



DANES HILL SCHOOL

# GOVERNOR

with specialist experience in School Finances,  
Marketing, Commercialisation/Partnerships,  
Prep School Leadership or Estates Projects



AUGUST 2025

# Welcome from the Chair of Governors

**Welcome to Danes Hill School, where tradition and innovation come together to create an exceptional, contemporary prep school experience.**

As Chair of the Board of Governors, I am proud to support a school that not only upholds the highest academic standards, but also offers a rich, well-rounded education that prepares children for life - both in and beyond the classroom.

We believe that education should be as inspiring as it is rigorous. Our pupils benefit from exceptional grounds and facilities, outstanding teaching, small class sizes, and a curriculum that encourages curiosity, creativity and critical thinking. Alongside academic excellence, we offer a wealth of opportunities in sport, the arts, outdoor learning and co-curricular activities. Whether it's through competitive fixtures, drama productions, music ensembles, or hands-on enrichment experiences, every child is encouraged to find their passions and develop a strong sense of self.

We also understand that the needs of modern families are evolving. Today's world demands flexibility, empathy and a forward-thinking mindset. Our school reflects this, offering a dynamic learning environment supported by a strong culture of wellbeing and inclusion. Pupils are taught to be resilient, compassionate, and adaptable - traits we know are just as important as academic achievement.

What makes Danes Hill so special is its ability to combine a strong sense of community with an ambitious outlook. Our talented staff, supportive families and curious, engaged pupils all contribute to a school that is vibrant, nurturing and full of opportunity.

If you're passionate about education and feel you could contribute to the strategic direction of the school, we warmly welcome your interest in joining our Governing Body. We are always keen to hear from individuals with a range of professional backgrounds who share our commitment to excellence and want to play a meaningful role in shaping the future of Danes Hill.

Cedric Ntumba  
Chair of the Board of Governors  
Danes Hill School

# ABOUT US



Danes Hill School is widely recognised as one of the leading co-educational day preparatory schools in the country.

Set across 55 acres of beautifully kept grounds, we offer more than just academic excellence. We combine high standards with forward-thinking teaching that sparks creativity, builds emotional intelligence, and encourages curious minds.

In a fast-moving world, we get what modern families need: flexibility, support, and an education that goes beyond the classroom. Our inclusive, nurturing environment gives every child the space to grow, express themselves, and feel confident about what's next. At Danes Hill, we're shaping future-ready learners - balanced, bold, and ready for anything.

Read more about us [here](#)



# Why be a governor for the Vernon Educational Trust?

**The Vernon Educational Trust is a registered charity dedicated to supporting outstanding independent education. It oversees and supports the strategic development of Danes Hill School, ensuring long-term educational and financial sustainability. The Trust is committed to maintaining high standards, strong governance, and broad access to exceptional learning opportunities.**

As a governor of Vernon Educational Trust, you will be joining the School at an exciting point in its development. As some governors who have given exceptional service reach the end of their terms of office, there are opportunities for new individuals to join the Board and to support the School in its next phase of development. Alongside the new Head, Colin Baty, and his senior leadership team, the governors will make plans to shape the Trust for the future.

For the 2025-26 academic year, we are looking for new governors to join the dedicated and skilled team.

In particular we are looking for skills and experience in:

- School Finances
- Marketing
- Commercialisation and Partnerships
- Estates
- Prep School leadership

Candidates should have flexibility to attend meetings at different times in the day, demonstrate diligence in paperwork, show a strong belief in education's transformative power, and have a commitment to respectful, collective decision-making.



# Our School Values

**At Danes Hill, we work to create a school culture that fosters personal growth, inspires passion, empowers courage and nurtures respect. We believe that these core values truly embody the spirit of our community and guide us on our journey towards excellence.**

Our school values are articulated through a comprehensive consultation process, involving our dedicated staff team, the valuable input of our parents through consultations and surveys, and the voices of our pupils. Through this collaborative effort, we gain a clear insight into what makes Danes Hill special.

Our four school values are: Growth, Passion, Courage and Respect. These values encapsulate the qualities we aim to instil in our pupils, providing them with a solid foundation for success both academically and personally.



