



A Framework for an Effective Working Relationship between the School and Governors

The world of education is changing and becoming more complex. The need for clearer lines of communication in school leadership increases.

The Liverpool Governors' Forum has worked with the Association of Liverpool Special School Headteachers, the Liverpool Association of Secondary Headteachers and the Liverpool Primary Headteachers' Association to consider this issue. Building on the many examples of good practice that exist in our schools, we have agreed a framework that we believe provides the foundations for an effective relationship between the school and governors.

The framework is offered to governing bodies as a model for consideration and adoption.

From the school, governors can expect:

- Acceptance that the Governing Body is an important part of the school
- Respect as volunteers, bringing other skills and perspectives to the service of the school
- To be given appropriate and accurate information in time to enable them to fulfil their role
- To be trusted with open information about the strengths of the school and its areas for development
- That their expertise will be used by the school
- The provision of a school induction programme
- The recognition that the education of the children in the school is as important to governors as to the professionals in the school
- To work together on behalf of pupils with parents, the local community, local and central government and other relevant organisations

From governors, the school can expect:

- Committed involvement through agreed procedures including a clear visiting policy
- Regular attendance at meetings, including being active members of governing body committees
- Preparation before meetings, so they arrive well informed, having read all the information given.
- A commitment to confidentiality
- Circumspection in what is said about the school
- Support for the school in the wider community
- A willingness to participate in induction and continued development
- The acceptance of the collective responsibility of the governing body and full support for all decisions made