remain professional whilst under pressure
- Strong ICT skills
- Strong ability in writing agendas and concise minutes
- Ability to read, understand and process, large volumes of information
- Own vehicle and driving licence essential to travel between schools

Desirable:

- Chartered Secretary qualification
- Experience of working in a school or education setting
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Governance
- Charity knowledge, gained within a school or other non-profit making organisation



Why Join Us

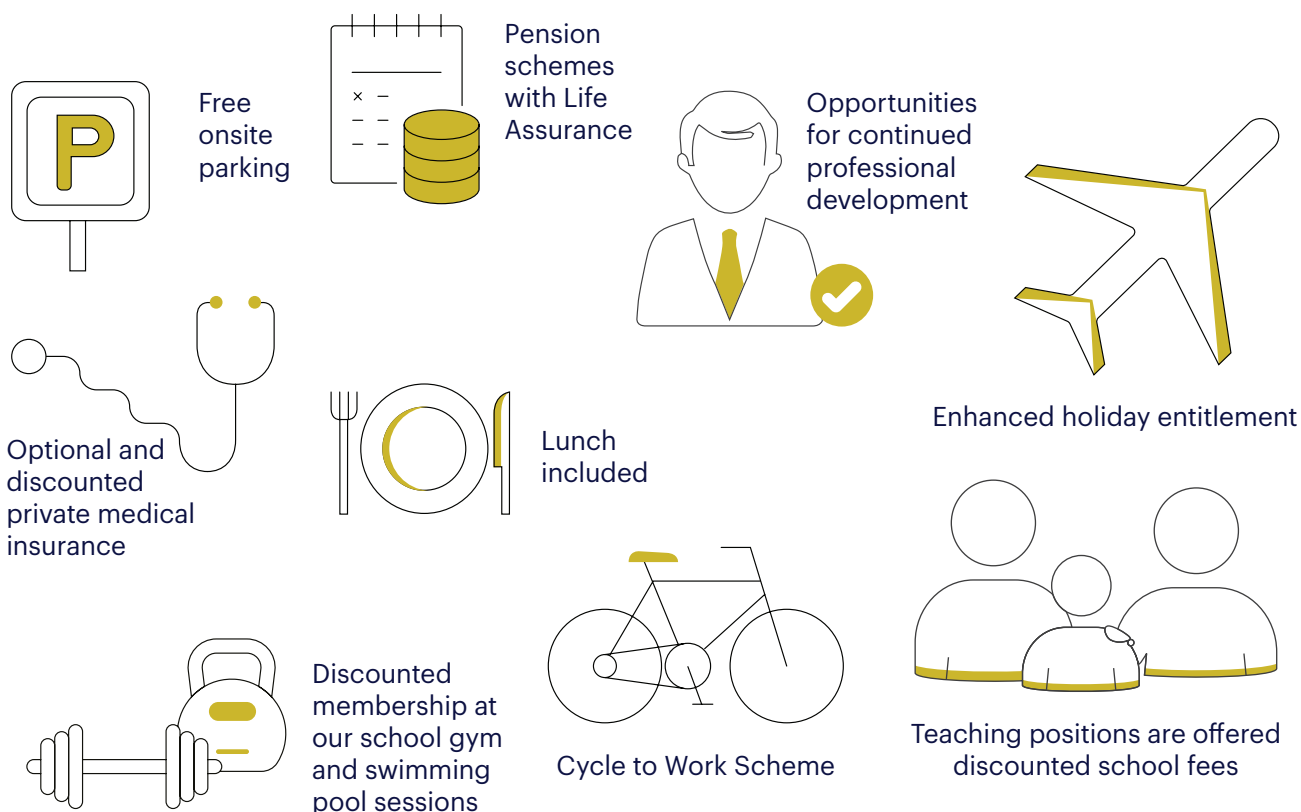
Why work for the Mill Hill Education Group?

- Join a growing collection of independent schools, based in London and surrounding areas
- Teach in a stimulating academic environment and be a part of numerous activities outside the classroom, fostering both learning and personal growth
- Share the passion and commitment to develop every pupil. Our friendly and supportive community plays a crucial role in this process
- Instil a lasting love for learning whilst balancing this with a readiness to embrace change, preparing pupils for life, both now and in the future
- Work alongside hard working, inspirational and enthusiastic team members across all our schools

The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. As part of our Recruitment Checks, the appointed candidate will be subject to a Social Media and Enhanced DBS Check.

Added benefits

We not only offer inspirational learning environments for pupils but great places to work for our staff. In addition to working in our beautiful school settings we also offer a range of benefits:



How To Apply

1

If you would like to apply for this role, please complete an application using the Apply button below.

APPLY

2

Our Guidance Notes for Applicants can also be found on the portal. Please complete the application by **9.00am on Tuesday 1 October 2024**.

Please note that we are unable to accept applications unless they are made on our own application form. Due to the large number of applications the School receives, please be aware that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted to be invited for an interview.

The Mill Hill Education Group reserves the right to interview candidates ahead of the closing date and applications will be considered as they are received.

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Mill Hill Education Group apply for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for all positions at the schools which amount to regulated activity. The role you are applying for meets the legal definition of regulated activity with children.

If you are successful in your application you will be required to complete a DBS Disclosure Application Form. Employment with the schools is conditional upon the schools being satisfied with the result of the Enhanced DBS Disclosure. Any criminal records information that is disclosed to the schools will be handled in accordance with any guidance and/or code of practice published by the DBS. It is an offence for person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



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inspiring minds.



The Mill Hill Education Group is the brand name for The Mill Hill School Foundation.
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