

Link Governors' Meeting Tuesday 18 January 2011

Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that a Link Governor was the link between the Local Authority and the Governing Body, overseeing the training and development of their governors.

She explained that the purpose of the termly Link Governor's meeting was to provide information on forthcoming governor training and development events and to give an opportunity for Link Governors to meet together and discuss current issues.

- **Presentation: The White Paper**

Sarah gave a Powerpoint presentation on The White Paper (attached). Governors then broke into groups for discussion on the following theme:

Can your school provide evidence of the 10 key questions outlined in The Schools White Paper?

1. What are the school's values? Are they reflected in our long term development plans?

There was discussion around the issue of providing 'value-added' for pupils against school status in league tables.

2. How are we going to raise standards for all children, including the most and least able, those with Special Educational Needs, boys and girls, and any who are currently underachieving?

There was discussion around the issue of how a school ensures that gifted and talented pupils reach their full potential.

3. Have we got the right staff and the right development and reward arrangements?

There was discussion about the importance of having the right staff, about the governors' decision to review the Individual School Range (ISR, and conducting Headteacher Performance Management.

4. Do we have a sound financial strategy, get good value for money and have robust procurement and financial systems?
5. Do we keep our buildings and other assets in good condition and are they well used?
6. How well does the curriculum provide for and stretch all pupils?

There was discussion about how to positively market the school.

7. How well do we keep parents informed and take account of their views?

There was discussion about schools working in partnership with parents and pupils.

Governors shared practice on how their schools communicated with parents through newsletters. One school had established a Parents' Forum with representatives from every year group, which met once per week. Ground rules had been set out, to ensure that parents understood that the Forum was not a 'moaning shop' and that any concerns could be aired but would not necessarily be solved. Another school was looking at setting up a Forum using a virtual managed learning environment (MLE).

Governors talked about fund-raising being a vehicle to get parents involved in school activities.

Governors also shared experiences of how their School Council was involved.

8. Do we keep children safe and meet the statutory health and safety requirements?
9. How is pupil behaviour? Do we tackle the root causes of poor behaviour?
1. Do we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities which engage all pupils?

There was discussion about giving opportunity to all pupils to join in extra-curricular activities. One school displayed a timetable of such activities in the main corridor.

There was discussion about the future format of OFSTED inspections.

- **Governor Support and Development Programme**

Sarah concluded by highlighting courses in the spring term 2011 programme.

Many thanks to all those who attended!