

Link Governors

What does the role consist of?

There are two main aspects of the role.

The first is to promote the governing body to staff. By taking an active interest in the work of the school you can demonstrate that the governing body is in touch and supportive of the staff and dispel any concerns that the governing body is a distant group, making decisions on limited direct experience.

The second aspect is to understand one area of the curriculum really well so that governors can extrapolate that experience to other curriculum areas under discussion. Understanding the planning, teaching assessing and leadership process for one subject is feasible and achievable but as the language and issues are common to many areas governors will feel more confident contributing to wider discussions.

How do I undertake my role?

The prime relationship is between the TLR holder and the link governor. The link governor should agree a mutually convenient time to meet to share the action plan for that subject area. Action Plans/Development Plans take the form of a detailed smart action plan/RAG (Red, Amber, Green) report for the coming year.

At this meeting, the TLR holder will discuss:

- Their plans for the subject for the coming year and possibly into the following year too
- They should be able to tell you their priorities and reasons for them
- They should be able to tell you about finances spent or planned spending to improve the subject area
- How their plan supports the mission statement
- Planned enrichment days

At the meeting with the TLR holder, the link governor might agree further visits to:

- Participate with the TLR holder in a book scrutiny so progress across year groups can be seen
- Agree to “help” in a lesson (not observe) to understand how the subject is taught
- Experience an enrichment day linked to the subject area

By the end of the meeting, it would be good to have agreed another meeting towards the end of the summer term to review the action plan with the TLR holder.

What is not part of the role

Whilst it is totally appropriate that a governor should seek clarification from the TLR holder following any activity undertaken, governors have no inspectorial or scrutiny role as individuals. Governors are bound by confidentiality and in any written or verbal reports, issues, whether positive or negative should be anonymised in such a manner that individual classes or staff members cannot be identified.