



The Role of Chair of Governors



Chair of Governors

5 Key Roles

- Leading Effective Governance
- Building the team
- Relationship with the Headteacher/Principal
- Improving the School
- Leading the Business



Leading Effective Governance

- Giving the Governing Body a clear lead and direction
- Ensuring Governors work together as an effective team
- Ensuring Governors understand their accountability
- Ensuring Governors recognise the part the Governing Body plays in strategic leadership of the school 'critical friend' to the Headteacher/Principal
- Ensuring Governors are committed to and working towards driving school improvement



Building The Team

- Attracting Governors with the necessary skills reconstitution of Governing Bodies offers and opportunity around this
- Delegating tasks within the Governing Body to share workload and ensure that individual members contribute from their skills, knowledge and experience
- Succession planning



Relationship with the Headteacher/Principal

- 'Critical Friend' - offering support, challenge and encouragement
- Regular meetings and being at the end of a telephone
- Ensuring the Headteacher/Principal's Performance Management is rigorous and robust
- Supportive and challenging but not running day-to-day- operation



Improving the School

- Ensuring school improvement is the focus of all policy and strategy
- Ensuring Governor monitoring reflects school improvement priorities
- Knowing the sources of information that Governors require e.g. lesson observations, school development plan, Ofsted reports, Headteacher/Principal reports to Governing Body and school visits by Governors to allow effective questioning
- Ofsted role



Leading the Business

- Ensuring that statutory requirements and regulations are met
- Ensuring with the school provides value for money in its use of resources- Schools Financial Value Statement
- Ensuring Governing Body business is conducted efficiently and effectively
- Close relationship with the Clerk Of Governors - timetable of meeting to ensure the areas above are addressed



First Among Equals

- The Chair sets the culture of the Governing Body but is 'First Among Equals
- No individual power- the Governing Body is a corporate entity and the power and authority rests with the Governing Body as a whole
- Chair's action in an emergency but this should be reported to the whole Governing Body as soon as possible



Time Commitment

- Effective time management crucial- all Governors are volunteers and the Chair needs to plan time to undertake Chair's duties e.g. regular meetings with the Head
- Chair's role should not take up more than 20 days a year- about half a day for each week of term-time
- Set priorities in conjunction with the Headteacher/Principal and Governors and focus on these

