



Policy on Governor visits to school

Governors of Rockwood Nursery School are invited and encouraged to visit the Nursery. Visits to see the school in action provide governors with an opportunity to:

- fulfil the governing body's legal duty “ **to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.**” (Section 21, Education Act 2002)

Nominated governors are asked to visit once a term if possible. The governor visit policy is as follows:

- Governors do not have any rights of access to the school;
- The visit is not a form of inspection to make judgements about professional expertise of the staff;
- The governor is not there to check on the progress of their child, to pursue their own agenda or monopolise the school/teacher's time;
- Visits should be undertaken as part of a strategic programme to:
 - improve governor knowledge of the school, its staff, needs, priorities, strengths and weaknesses
 - monitor and assess the priorities as outlined in the development plan
 - assist the governing body in fulfilling its statutory duties
 - enable individual governors to ask informed and challenging questions at governing body meetings
 - help governors understand the teaching and learning process
 - see policies in action
 - demonstrate to staff and pupils that governors are interested in what goes on in school
 - give governors an enhanced sense of identity with their school and the people who work in it

- Before visiting the school the governor(s) should:
 - arrange their visits with the headteacher who has the responsibility of the day-to-day management of the school;
 - ensure that they are familiar with health and safety procedures including what to do in the event of a fire
 - identify areas to monitor/questions to ask (examples on attached page)

- After visiting the school the governor(s) should:
 - complete a visit report outlining the objectives and results of the visit
 - report back to the committee or governing body as appropriate
 - provide constructive feedback as appropriate

It is important that governors remember that the purpose of Governors' visits is not to pursue issues that relate to the day to day management of the school other than as agreed with the headteacher.

Questions that Governors might wish to ask as part of their visit

On teaching and learning

What does the school do well in this area?

Are there any areas for development?

Is _____ a regular agenda for the governors' meetings?

On resourcing

How is _____ resourced in the school?

Are there any areas of under resourcing?

How are learning support/classroom assistants being trained and used?

On training issues

Does the _____ co-ordinator have sufficient time to monitor and support colleagues?

How are teachers learning from and supporting each other in delivering _____? Have staff training needs been identified?

On setting _____ targets

Is the school receiving professional advice and support from the LA to achieve the targets?

Target setting ought to involve pupils. Do they understand and help to define their own targets?

On informing parents

What efforts has the school made to involve parents in supporting their children?
How are parents encouraged to ask questions and help?

How does the school inform parents of their child's progress?

Are parents' views taken on board?

On the curriculum

Do all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs?

On boys' achievement

What steps is your school taking to raise boys' achievement?

On special needs

How is the school addressing the needs of SEN pupils?

How are special needs/teaching assistants being used to help plan, and support pupils?

On bilingual learners

How do EAL pupil's progress compared to other pupils? How many have, in addition, special educational needs?

How is the expertise of specialist staff being used to help plan, and teach bilingual pupils?

On celebrating achievement

How does the school celebrate success?

Are governors congratulating the school when appropriate?