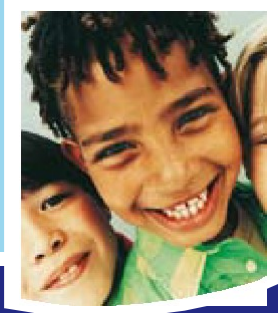


The role of the Special Educational Needs Governor

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For further information contact:
Luton Governor Services – 01582 54 80 34
email: governors@luton.gov.uk
www.luton.gov.uk/governors

GOVERNOR SERVICES

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The role of the SEN Governor

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Governor plays a vital role in ensuring that SEN stays on the governing body agenda and providing a link between the governing body, its committees and the staff with regard to Special Educational Needs.

There are certain core responsibilities within the role of the SEN Governor. These include:

- making every effort to see that the necessary special arrangements are made for pupils with SEN. This includes making all staff who are likely to teach these pupils aware of those needs
- asking questions and liaising with Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) about the current policy and practice in SEN
- monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the governing body's policy on SEN
- monitoring the deployment of resources allocated to SEN
- monitoring the effectiveness of communicating with parents.



To effectively fulfil the role of SEN Governor, he/she should:

- keep abreast of current SEN developments
- try to attend in-service training sessions
- meet regularly with the SENCO
- where possible, be aware of progress SEN pupils are making
- make reports to the full governing body and/or appropriate committees regarding SEN.

There are a number of practical ways that SEN governors can work with the chair and governing body in fulfilling its duties to provide appropriate support for children with Special Educational Needs.

These may include:

- taking an active interest in the Special Educational Needs Register
- taking part in school-based SEN training
- being aware of parental views and concerns about SEN issues
- providing encouragement for teachers and support assistants through discussions and visits to school
- being aware of changes to the Code of Practice and its impact on the school.



Although this is a very specialist field, there is ample support and training available. The effective SEN Governor will find working alongside the SENCO both interesting and rewarding in that their efforts will ensure that the work of the governing body fulfils its duties to children with special educational needs.