

# **ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

## **Board of Governors**

### **Statement of Primary Responsibilities**

#### ***Strategic Direction***

1. To be responsible for the formulation and periodic review of the mission and strategic vision of the College, its long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, where appropriate in consultation with the Academic Board, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.
2. To appoint the Principal as the chief executive officer of the College, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.

#### ***Supervisory Obligations***

3. To delegate to the Principal, as chief executive, authority for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resources management of the College. To establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Principal.
4. At such times as it may see fit, to require the Academic Board to provide evidence that the principles of academic governance provided for in the Articles of Government, including the preservation of academic freedom, are being properly upheld and exercised.

#### ***Corporate Responsibilities***

5. To be the College's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting the College's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the College's name, and for meeting the conditions of grant imposed by public funding bodies supplying funds to the College.
6. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the College, and to fulfil the requirements and obligations of charity law as they apply to the College.
7. To ensure that the College's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.
8. To be the employing authority for all staff in the College, and to be responsible for ensuring compliance with employment and equality, diversity and inclusion legislation.
9. To safeguard the good name and values of the College, paying particular attention to the arrangements for managing reputational risk.
10. To take such steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured within the College.

### ***Controls, Accountability and Effectiveness***

11. To be the principal financial and business authority of the College, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the College's assets, property and estate and their use.
12. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment and management, so as to maintain the solvency of the College and safeguard its assets.
13. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the College against approved plans and key performance indicators, which should be benchmarked against other comparable institutions, wherever possible.
14. To ensure that arrangements are in place to promote the proper management of the requirements of safeguarding, health and safety, equality and diversity, counter-terrorism (the *Prevent Strategy*) and freedom of speech legislation from time to time in force, and to monitor their effectiveness.
15. To make such provision as it may from time to time see fit for suitable learning and teaching space for students, and, in consultation with the Academic Board, for their general welfare.
16. To ensure that procedures are in place for dealing with internal grievances, conflicts of interest and public interest disclosure, and to monitor their effectiveness.
17. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Board of Governors and its committees and to ensure that business is conducted in as open a manner as possible, in accordance with best practice espoused by the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) in its 'Higher Education Code of Governance' and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
18. To appoint a Clerk to the Board of Governors and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the College, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.