

Core Functions of the Governing Body

A framework for governance, setting out how the governing body is expected to function. Comprising: skills, effectiveness, strategy, engagement, the role of the chair and the accountability of the executive.

The governing body has three core functions for the school:

- setting the strategic direction
- holding the headteacher to account for improving the school
- ensuring financial health, probity and value for money.

Right skills: Do we have the right skills on the governing body?

1. Have we completed a skills audit of our governing body?
2. Do we appoint governors on the basis of their skills, and do we know how to find people with the right skills?

Effectiveness: Are we as effective as we could be?

3. Do we understand our roles and responsibilities?
4. Do we have a professional clerk and run meetings efficiently?
5. What is our training and development budget and does every governor receive the support they need to carry out their role effectively?
6. Do we know about good practice from across the country?
7. Are the size, composition and committee structure of our governing body conducive to effective working?
8. Does every member of the governing body make a regular contribution?

Strategy: Does the school have a clear strategy?

9. Have we set an ambitious strategic plan, how do we monitor it and when did we last review it?
10. Does our strategic planning and reviewing cycle drive the governing body's activities and agenda setting?

Accountability of the executive: Do we hold the school leaders to account?

11. Do we understand the school's performance data well enough to properly hold school leaders to account?
12. How effective is our performance management of the headteacher?
13. Are our financial management systems robust and how do we ensure best value for money?

Engagement: Are we properly engaged with our school community, the wider school sector and the outside world?

14. How do we listen to and understand our pupils, parents and staff?
15. How do we report to our parents and local community regularly?
16. What benefit do we draw from collaboration with other schools and other sectors, locally and nationally?

Role of the chair: Does our chair show strong and effective leadership?

17. Do we carry out an annual review of the chair's performance?
18. Do we engage in good succession planning?
19. Are the chair and committee chairs re-elected each year?

Impact: Are we having an impact on outcomes for pupils?

20. How much has pupil progress improved over the last three years, and what has the governing body's contribution been to school improvement?