

BOSTON COLLEGE - EXTERNAL BOARD REVIEW 2023

Further Education colleges are required to have an external review of their governance every three years. Boston College's review was delivered by the Association of Colleges in early 2023.

The reviewer's report provided a general review of governance arrangements through an assessment against three main dimensions of governance: the composition of the board, the structure of the board and the interaction between governors and with the executive. The report's overall conclusion was that there is **“strong evidence that governance is effective and consistently impacts positively on college effectiveness and outcomes.”**

The report identified the Board's strengths and areas for development. Key points of strength identified included:

- The overriding mindset of Governors demonstrated at meetings and in interviews was open, supportive, inquisitive and constructively challenging. They were clearly motivated by a desire to improve the lives of learners and asked constructive and thought-provoking questions to gain assurance and support college progress. There is a good balance of technical skills and experience across the Board.
- The Board's governing arrangements are clear and well managed with strong administration. Board papers are described as timely, transparent and with lots of detail to help the decision-making process. Committee and Board meetings were seen to be well chaired with open discussion, good questioning and robust challenge where necessary. There is a clearly articulated expectation that Governors engage in the life of the college.
- The student voice is valued and student experience and safeguarding are central to decision making. Progress and achievement of students effectively is monitored and scrutinised.

The Board has an action plan, overseen by its Search and Governance committee, to address the areas for development identified in the review. Key points being addressed in the action plan are:

- Reflection on the balance between discussion of operational and strategic matters and the inclusion of an annual strategic visioning day for governors to facilitate stronger involvement in determining the direction of the college.
- Effective succession planning for Board and committee roles.
- Enhanced induction, engagement and development of board members.