

Collaborative Academies Trust

Twenty key questions for a school governing body to ask itself

Right skills: Do we have the right skills on the governing body?

1. Have we completed a skills audit of our governing body?
2. Do we appoint governors on the basis of their skills, and do we know how to find people with the right skills?

Effectiveness: Are we as effective as we could be?

3. Do we understand our roles and responsibilities?
4. Do we have a professional clerk?
5. What is our training and development budget and does every governor receive the support they need to carry out their role effectively?
6. Do we know about good practice from across the country?
7. Is the size, composition and committee structure of our governing body conducive to effective working?
8. Do we carry out an annual performance review of each governor?

Strategy: Does the school have a clear strategy?

9. Have we set the school development plan and when did we last review it?
10. Does our strategic planning and reviewing cycle drive the governing body's activities and agenda setting?

Engagement: Are we properly engaged with our school community and the wider school sector?

11. Do we understand our pupils, parents and staff?
12. Do we report to our parents and local community annually?
13. What benefit do we draw from collaboration with other schools, locally and nationally?

Role of chair: Does our chair show strong and effective leadership?

14. Do we carry out an annual 360 review of the chair's performance?
15. Do we engage in good succession planning?
16. Are the chair and committee chairs re-elected each year?

Accountability of the leadership of the school: Do we hold the school leadership team to account?

17. Do we understand the school's performance data well enough to properly hold the school leadership team to account?
18. How effective is our performance management of the Headteacher/Principal?
19. Are our financial management systems robust?
20. Has pupil progress improved over the last three years?

Proposed by the:

All-Party Parliamentary Group on School Governance & Leadership