



GORDANO SCHOOL - THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Introduction

The role of school governors is absolutely vital. School governors form the largest voluntary force in the country and the influence they have over the development of children's education is immense. The governors have delegated responsibility from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership Trust Board for a great many aspects of school life and particularly the strategic direction of the school.

Core Functions

In all schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For further information on the role of the Governor visit <http://www.inspiringgovernors.org/> and <http://www.nga.org.uk/>

Governance at Gordano

- **Governors' Meetings**

Local Governing Body meetings take place every term ie 6 times a year. Meetings are held in the early evening and last about two hours. In addition, small sub-groups are formed when necessary to look at issues in detail and feedback to the main committee

- **Links with Faculties**

It is important for governors to maintain strong links not only with the Headteacher and the Clerk to Governors, but also that the teaching teams feel that they have a voice - governors are expected to work with faculties, visiting lessons (in an observational capacity), attending faculty meetings and discussing issues with Heads of Faculty. This might only be once or twice a year but the contact is appreciated by staff and helps governors to understand the issues within the school and within the classroom itself.

Skills needed to be an effective Governor

An effective governing body has a broad range of skills and Gordano is no exception. A background in the education sector is not vital, experience in HR, Health & Safety, marketing and strategic management would complement the current skill set.

Induction and training

Every new governor at Gordano is assigned a mentor. A six-month induction programme ensures every opportunity to familiarise and learn about Gordano School. Gordano subscribes to third party Governor support which gives access to training and support materials.

Summary

In summary, the work of the governors in schools is crucial. Every new governor joining the governing body brings a valid perspective. We hope to have a governing body which contains people from a range of professional, skills and community backgrounds. It is vital that the governing body is broadly representative. At Gordano, debate in full committee and in the sub groups is friendly, open and constructive. The governing body work with the school, in support of the school, but also set a high standard of expectation and ambition which helps to drive forward the work of the senior staff and create a bright future for our students.

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