



Governor Visits Policy

Introduction

Governing bodies have a statutory responsibility to promote high standards at their school and must monitor and evaluate its effectiveness in this respect. An effective partnership between governors and staff, based on mutual understanding, benefits the whole school community. In all interactions with the school, governors are representing the governing body, not acting as individuals. This policy provides an agreed framework within which governors will plan and carry out their school visits.

Why Governors Make School Visits

Individual governors do not have an automatic right to enter the school whenever they wish. However, visiting during the school day, and finding out more about the opportunities for learning that the school offers, can be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of being a school governor.

Whilst it is the headteacher's responsibility for the operational management of the school, a school visit gives governors the opportunity to extend their knowledge and understanding. Governors visit to learn, rather than to inspect, and the impressions and observations gained will help them to fulfil their role.

Governor visits to The Colleton provide an excellent opportunity to:

- evidence the school's drive for high standards and outcomes
- build strong relationships with the school community, based on trust and respect
- monitor the implementation of the School Development Plan
- gain a deeper understanding of how the school works, the teaching and learning process and the different learning and teaching styles
- see the ethos of the school demonstrated in practice
- visit the school with a clear focus and ask informed questions
- demonstrate that governors take their role seriously, are interested in and value the work of the school
- provide feedback using a Governor Visit Form for the benefit of the whole school community.

Planning Your Visit

- all visits should be agreed initially through the Headteacher
- all visits will be accompanied by a member of staff to facilitate understanding, offer context and answer questions

- governors should consider what preparations need to be made eg. school documents which may need to be read prior to the visit
- consider in advance any questions which you may need to ask (refer to the School Development Plan)
- make use of the guidance notes and prompts associated with the Governor Visit Form
- ensure that staff are thanked for their contribution to any visit
- share the completed form with the Head Teacher for review prior to forwarding to the Clerk of Governors.

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