

## COVID -19: Suggested questions for governors at this time

In these unprecedented times governing boards have been restricting their initial business to that which is critical. It is still important that governing boards assure themselves that what is being delivered in and out of school is safe and appropriate. Some governors, particularly those new to the role, know that they should be holding school leaders to account but aren't quite sure which questions to ask. We thought it might be helpful to scaffold a range of questions that governors may wish to use over the course of their meetings this term.

*NB this is not an exhaustive list and the questions may not be appropriate in some instances.*

- How is the Headteacher ensuring they are looking after their own well-being and what part can the board play in support of this?
- What safeguarding arrangements are in place for pupils who are attending the setting and in place for pupils who are not currently in school? Is the Risk Assessment being used and regularly reassessed?
- How is work being assigned for pupils, how effective is this and how do you know? Do all pupils have access to appropriate IT and if not, is there anything the school can do to help?
- As exams will no longer be taking place this summer, how robust is our assessment system and how is it moderated?
- What is in place to support our most disadvantaged pupils/students including Children in Care? How is the impact of this being monitored and reported? Do the DSL and SENDCo have sufficient support & resource? What different methods of communication are being used to reach vulnerable families and how is the school monitoring the effectiveness of these methods? Is there anything else which could be tried? Are there any newly vulnerable pupils?
- What provision is in place for free school meal pupils, including those who are not currently in school? What is the take-up of this provision?
- What plans are in place if staff members working within the school become ill or a case of Covid appears in school? What measures would be taken to provide continuity of provision for pupils attending the school and any being supported at home?
- How are staff managing the different and changing pressures; what has been the impact on staff? What is in place to support them? Are there any staff who are not able to attend work, how are they being deployed, what is the impact on school and how is the effect of this being mitigated?
- How are we collaborating with other schools in the area, the Diocese or other support agencies? How effective are these partnerships?
- How does our current provision and response to the pandemic reflect our school vision? Does this period give an opportunity to revisit and refresh the curriculum intent and the school vision? How have we preserved the distinctive Christian ethos of our school at this time?
- In light of the last-minute nature of government guidance, how are school leaders managing preparations for September? What are the initial plans? How are these plans to be implemented and balanced with the need for staff to get a break in the summer?
- What plans are in place to ensure that in the event of pupils self-isolating, or a local lockdown the school can provide remote learning for pupils as described in the latest guidance document?

**Please contact the named adviser for your school if you would like further support with governance at this time and don't forget that the Diocesan Education Team provides support, training and guidance for governors through the [Enhanced Service Plan](#). Has your school signed up yet?**