The role of Link Governors and Governors' Forum Representative

Governing bodies operate on a basis of corporate responsibility. With the exception of the Chair in very specific circumstances, no governor has individual power and responsibility unless delegated by the governing body. However, governing bodies find it useful to appoint individual members to keep the governing body fully informed on aspects of its work.

In Newham governing bodies currently appoint a Governors' Forum Representative, a Training Link Governor, an Inclusive Education Link Governor, Link Governors for Looked After Children, Numeracy (Primary only), English (Primary only), ICT, and RE (Religious and Relationship) and Safeguarding Link Governor. The suggested roles are set out below:

Governors' Forum Representative

- To attend the meetings of the Governors' Forum and the Newham Governors' Forum Association (both meetings are held on the same evening at the beginning of each term).
- Where appropriate to submit written questions on behalf of the governing body to the Governing Bodies Support Service for consideration at the meeting.
- To be prepared to contribute to debates.
- To report back to the governing body.

Training Link Governor

- To encourage the governing body to undertake training and to make the practical arrangements for school based training in liaison with the Governor Education Unit.
- To attend termly Training Link Governor meetings with the Governor Education co-ordinator to identify training needs, discuss training issues and to provide feedback on the work of the Governing Bodies Support Service.
- To ensure information about the governing body's training record is available for all governors.

Inclusive Education Link Governor

- To be the lead governor for special educational needs and to encourage the governing body to fulfil its statutory duties.
- To ensure that the effects on pupils with special educational needs are taken into consideration in all discussions.
- To work with the headteacher (and finance committee) to monitor the effectiveness of expenditure on SEND issues and to plan budgets for future financial years
- To liaise with the SENDCO and other relevant staff
- To contribute to reports to the governing body on SEND issues
- To prepare items on SEND issues for the Prospectus.
- To participate in the Inclusive Education Link Governors' Network
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

Safeguarding, Looked After Children Link Governor

Governors are asked to consider appointing a safeguarding link governor, which subsumes the role of the child protection link governor (if appointed). The role of the safeguarding link governor will be to ensure that:

- An appropriate child protection policy is in place and reviewed annually by the governing body
- Data on the implementation of the child protection procedures is monitored at least annually by the governing body
- Governors receive appropriate safeguarding and safer recruitment training
- the governing body receives an annual report on the arrangements for carrying out pre-appointment checks on staff and volunteers and the accuracy of the schools single central register.
- To be the lead governor for looked after children and to encourage the governing body to ensure that these pupils are appropriately supported
- To ensure that designated staff have access to appropriate guidance and support
- To work with the designated staff and to ensure that the progress of looked after children is reported to the governing body
- To contribute to reports to the governing body on looked after children
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

Religious & Relationship Education Link Governor

Governors are asked to consider appointing a link governor for religious and relationship education.
Their role would be to:

- Liaise with the RE and Headteacher and receive reports about the implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE and the daily act of collective worship
- Liaise with the CPSHE leader, Headteacher and receive reports about the implementation of the agreed curriculum for Relationship Education.
- Agree formal monitoring report for both areas, on behalf of the governing body, before it is submitted to the Authority
- Contribute to reports to the governing body on the teaching of religious education and relationship education.
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

English Link Governor

Governors are asked to consider appointing an assessment governor for assessment.

Their role would be to:

- To monitor the performance and provision of English
- To liaise regularly with the staff responsible for English
- To contribute to report to the governing body on developments in English.
- To attend training and other events relating to English on behalf of the governing body
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

Maths/ STEM Link Governor

Governors are asked to consider appointing an assessment governor for assessment.

Their role would be to:

- To take a particular interest in maths and STEM issues in the school
- To liaise regularly with the staff responsible for maths, science, technology and D&T.
- To contribute to reports to the governing body on developments in maths and STEM.
- To attend training and other events relating to maths and STEM on behalf of the governing body.
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

Assessment Link Governor

Governors are asked to consider appointing an assessment governor for assessment.

Their role would be to:

- Liaise with the Assessment co-ordinator, receive and contribute to reports regarding pupil progress
- Be familiar with the school's systems of summative and formative assessment of pupils
- Be aware of external assessments and compliance required of the school
- Understand how the Department for Education reports school progress.
- Report back to curriculum sub-committee and full governing body on assessment matters in the school.
- This is reportable to Ofsted.

<u>ICT</u>
Link Governors

Governors are asked to consider appointing two ICT governors, as there are two strands to technology monitoring in the school.

Digital Communication Link Governor

Their role would be:

- Monitoring of the technology provision, in particular monitoring the website, social media, online safety, publishing, media room development and hardware, as part of premises. This is reportable to Ofsted.

Computing Curriculum Link Governor

Their role would be:

- Monitoring the teaching and learning within the computing curriculum and staff training through discussion with the postholders and pupils via visits. This is reportable to Ofsted.

OHSL

Governors are asked to consider appointing an OHSL governor
Their role would be to:

- Monitor the standards of out of hours provision/learning as part of their responsibility to ensure the quality of the provision is consistent with that of the host school
- Liaise regularly with the staff responsible for OHSL, promoting effective information sharing between the host school and the provision
- Contribute to reports to the governing body on developments with the registered provider
- Monitor the health and safety of the environment and ensure procedures to do with compliance are in place, e.g. fire drills
- Monitor that safeguarding procedures are in place and pupil wellbeing is of an exceptional standard as part of the school's duty of care
- Quality assure governors regarding the reputation of the provision and that philosophy fits with the school's ethos, codes of conduct and public face in the community.
- This is reportable to Ofsted.