We aim to promote our values at every turn, ensuring that they become an integral part of our pupils' lives. For our pupils to be able to embrace them, our shared understanding of our values is based on the following statements:

- I can demonstrate Growth by – working hard, giving my best effort, investing in my own development, being active in the development of those around me, expanding my horizons, nurturing my community.
- I can demonstrate Passion by – being inspired, showing curiosity, showing ambition in all I do, striving to succeed, showing dedication in all things, not giving up.
- I can demonstrate Courage by – developing the confidence to take risks, trying new things, not being afraid to fail, speaking up for myself and for others, telling the truth
- I can demonstrate Respect by – having an awareness of others as well as myself, treating everyone with dignity, showing others kindness and consideration, showing others empathy

Together, we can nurture a culture where growth, passion, respect, and courage thrive. By embracing these values and ensuring that we model and demonstrate them in our professional lives, we are confident that our pupils will develop into confident, compassionate, and resilient individuals, well-prepared to face any challenge that comes their way.



# Governor: About the Role

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**Job title:** Governor

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**Job purpose:** To be responsible for the administration and management of the charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

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**Reporting to:** Chair of Governors

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**Commitment:** Preparation, participation and attendance at all full governing body meetings and at least one committee. Full governing body meetings are held three times a year, and committees will be three or four per year. Training and strategy meetings are also expectations, as well as participation in panels from time to time. We welcome all governors to attend events at the school when they are able to, and to be known members of the school community. An overall time commitment is likely to be in the region of 10-15 days per academic year.

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**Salary:** Unpaid, but reasonable expenses may be claimed.

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**Term:** Fixed term for three years in the first instance; this term can be extended for a further three years but then governors must stand down.

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**Applications:** Please send a CV and covering letter to the Chair via [recruit@daneshillschool.co.uk](mailto:recruit@daneshillschool.co.uk). Applications will be reviewed as they are received, with a final closing date of 22 September 2025.

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# Job Specification

## Role Summary

Governors are a vital element of the management of the Trust. As a group of individuals with a breadth of specialist skills and professional knowledge, the governing body take decisions about the Trust's future direction and strategy, as well as ensuring that the School is compliant and well-managed, delivering an excellent education to the pupils in its care.

Danes Hill School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We expect all staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to the receipt of an enhanced DBS check, Charity Commission criteria, as well as other statutory checks. Online checks of publicly available information will be carried out for shortlisted candidates, in line with KCSIE 2024 and 2025

## Role Specification

- Always act in the best interests of the Trust
- Uphold the Trust's values
- Ensure that decisions are made in the Trust's best interests
- Respect the distinction between governance and operational management
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive or commercially confidential information
- Act as an ambassador and advocate for the Trust and Danes Hill School
- Support the Trust in relation to professional knowledge and expertise as appropriate
- Contribute to and approve the Trust's mission and strategic vision, through engagement with, and approval of, the strategic and development plans.
- Ensure that appropriate underpinning strategies are developed and in place to deliver the long term aims, across finance, estates and human resources.
- Monitor the School's performance, using key performance indicators and benchmarked against similar schools where possible.
- Ensure that appropriate systems of accountability and control are in place to manage identified risks.
- Manage the appointment, performance and reward of the Head of Danes Hill School.
- Ensure that the Trust has in place systems to meet its legal obligations in relation to the Independent School Standards Regulations, charity law, equalities, health and safety and finance.



# Job Specification continued....

## Other key duties and responsibilities

- Ensure that a positive impression of the School is given to pupils, parents, visitors and colleagues always upholding the staff code of conduct.
- Establish and maintain efficient and effective working relationships with staff, parents and the wider community of the School.
- Play a full part in the life of the school community, supporting its mission, ethos and policies.
- Set high personal standards, always upholding the staff code of conduct.
- Actively engage in safeguarding practice and health and safety awareness around the school sites.
- Commit to professional development, including active engagement in governor training.
- Always comply with relevant school policies and procedures.





# Person Specification



## Knowledge and experience

- Secure knowledge and ability in relation to governance in charities
- Knowledge of the school sector and belief in the power of education
- Evidence of appropriate continued personal and professional development
- Confident knowledge of and ability to apply Keeping Children Safe in Education (or willingness to be trained)
- Knowledge and experience in relevant professional areas (school finances, marketing, commercialisation/ partnerships, estates or prep school leadership)

## Competencies

- Ability to work effectively as a proactive member of the governor team, contributing to collective decisions and standing by them
- Ability to review and assimilate written reports and policies, and engage in discussion in meetings
- Ability to communicate professionally and effectively to a range of audiences
- Ability to build effective relationships with parents, staff and members of the school community
- Commitment to equal opportunities
- High levels of motivation and commitment to high standards
- Demonstrable personal warmth
- Willing to participate flexibly in the life of the school



# DANES HILL SCHOOL

**Danes Hill School**

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