

What is the role of a school Governing Body?

The three aims of school governing bodies are:

- 1) To provide a strategic overview;
- 2) To monitor and evaluate the work of the school;
- 3) To be a critical friend.

1. Strategic overview: - The governing body helps to set the school policies and direction. For example, they are not there to count the numbers of pencils, but to ensure effective financial policy and budget management systems are in place so that there are always enough pencils. Detailed day to day issues are handled by the partner Headteachers.
2. To monitor and evaluate the work of the school: - Governors receive detailed reports on all issues from the partner Headteachers, and have an opportunity to discuss and understand them at Governor meetings. There is also the opportunity to visit the school and become involved in the life of the school, so that Governors gain a greater understanding of what the school is doing.
3. The term 'critical friend' is a hard one to understand. Another way of describing this is 'supportive challenge'. Or – holding the school to account for the work that it does. Governors are loyal to the school, but that does not prevent them from asking challenging questions about how the school is doing.

### **How does a Governing Body do its work?**

The work is carried out mostly through meetings. Papers and reports are presented to the Governing Body for consideration. Draft policies are examined. Information about the school's progress will be looked at. Governors who have been to the school, or who have attended training sessions, will report back to their colleagues. A Full Governing Body is when the whole Governing Body meets together. By regulation, this must happen at least three times per year. However, much of the detailed work of the Governing Body is done through sub-committees. There are two sub-committees at Stanbridge: -

- The Resources Committee oversees the finances including the school budget, buildings and health and safety.
- The Curriculum Committee oversees the school curriculum and hears reports from the curriculum subject leaders.

The sub committees tend to meet once per term and report back to the Full Governing Body meetings.

There is also a working party to monitor the School Development Plan. Governors are integrated into the Core and Foundation Teams set up by the Partner Head Teachers to help drive the school forward. Governors are invited to attend the team meetings and challenge the team leaders. Governors then report back to the working party which in turn reports back to the Full Governors.

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