Baguley Hall Primary School

What Makes an Effective Governor?

Governance

* Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
* Holding the Headteacher to account (outcomes for pupils).
* Overseeing financial performance.

**Knowing the school**

* Attend Governing Body meetings regularly - take time in your first few meetings to find out more about the school and gently immerse yourself in the role.
* Governors bring a range of skills and experiences which are valuable to the school – be willing and able to spend time extending skills and developing new knowledge. How? By asking questions, attending training sessions, reading papers prior to meetings, visiting the school, becoming a link governor, keeping abreast of the ever-changing educational landscape.
* Attend, by invitation, school events and functions.
* Build positive relationships with the Headteacher and Leadership Team.
* Take any opportunities to speak with children and parents.

**Taking on and developing your role as ‘link’ governor**

* Focus on an agreed area or knowledge base by taking responsibility in a particular area, for example Attendance, Safeguarding, Literacy, Health & Safety etc., and be the lead in providing information on that specialism to the Governing Body.
* Arrange school visits with the appropriate Coordinator or Senior Leadership Team Member (once a term).
* If appropriate, use classroom visits alongside key members of staff, looking at pupils’ work, talking to pupils, teachers, and support staff to find out about particular developments in your area.
* Take the opportunity to see if plans and policies that the Governing Body have signed off are being implemented.
* Remember that governors are not inspectors or school managers.
* Complete a Record of Governor visit form after each visit and present it at the next Governing Body meeting.

**What makes an effective governor?**

* Real commitment, and time to undertake the role.
* Being confident to express views – don’t be afraid to ask questions or have data explained.
* High aspirations and belief in children.
* Understand the ethos of the school and be familiar with the School Improvement Plan, so you know the current priorities of the school.
* Ensure arrangements are in place to listen to and hear the views of pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.
* Be willing to develop your knowledge and attend training.
* Retain your critical faculties. Always ask yourself what impact any decision we are making will have on the children.