

Link Governor Roles 2025-2026



A Link Governor is a member of the Governing Board appointed to oversee a specific aspect of the work of the school. Link Governors through their role should ensure the school's compliance with the following statutory duties:

- Equality Act 2010
- Prevent Strategy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Education Inspection Framework
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 (SMSC)
- Relationships and Health Education – Primary (from 2020)

Guidance recommends that there should be the following statutory link governors

- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Careers
- Pupil Premium

It is also recommended that it is good practice to have a link governor for

- Children in Care
- Children with a Social Worker
- Wellbeing
- Governor training and development

Other link governor roles allocated by the school should align with our school's strategic priorities in the SDP.

SDP Areas for 2025/26 are

1. Continue to raise standards in reading, writing and mathematics
2. Ensure the curriculum is implemented as planned (to fidelity) and work recorded is good quality.
3. Agree the teaching, learning, assessment and feedback documents and ensure these are consistently in daily practice.
4. Develop the role of the TA to help improve the quality of learning.
5. Extend inclusive provision, especially for INA pupils and those with SEND.
6. Maintain strong behaviour, and drive further improvements in attitudes to learning.
7. Further raise the rate of attendance so that it at least matches the national rate. Reduce PA.
8. Further improve the school's enrichment offer and enhance provision for personal development
9. Develop subject and phase leadership and finalise all curriculum planning.

It is expected that all Governors linked with an area should meet in a timely fashion according to the calendar and prepare and circulate a short written report in advance of each FGB meeting (or committee meeting if relevant). It will be expected that other Governors will have read the reports and will ask questions of the link Governor. Appointments should be made through the Headteacher or Business Manager and not with individual members of staff.

However:

- Staff governors shouldn't take on a link governor role where there's overlap between their role as school staff and their link governor role. For example, if the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is a staff governor, they shouldn't be the safeguarding link governor
- Associate members shouldn't be link governors – they shouldn't make school visits since they're not governors and aren't required to undergo DBS checks in maintained schools

Link Area	Link Lead	Support Lead
Statutory Link Governor Roles		
Safeguarding	Laura McBride	Dave Watson
SEND	Lauren Pharaony	
Careers Education	Neelam Jabeen	Sharon Tighe
Pupil Premium	Dave Watson	Vicky Fee
LA Recommended Link Governor Roles		
Children in Care & Children with a Social Worker	Martha Mead	Laura McBride
Wellbeing	Vicky Fee	Sharon Tighe
School Development Priority Link Governor Roles		
English with a focus on phonics, early reading and bottom 20% of readers	Dave Watson	Martha Mead
Curriculum including maths and the Foundation Subjects	Neelam Jabeen	Ghulam Shahzad
Behaviour	Dave Watson	Neelam Jabeen
Attendance including persistent absence	Laura McBride	
Attainment and Progress for all including for key vulnerable groups (PP, N2E, EAL)	Dave Watson	Martha Mead
Governor Development and training	Vicky Fee	Dave Watson
RSE Working Party	Vicky Fee Neelam Jabeen Sharon Tighe Mohammed Imran	
Other		
Standards and Curriculum Chair	Dave Watson	Vicky Fee
Finance Chair (including Resources Committee)	Vicky Fee	Dave Watson
Health and Safety	Sharon Tighe	Mohammed Imran
Parents and Community Relationships	Ghulam Shahzad	Vicky Fee
Research Working Party as required	Dave Watson Vicky Fee Laura McBride Martha Mead Sharon Tighe Neelam Jabeen	Karen Martin (Ellen Bullock)

CLASSROOM VISITS GUIDELINES

The Governing Board is the 'accountable board' in a school – accountable to parents, pupils, the local authority and Central Government through Ofsted. It is responsible for everything from Health and Safety and Child Protection to the school budget, teaching and learning and pupil progress. Because Governing boards have a statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school and its curriculum, Governors need to know what progress is being made towards targets set out in the School Development Plan (SDP). Visiting the classroom can help to support this.

Ofsted inspection assumes that Governors know the strengths and weaknesses of the school. This depends on Governors assessing performance data presented to them by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and through the Curriculum/Standards Committee in the context of an understanding of what happens in the classroom.

It is also important to Ofsted that the Governing Board makes an impact on school improvement and visiting school to see it in operation, and to be aware of standards and progress are important aspects of this crucial role.

Governors are not qualified to assess standards but they need to visit lessons in order to:

- Appreciate and understand the work of the staff (teachers and support staff) and how the pupils are learning;
- Be aware of the response of pupils to their work and check that the pupils are aware of what they are learning;
- Be aware of resource issues;
- Be able to ask appropriate questions and hold sensible discussions with the professionals;
- Understand as fully as possible the meaning of the results of monitoring reported to them.

NB Governors are not inspectors and are not present in a lesson to make judgements about the professional expertise of the teachers. That remains a task for the head and/or other education

professionals. It would be inappropriate, therefore, for Governors to:

- Make judgements about the quality of teaching;
- Report on the progress of individual children;
- Pursue personal agendas;
- Monopolize teachers' time;
- Arrive with inflexible pre-conceived ideas.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality should be adhered to regarding classroom visits. Observations and comments should be shared with the teacher concerned, and with the Headteacher, but not with other staff or with parents. The approach of a Governor should be to ask for explanations of anything not understood, not to make assumptions. Reports to the Governing Board should not identify individuals in a critical manner; this is not the role of a Governor.

MINIMUM COMMITMENT

Individual Governors have differing amounts of time to commit to an exercise such as classroom visits. It is important, however, that all Governors should try to make visits at some time, beyond that initial general visit to the school when one is newly appointed to the Governing Board. A Governor should aim to make a class visit at least once a year.