



## The Role of the Governing Body

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The Role of the governing body is a strategic one and critical to the effectiveness of the school. The governing body is responsible for the conduct of the school, and must promote high standards of educational achievement.

It is the school's accountable body and as such, it:

- Provides a strategic view of the school by establishing a vision and setting the purpose and aims of the school within an agreed policy framework;
- Appoints and performance manages the headteacher;
- Agrees the school improvement strategy and approves budgets, targets set and staffing structures;
- Monitors and evaluates the work of the school by reviewing the performance of the headteacher, the effectiveness of the policy framework, progress towards targets, and the effectiveness of the school improvement strategy;
- Contributes to the self evaluation process and responds to Ofsted reports as necessary. In addition it holds the headteacher to account for the performance of the school and ensures that parents are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate, with information to the community being made available as required.

The headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing body.

### The key elements of a good governing body

Research and practice indicate that there are eight key elements to an effective school governing body; it:

- Has the right set of people around the table with a diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge
- Understands its roles and responsibilities, remaining strategic and providing leadership
- Makes decisions in the interests of all children
- Is committed to challenging effectively (being a critical friend)
- Has a good chair who leads the team effectively and manages business well
- Has a professional clerk who ensures the governing body is well organised and informed
- Has good relationships, particularly with the headteacher built on trust, honesty and respect
- Knows the school, both through looking at data and listening to parents, staff and students