

The Strategic Role of the Governing Body in using Performance Data

This in-house session is an opportunity for the governing body to explore the strategic role of the governing body in using performance data to raise pupils' achievement.

The session will consider the performance data available to governing bodies including:

- RAISEonline;
- The inspection dashboard;
- Groups within the school;
- Narrowing gaps and being accountable for pupil premium.

There will be an opportunity to discuss what this data tells the governing body about the pupils' achievements, consider questions that governors might want to ask and reflect on how the data will inform discussions about school improvement.

Financial awareness for governing bodies

This in-house session is an opportunity for the governing body to explore the core function of the governing body in "overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent" (Governance Handbook).

The session will consider:

- Funding, including current issues;
- Budget planning and monitoring;
- Understanding financial management reports;
- How to use benchmarking data.

The Role of Governors in promoting the Catholic nature of the school

A Catholic school is not simply one which merely follows the secular National Curriculum with Catholic religious education and liturgical worship bolted on as an added extra, but rather an institution where Gospel values and the Catholic faith are at the heart of everything and should permeate every facet of its work.

This in-house session is an opportunity for governors to explore their strategic role in developing the Catholic Life of the school.

Topics to be covered include:

- Legal powers to support the Catholic ethos;
- Thinking and planning at a whole school level;
- Approaches to monitoring the effectiveness of the promotion of the Catholic life of the school, including Section 48 validation.

These courses are run for governing bodies on request and complement the termly briefings for governors.

"If our schools are not a space where another humanity is being created, where another wisdom is taking root, where another society is being created, where hope and transcendence have a place, then we are losing out on making a unique contribution to this historical moment."

Pope Francis

Training for governing bodies

2016-17



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Roles and Responsibilities of Governing Bodies and Headteachers

This course will explore the principles of governance and help governors to understand the respective roles and responsibilities of headteachers and governing bodies within a Catholic school.

Topics to be covered include:

- Core functions of the governing body in a Catholic school;
- Self-evaluation of how the governing body meets the requirements of the core functions;
- Strategic and operational responsibilities of the governing body and headteacher;
- Changes in legislation relating to the responsibilities of the governing body.

Monitoring & Evaluating Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in your school

The promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils features prominently in the new Ofsted evaluation schedule. This in-house session provides an opportunity to consider the governing body's responsibilities for SMSC, explore what this looks like in the school and how the governing body can monitor the effectiveness of the school's promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

Topics to be covered include:

- What is SMSC?
- Fundamental British Values and Prevent;
- Governors' responsibilities;
- Approaches to monitoring the effectiveness of the promotion of SMSC;
- Evaluating the impact on pupils.

Cost for any of these two hour sessions: £200 plus travelling expenses

Evaluating Governing Body Effectiveness in a Catholic school

This course is designed to help governing bodies effectively evaluate their own performance, identify areas for development which lead to action to bring about improvement. Knowing what your school does well and to know what the evidence is to support your judgement will ensure you are prepared for an OFSTED inspection and section 48 validation. The session will have a range of interactive activities and include:

- Why GBs need to evaluate themselves;
- The key functions of the GB and head in a Catholic school;
- Thinking about what makes good evidence;
- Looking at your judgements in an audit of GB effectiveness;
- Is it secure evidence?
- Is there evidence you have overlooked?
- Identify areas for improvement;
- What actions could your governing body take to improve?

Other courses can be provided for governors on request