

Obtaining the Views of Staff and Students in Relation to Educational Character, Mission and Oversight of Activities

Context

The introduction of Article 3-(1)(aa) provides a responsibility for the Corporation to publish arrangements for obtaining the views of staff and students on the determination and periodic review of the educational character and mission of the institution and the oversight of its activities.

The Corporation reviews the educational character and mission and takes on oversight of activities through a cycle of business that incorporates monitoring, assessment, strategic review, and planning. The current Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020 including mission, core and enabling strategies and the planning and accountability cycle provides a framework for the institution and was published in September 2015 following a detailed process of review and engagement.

The Corporation places importance on understanding student views of the quality of their experience at Halesowen College incorporating pre entry, induction, teaching and learning, wellbeing, safety, achievement and progression.

Staff Views

Halesowen College has established procedures for engaging and consulting staff to develop understanding, receive the benefit of staff knowledge and experience and engender greater commitment to the College mission and the achievement of strategic objectives.

The College has in place an established staff briefing and forum structure incorporating both teaching and support staff. Other mechanisms for obtaining staff views in relation to character, mission and oversight of activities include area self assessment and development processes including Operational Reviews and Boards of Study which are aligned to organisational objectives. External Consultants are used as part of Operational Reviews to capture staff views. Additionally staff engage in College discussions through a new interactive social media portlet called "Buzz". Further a staff survey was undertaken in Summer 2015 and results reported upon and actions devised in September 2015.

Arrangements for consultation specific to educational character, mission and oversight of activities are evidenced in the consultation process undertaken to obtain the views of staff during the development of the current Strategic Plan. These included a staff forum focused on the Strategic Plan including mission statement, purpose and strategic priorities and organisational structure for taking the plan forward.

The Corporation includes membership of an elected staff governor who whilst not mandated by the staff body may contribute their own views in relation to the strategic development and oversight aspects of their governance role.

The Corporation conducts an Annual General Meeting inclusive of a Public Meeting. This provides an opportunity for views on the Annual Report which comprises a summary of activities and achievements by the College in relation to mission and objectives.

Student Views

Halesowen College has established procedures for engaging and consulting students.

A detailed Learner Involvement Strategy outlines student involvement across the annual cycle and the Student Charter also provides for student opportunities to express views about their programme of study, College life and their experiences of being at the College. These include surveys, focus groups, a Student Union, complaint's procedures and a newly introduced Student Board which is a vehicle for gaining student views on cross college issues.

Student views are also obtained through the work of the student ambassadors, including Equality and Diversity Ambassadors, Career Champions and students invited to sit on relevant task groups.

The Corporation includes membership of an elected student governor who whilst not mandated by the student body may contribute their own views in relation to the strategic development and oversight aspects of their governance role.