

LINK GOVERNOR ROLE

All governing bodies are encouraged to have a link governor whose role is outlined below. Individual link governors may have particular additional roles, for example, to link between an infant and junior school, or link between a primary and secondary school. The role can be as wide or as narrow as the governing body wishes.

To be aware of the training and development needs of the governing body and ensure that:

- governors (in particular new governors) are supported
- advantage is taken of training and other development opportunities
- governors share what they have learned with the rest of the governing body
- the governing body is aware of the skills and knowledge that its members bring from the outside world
- the work of governors and the governing body is recognised and valued
- the governing body develops its own skills
- information and advice is received from the Local Authority (LA) to help the governing body be more effective
- liaison takes place with appropriate organisations and other schools to:
 - ◆ share experiences, ideas and problems
 - ◆ facilitate problem solving
 - ◆ benefit from the work done by other governing bodies
 - ◆ build confidence
 - ◆ reduce isolation

To attend Link Governors' Forums

- To feedback on your governing body's views about their training needs
- To learn from the experience of other link governors

Every link governor and governing body will have different ideas about how this role can be developed. The following are only suggestions – it is up to you to select the ones that are most appropriate to your governing body.

Particular tasks that you may like to undertake could be:

- Ensuring that new governors are supported by introducing and organising a mentoring scheme for new governors;

- Organising an audit of your governors' skills, experience and interests (guidance available from Governor Services)
- Reviewing the governor development programme and discussing with fellow governors;
- Ensuring that governing body development has a regular slot on the agenda at meetings;
- Discussing with the governing body the impact that training is having on their effectiveness;
- Ensuring that governors' needs are implemented and maintained on the school website;
- Commenting on the usefulness, content and presentation of the LA's Governors' Website;
- Working with other governors or governing bodies to share experiences;
- Keeping a record of the training that has been undertaken (provided by Governor Services);
- Maintaining and updating a suitable resource collection for the governing body;
- Ensuring that the School Development Plan includes a strand on governor development;
- Putting together a handbook for your governing body;
- Co-ordinating governors' visits to school and the reporting back process;