

Fairley
House



Fairley House School

London's leading day school for children with specific
learning differences (SpLD)

Governor Candidate Information
August 2025

ABOUT US

Welcome to Fairley House, London's leading SEN day school for students with specific learning differences (SpLD). Split across 2 sites in central London, we are focused on transforming the learning outcomes of those finding it hard to keep up in mainstream schooling.

We were the UK's first dyslexia school in 1982, and our magic formula and transdisciplinary approach works time after time in helping all our students realise their full potential.

Magic Formula for success

Fairley House is a place where learning outcomes are transformed, and futures are changed for the better. This is only made possible through our magic formula, which we have developed across our forty years of existence.

A slower pace of delivery, chunking of information, additional processing time, repetition, and visual prompts enable students to overcome their barriers to learning and achieve their full potential.

At Fairley House we have a highly adept in-house Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) provision. This supports the teaching of the curriculum in a truly transdisciplinary way and is tailored for every student based on their identified needs. This specialist support is a regular part of the Fairley House experience and core to how we transform all our students' learning outcomes.

Thanks to our deep expertise and pioneering thinking this formula for success works time, after time, after time.

“Leaders have instigated a transdisciplinary approach whereby the SENCOs, teachers and therapists work equally and collaboratively in order to effectively support the learning of all pupils.”

ISI Inspection Report 2025

Our Values

In 2024 the Fairley House community of staff, students and parents collaborated to decide on the values which best encapsulate our school's ethos.

The following three were chosen:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Resilience



THE ROLE

As part of our succession plan, we are seeking to appoint new governors. Fairley House School operates as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, meaning Governors also serve as Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company. The Board currently consists of 9 Governors from a variety of professional backgrounds. To effectively oversee key strategic areas, the Board delegates responsibility across the following sub-committees:

- Education
- Finance
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- People
- Business Development, Fundraising & Marketing

This is a voluntary position, but governors' expenses including training costs will be covered, as long as they are directly incurred and approved.

Specific skills sought:

We invite applications from people who are passionate about Education and interested in working with a friendly team of fellow governors to make a real difference for young people. Previous Board experience would be beneficial but is not a requirement.

In particular we would like to hear from people who are excited about what we do and have the interest and capacity to help us build on our fantastic history. We have ambitious plans for the school and governors have an important part to play, working with leadership, to deliver on the strategy, while maintaining focus on safeguarding, regulatory requirements, and the financial stability of the charity.

Governors are expected to attend all Board meetings (usually four per year), as well as any Strategy Days, plus the meetings of any sub-committees of which they are a member. Typically governors are members of two committees. In addition, Governors are expected to complete Governor specific and other relevant training as well as visit the School on a regular basis and spend time reading around issues of governance and education.

It is anticipated that a Governor commitment will be around 12 - 16 days per year. Governors who are the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board or a Chair of a Committee are likely to spend more time to ensure they meet their governance responsibilities.

Roles are available for aspiring governors across the board, and in particular we welcome applications from people with the following skills and interests:

Safeguarding – to reinforce our focus on this critically important area

Health & Safety – to ensure we give this appropriate attention, especially as we plan the move to new school premises

Property Development (professional architect, building project expertise, estate development, or facilities and space management experience) – to bring specialist thinking to the Board as we plan the move to a new site for our senior school

Legal – to help us handle legal questions that arise and ensure effective use of and working relationship with our legal advisers

All Governor roles are voluntary and subject to enhanced DBS and full clearance checks.

Overall Purpose:

The Board of Governors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Fairley House School; developing the School's vision, aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

Main Responsibilities

- Develop the school's vision and set the school's strategic aims and objectives
- To ensure that the School and its representatives function within the legal and regulatory framework of the sector and in line with the School's governing document, continually striving for best practice in governance
- To ensure that the School discharges its duties as a charity within its charitable objects and as a company with Companies House

Main Duties

- Accountability and assurance, meaning the board has robust oversight of the operations and performance of the school, including education, pupil welfare and finance
- Monitor the educational delivery for all pupils given their specific learning differences and the ongoing impact of the transdisciplinary approach.
- Approve the budget for the school and monitor and evaluate the school's financial performance
- Monitor and evaluate the school's staffing structure
- Monitor Health & Safety and Safeguarding within the school to ensure compliance with all legislation
- Approve and review school policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure stakeholders (parents/carers, pupils, staff and the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Promoting and developing the School in order for it to grow and maintain its relevance to society
- Contribute to the strategic discussions at Governing body meetings
- Interviewing, appointing and monitoring the work and activities of the Senior Management Team
- To maintain absolute confidentiality about all sensitive/confidential information received in the course of Governors' responsibilities to the School and to comply with the Conflicts of Interest Policy

When required, serve on Governor Panels to:

- Appoint the Head and other senior leaders
- Appraise the Head
- Set the Head's pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff
- Hear staff matters relating to issue such as grievances and discipline
- Hear parents' complaints

Governors should be able to demonstrate:

- An active interest in education
- Commitment to lifelong learning and the role of the School as a major provider of SpLD education and training
- Commitment to promoting equality and diversity
- Commitment to quality and raising standards
- Willingness to promote the School within the community it serves
- Ability to work positively with others and to contribute as a member of a team
- Ability to agree policies and strategies and ensure these can be monitored and implemented
- Ability to make reasoned decisions and to act honestly, diligently and in good faith
- Ability to contribute to establishing performance targets and the monitoring of performance
- Commitment to attend Governors Meetings, Committees, Away days and Training
- Integrity to act without self-interest
- Ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of the School
- Awareness of standards in public life and accountability and a determination to abide by them

Generic Skills/Experience

- Strategic awareness
- Financial awareness
- Sharing best practice
- Vision and commitment
- Critical listening and appraisal skills
- Analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Communication skills (written and verbal) and the ability to influence

How to apply: If you are interested in applying or would like further information, please request an application form from Ms Jane Graham, Clerk to the Board of Governors, via jgraham@fairleyhouse.org.uk

(Please note that the closing date for applications is Friday 26th September 2025).