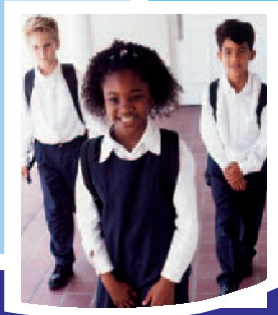


The Role of the Training Link Governor

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GOVERNOR SERVICES



The Role of the Training Link Governor

The training link governor plays a vital role in 'linking' the governing body to appropriate training and support. Everyone has different experiences and skills to bring and it is important that these are used. However, the development of new skills and keeping abreast of current issues is paramount if governors are to fulfil their role as strategic managers of the school.

There are certain core tasks that define the role of the link governor. Working with the chair and governor colleagues the link governor is required to:

- Assess the training needs of individual governors:- new governors, governors taking on new roles, governors needing 'refresher' courses or updates
- Encourage governors to attend courses
- Review the balance between personal development and benefit for the whole governing body eg how is information from courses shared?
- Monitor courses attended
- Check that there is a good spread and all governors are receiving appropriate training
- Alert the governing body to strategic training:- tailor-made courses to support the strategic role of the governing body are available
- Communicate with the governor training and support team regarding the needs of governors
- Provide governor feedback from courses, new courses required, etc
- Help with the induction of new governors

The last point is very important if new governors are to feel valued and welcome on the governing body. Although the LEA has made induction and support for new governors a priority, the school is much more likely to retain, and get the most from new members to the governing body, if they have their own induction process. Training Link governors should play a key role in this.

The following examples of good practice may form part of this process:

- On joining a governing body the headteacher arranges a visit to the school. The headteacher, another staff member, another governor or children from the school may conduct this.
- The Chair of the governing body should contact the new governor in advance of the first meeting to welcome them and give them a brief overview of current issues
- There is essential reading that a new governor should receive eg school prospectus, School Development Plan, Guide to the Law. Other material may also be included, but avoid 'overload' (another governor may be assigned to talk the new governor through it – see below)



- The appointment of a 'mentor' governor helps new governors settle in and can advise on terminology, protocol issues etc
- New governors are provided with details of the next induction course and are encouraged to attend
- The governor is assigned to a particular class/department/year group to form a link within school
- At the first meeting, the new governor is welcomed and all governors introduce themselves. Where possible, agenda items are put in context for the new governor.

Training Link governors can act only with the full support of the chair and headteacher. They will also have to make judgements about appropriateness of training, establish regular communication with all governors, liaise closely with the chair, headteacher and clerk to the governors, and manage their own time effectively!

Although this is a considerable responsibility, training link governors' efforts will be rewarded by the knowledge that they have played an active part in ensuring that the work of their governing body is more effective in its strategic management of school