



Danson Primary School

Governors' Policy

Introduction

Visits to school by Governors during the time that the school is in operation give them insights that they can acquire in no other way. If Governors are to carry out their strategic, monitoring, executive and accountability roles they need to have an understanding of the way schools work and a feel for the dynamics of their particular school. Governors visit their schools in many different guises. These range from the very informal to formal mandated visits on behalf of the Governing body. The advice below refers, in the main, to the latter.

Responsibilities

We need always to remember that our visits should be pre-planned and agreed with the school. These visits should not interrupt the smooth running of the school. They should be of sufficient length to give a detailed picture of the focus area, whilst not so long as to become burdensome. Governors should feel that their visits are welcome and valuable.

Our visits should relate to our responsibilities as governors. It is the Head teacher's responsibility to manage the school from day to day. To judge the quality of teaching and learning in school is a specialist skill, not exercisable by non-specialists on the basis of a short, occasional visit. When we use visits to gain information and impressions to help us in our task as governors, we do so as observers, not as inspectors. Moreover a visit gives us only a glimpse or snapshot of what goes on. We should not assume that what we learn at one, or even at several visits gives us a full and balanced picture. Our conclusions may be entirely valid as far as they go and we should not reject the evidence of our own eyes and ears; but both may need to be checked and revised in the light of other information brought to the governing body.

Visit Focus

During a visit all governors should be concerned with noticing everything they can, it deepens our understanding of our own school. It is important that the visit has a focus taken from the School Development Plan because this is one of the governors' prime responsibilities; to ensure that the school is seeking to and succeeding in developing further. It enables governors to be assured that the evidence and findings presented them by the Head teacher are an accurate reflection of the actual school.

Protocol for Visiting Governors Before the Visit

Governors will each identify a particular area of responsibility or interest which will be the focus of their visits, for example:

- A Strategic School Development Plan priority
- Safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs
- Curriculum areas including Literacy and Numeracy
- Premises and Health and Safety Governors will always make prior arrangements for the visit, with both the Head teacher and the teachers/staff involved.

Aims of the Visit

The main aims of the visit will be:

- To gain a deeper understanding of the school in order to inform the GB decision making process
- To gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities of a governor
- To get to know the staff and develop a supportive relationship
- To get to know the school and its current cohorts
- To focus on their particular area of responsibility or on an agreed aspect of the strategic school development plan
- To monitor the performance of the school and triangulate the information provided in reports from the senior leadership team, OFSTED, external consultants
- To observe the impact of school improvement strategies During the Visit
- Governors will respect confidentiality at all times but will also have due regard for safeguarding policy and procedures
- Governors will remember that they are not visiting the school in an inspectoral role
- Governors will comply with and observe any school rules and/or routines After the visit
- Governors will discuss their school visit with the Head teacher/Senior Leader responsible for the Governing visit
- Governors will respect rules of confidentiality at all times
- Governors will complete the relevant Proforma for their visit
- Governors will present their report to other members of the Governing Body at their next full meeting

Public Information

Copies of this policy will be available to the public from the School Office.

Date agreed: June 2023

Date Reviewed: January 2026

Head Teacher: L Casey

Chair Of Governors: M Egelton