

Governor Visits Policy

1. Purpose of this policy

Governing bodies have a statutory responsibility to promote high standards at their school and must monitor and evaluate their effectiveness. Through visiting our School, the governors can get to know the strengths and areas for development. The governing body is a corporate body and every governor should visit the School as a representative of that body, not as an individual. There must be an effective partnership between governors and staff, based on mutual understanding and trust, which benefits the whole School community

2. Governing Body Responsibilities – Formal Visits

“Formal Governor Visits” are those, which need to be made on behalf of the Governing Body for a specific purpose. Formal visits should have a clear agenda and be focussed to the school development plan priorities.

At the first Governing Body meeting of the academic year, the Governing Body will:

- Review this Governors Visits Policy
- Consider the number and focus of formal visits for the forthcoming academic year as detailed in the SDP
- Discuss the monitoring arrangements for Collective Worship

3. Individual Governor Responsibilities – Formal Visits

a) The aim of formal visits is for the Governors to learn more about the School and to gather information to inform the governing body’s decision-making.

b) The following guidelines should be observed:-

- Ensure the School Safeguarding policies are followed;
- A mutually convenient time for the visit should be arranged in advance with the Headteacher, teacher, etc;
- We encourage participation rather than observation and it is important that the governors talk to the children;
- No judgements about the performance of the teacher, even in a constructive manner, should occur;
- A de-briefing session with the Headteacher is strongly advised to which governors may bring their notes

4. Informal Visits

- Governors may make informal visits in a more personal capacity on a more frequent basis and without a specific purpose delegated from the Governing Body. This should only occur with the knowledge and approval of the Headteacher. Such visits add to individual governors’ knowledge and understanding of the school and can strengthen relationships and foster trust and respect between Governors and the staff.
- Informal visits can take many forms, for example, attending a play, concert or sports day; helping on school trips; listening to pupils reading aloud or running a stall at the school fair. They should be seen as a valuable complement to formal visits – not an alternative.