

Dean Valley Community Primary School Governors' Visits to School

Without a good knowledge of the school it is impossible to govern effectively. In order to assist and inform their governance, governors will visit the school on a regular basis, insofar as their own commitments allow. This may include, but need not be restricted to:

- attendance at and/or participation in assemblies;
- attendance at sports days or at other sports events;
- attendance at celebrations such as awards ceremonies;
- attendance at and/or participation in school council meetings or school council committee meetings;
- visiting classes/participating in lessons (as agreed with the headteacher and individual teachers in appropriate circumstances);
- assisting in any areas in which they might be individually skilled.

Governors with special responsibilities will also visit the school as required to enable them to fulfil their roles effectively. This will include governors with responsibility for:

- numeracy;
- literacy;
- special educational needs;
- gifted and talented;
- looked after children;
- safeguarding children.

When visiting the school, governors will agree in advance a mutually convenient time and duration for the visit with the headteacher and (where appropriate) other members of staff affected and will make every effort to minimise any disruption caused by their visit.

Throughout visits governors and staff will do all they can to further positive and mutually supportive relationships between staff and governors. Governors will feed back to the full governing body observations and outcomes from their visits. It would be good practice to share this feedback with the Headteacher in advance of the meeting.

Governors accept that the day to day management of the school is the responsibility of the headteacher. Included within the headteacher's responsibility is that of ensuring pupils receive high quality teaching, and governors accept that it is not appropriate for them to conduct visits with a view to forming judgements on the quality of teaching and learning within the school. However governors should have access to monitoring information regarding the quality of teaching and learning within the school and headteacher and governors should agree effective ways of involving governors in School Improvement Partner visits and reporting the outcome of these meetings to the Governing Body.

When visiting school during the school day governors will be aware of safeguarding and confidentiality issues in their interactions with pupils.

The headteacher and staff accept that, while governors do not have an automatic right to enter the school, it is appropriate for governors to do so, and will not unreasonably refuse a request made to visit the school. The headteacher is committed to involving governors in the life of the school and will provide them with sufficient information about school events and activities to facilitate this.

This agreement was made at the Dean Valley Governing Body meeting, Autumn 2008.