

THE POWERS & DUTIES OF GOVERNING BODIES (summary)

Policies – deciding how, in broad strategic terms the school should be run

Finance – managing the school's budget

Staffing – deciding the number of staff, and making decisions on staff pay

Appointments –appointing the head and deputy headteacher, leading on appointments to the leadership group, determining how other appointments will be made

Standards – promoting high standards of educational achievement.

Curriculum – ensuring breadth and balance, and delivery of the National Curriculum, including RE

Reporting results – reporting on assessments and examination results

Discipline – management of staff conduct, discipline and grievances

Performance management (appraisal) – establishing the policy, following consultation with staff, and reviewing annually

Special educational needs –managing governors' duties

There are very few decisions that a governing body would have to make without the advice of the Headteacher.

The governing body fulfils a largely strategic role in the running of the school. It establishes the strategic framework by:

- setting aims and objectives for the school
- adopting policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- setting targets for achieving those aims and objectives.

It then monitors and evaluates the progress of its strategy.

Governors are responsible for raising standards through three key roles of setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and monitoring and evaluating school performance.

Acting as a “critical friend”, the governing body offers support and constructive advice.

Based on The Department for Education's 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors', which is available on the DfE web site. Go to:

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/governors%20guide%20may%202012.pdf>