



Welcome

Dear Governor,

Welcome to the 2011/2012 Governor Development Service Training Programme.

By removing the School Improvement Partner role and the responsibility for monitoring school improvement and progress from the Local Authority, the government has placed greater responsibility on governing bodies to hold the school to account. Governors must have a good understanding of standards of teaching and learning in the school as well as the final outcomes for pupils. There also needs to be sufficient skills within the governing body to ensure that it understands and can make best use of the financial resources available to the school.

This year's courses again support the three key roles of governors:

Setting the strategic direction of the school

Governors do not get involved in day to day management but help the school leadership to take the longer term view. By determining a vision of what the school will be like in three to five years time and by monitoring the progress towards that vision, governors keep the continued improvement of the educational experience at the school as a priority.

Challenging and supporting the school leadership

Governors should continually ask "are we doing the best that we could be doing to provide the best possible educational experience to the children in our community?"

By continually focusing on the school improvement plan, asking how activities

support school improvement and what the impact has been, governors can provide constructive challenge to the school.

Celebrating achievement of pupils and staff is also an important part of the governor's role. Thanking and congratulating staff for their contribution to success helps to build the vital relationship between staff and governors.

Being accountable

Supporting the school is also about making sure that the evidence is in place to demonstrate progress made. By asking

- what is the impact;
- how do we know; and
- where is the evidence,

governors assist the school in monitoring, evaluating and recording the work of the school.

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, in November 2010 launched the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' stating that "the importance of teaching cannot be over-stated. That is why there is a fierce urgency to our plans for reform. The challenge will be for us to resist those pressures and make it clear that the most important thing schools can do is to give children the skills, knowledge, confidence and qualifications to make independent and autonomous decisions for themselves. To be authors of their own life story".

The training, development and information that we provide will keep you up to date with all of these changes and support you in dealing with the practical issues of raising standards at your school.