

## College governor (volunteer) job description

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<b>Location:</b>	Sense colleges, various locations
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Governance Manager, Sense colleges
<b>Time commitment:</b>	Approximately 1 day a month
<b>Days of the week:</b>	Monday to Friday
<b>Times:</b>	As required
<b>Frequency:</b>	Monthly

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Sense is a leading disability charity, here to break down barriers alongside disabled people with complex needs. We use our knowledge and expertise to deliver personalised, creative and flexible support at every stage of life Together, we drive change, building a future where everyone has the power, choice and control to live the lives we choose.

### Our values

Our values shape the way we behave and work alongside disabled people with complex needs to break down barriers.

- We're creating change
- We're always learning
- We're better together

## Description of the role

Governors provide non-executive leadership overseeing the college's strategic vision, financial health, and educational standards.

As a College governor (volunteer), you will:

- Shape and champion the college's long-term vision, mission, and strategic objectives to ensure high-quality, inclusive education.
- Monitor progress against strategic priorities using high-quality objective data and feedback from students, staff, and the community.
- Hold the Senior Management Team to account for educational performance and student outcomes, ensuring they meet the needs of local learners and employers.
- Ask "challenging questions" to test assumptions and gain clarity on college performance and risk.
- Collaborate with management to ensure a broad, ambitious curriculum that delivers demonstrable impact and "value-added" for all students.
- Triangulate information through regular college visits to see how strategy translates into everyday student life.
- Ensure legal compliance with statutory duties, including safeguarding and health and safety.
- Scrutinise the Risk Register to ensure effective implementation of policies and mitigation of threats to college stability.
- Oversee financial health, ensuring the college achieves value for money.
- Act in the best interest of the college and its charitable purpose when making decisions on asset management.
- Provide evidence of impact for Ofsted inspections, demonstrating strong oversight and a culture of continuous improvement.

- Engage in continuous development and regular training, to maintain an effective mix of skills on the board
- Sit on one of our sub-committees (dependant on skills set) The two sub-committees are:
  - a) Quality and Curriculum
  - b) Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Due to the nature of the role, we require all applicants to be aged 18 or over. You must have a UK address to volunteer with Sense.

An enhanced DBS is a legal requirement of this role due to the setting and the likelihood of regular contact with people we support. Guidance will be provided to support you through your DBS application.

## **Key responsibilities**

**You'll spend time doing a range of activities, including:**

- a) Reviewing, approving and monitoring the implementation of the Sense College Strategic Plan.
- b) Approving the final Sense College Annual Self-Assessment Report (SAR).
- c) Reviewing and monitoring progress and outcomes from the Sense College Quality Improvement Plan (QulP).
- d) Reviewing students' progress and achievements through a range of products i.e. case studies, reports and visits to Sense College.
- e) Reviewing college data against Key Performance Indicators and dashboards.
- f) Participating in Ofsted inspection meetings on governance to support Sense College and the college senior management team.

- g) Monitoring implementation of safeguarding (SfG) procedures, keeping updated with current SfG legislation and governors Prevent responsibilities.
- h) Monitoring college budget performance with the emphasis on new students referrals funded through the Department for Education.
- i) Attending and participating in governor training events, student celebrations and college visits.
- j) Reviewing, approving and monitoring the implementation of the Sense College Strategic Plan.
- k) Approving the final Sense College Annual Self-Assessment Report (SAR).
- l) Reviewing and monitoring progress and outcomes from the Sense College Quality Improvement Plan (QulP).
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- p) Monitoring implementation of safeguarding (SfG) procedures, keeping updated with current SfG legislation and governors Prevent responsibilities.
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- r) Attending and participating in governor training events, student celebrations and college visits.

## **Skills and qualities**

### **This role would suit you if you're:**

- Are passionate about Sense's work to support disabled people with complex needs.
- Have the ability to demonstrate an understanding of good governance and uphold the Nolan principles.
- Have the awareness (or ability to gain) an understanding of educational issues within further education.
- Have the ability to demonstrate understanding and commitment to the principles of safeguarding.
- Have expertise in health and safety in general or from lived experience.
- Have the ability to commit 1 day a month to attending college meetings, training, visiting college and reviewing board papers.
- Have held a Governor/Trustee position in a similar environment (desirable).

## **What we offer you**

### **As one of our volunteers, you'll get:**

- Induction including safeguarding training and other relevant training.
- Ongoing training and support to remain compliant and current in your role.
- Reasonable volunteer expenses reimbursed in line with our Volunteer Expenses Policy.
- The sense of fulfilment that comes from making a meaningful difference in the lives of disabled people with complex needs.
- A great way to develop new skills and share your existing skills.
- A reference to support future applications for paid or voluntary roles.
- Support from our Mental Health First Aiders, should you need it.

**April 2026**

