

Twenty key questions for a school governing board to ask itself

GOVERNING BOARD EFFECTIVENESS			Yes	No
Right Skills: Do we have the right skills on the governing board	1.	Have we completed a Skills Audit which informs the governor specification we use as the basis of governor appointment and interview?		
	2.	Do we understand our roles and responsibilities, including what it means to be strategic?		
Effectiveness: Are we as effective as we could be?	3.	Do we have a professional clerk who provides legal advice and oversees the governing board's Induction and development needs?		
	4.	Is the size, composition and committee structure of our governing board conducive to effective working?		
	5.	Do we make use of good practice from across the country?		
Role of the Chair: Does our Chair show strong and effective leadership?	6.	Do we carry out a regular 360 degree review of the Chair's performance and elect the chair each year		
	7.	Do we engage in good succession planning so that no governor serves for longer than two terms of office and the Chair is replaced at least every six years?		
	8.	Does the Chair carry out an annual review of each governor's contribution to the board's performance?		

VISION, ETHOS AND STRATEGY			Yes	No
Strategy: Does the school have a clear vision and strategic priorities?	9	Does our vision look forward three to five years, and does it include what the children who have left the school will have achieved?		
	10	Have we agreed a strategy with priorities for achieving our vision with Key Performance Indicators		
	11	Does our strategic planning cycle drive the governing board's activities and agenda setting?		
Engagement: Are we properly engaged with our school community, the wider school sector and the outside world?	12	Do we listen to, understand and respond to our pupils, parents and staff?		
	13	Do we make regular reports on the work of the governing board to our parents and local community?		
	14	Does the school draw from collaboration with other schools and other sectors, locally and nationally? Provide details of who . . .		
EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY				
Accountability of the Executive: Do we hold the school leaders to account?	15	Do we understand the school's performance data (including in-year progress tracking data) so we can properly hold school leaders to account?		
	16	Do governors regularly visit the school to get to know it and monitor the implementation of the school strategy?		

	17	Does our policy review schedule work and how do we ensure compliance?		
	18	Do we know how effective Performance Management of all staff is within the school?		
	19	Are our financial management systems robust so we can ensure best value for money?		
Impact: Are we having an impact on outcomes for pupils?	20	Has the school improved over the last three years, and has the governing board evaluated its contribution to this?		

OTHER QUESTIONS:

Do you consider the governance of your school to be **Strong, Secure or Weak**?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Governance	No urgent or major changes required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure Governance	Governance is effective but some improvement required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak Governance	Governance is not effective, major improvement required

(Please tick the appropriate box)

What support can we offer you?

I confirm this form has been completed by the Head and Chair of Governors:

Signed: _____ Designation: _____ Date: _____