

Governing Body Self-Evaluation.

Very recently your governors have reviewed their system of self-evaluation – an important issue in ensuring that we perform our duties as best we can to benefit the school and its children.

Some important legislation earlier this year led to ‘advice’ from the Government and OFSTED about the way in which self-evaluation could best be undertaken.

A working group of governors has produced documentation to ensure that relevant questions are posed to all governors, leading to an understanding of whether all members of the governing board are aware of what they should know about governance and their legal duties.

It is also vital that the individual skills within the governing board membership are used effectively in sub-committees and working groups, thus ensuring efficient working practices. Completion of the forms enables training needs, and recruitment ‘gaps’ to be identified.

One facet involves a 360 degree review of the Chair’s performance, which will also identify any training need or requirement for amended operational practice.

In a previous article I have outlined how the governing board is monitored by external agencies. Discussions within the board have agreed that we need to maximise the input from some of our most important partners – our school’s parents and children.

One action I have discussed with the head teacher is for me, as the Chair, to meet with the school council. The benefits will be twofold; I can tell the children what we are doing on their behalf and I can also respond to any queries or requests they may have.

In terms of parental input I want to seek your views on how we can be more accountable to you, or give you more of the information you need. We used to be required to hold an ‘Annual Report to Parents’ meeting where governors could be questioned about their actions. This requirement was removed a few years ago by the Government. In fairness, such meetings were very poorly attended.

What I want you to tell me is how you think your governing board can be more accountable to you, and the type of information you would best benefit from, bearing in mind that the role of the governing board is strategic. Day to day activity is the responsibility of the head teacher.

Please e-mail any suggestions to school, or talk to any of the governors when they are in school. The parent governors are an ideal conduit. The pictures of all current governors are displayed in the playground and around the various classrooms. I am in school at least twice per week and I always wear my i.d. badge. Please ask me anything about school or governor activity and I will be happy to help wherever I can.