

DIY Guide

Guidance for School Governors

ROLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT GOVERNOR

All governing bodies are encouraged to have a Development Governor.

The key role of the Development Governor is to develop skills and build capacity within the Governing Body.

To be aware of the training and development needs of the governing body and ensure that:

- advantage is taken of training and other development opportunities, targeting training at governors relevant to their committee membership;
- capacity within the governing body is such that it is never reliant on one or two people for particular skills or knowledge, eg performance management or finance.
- feed back on any training attended since the last meeting is recorded in the minutes as evidence of governors commitment and development of skills;
- if required, coordinating onsite governor development training sessions.

To attend Development Governors' Forums

- To feedback on your governing body's views about their training needs;
- To learn from the experience of other development governors;
- To report back to governing body on forthcoming development opportunities.

Every development governor and governing body will have different ideas about how this role can be developed. The following are only suggestions – it is up to you to select the ones that are most appropriate to your governing body.

Particular tasks that you may like to undertake could be:

- Offering support to new governors as appropriate eg through 'buddy' system or offering to answer any questions they may have;
- Ensuring that governing body development has a regular slot on the agenda at meetings;
- Discussing with the governing body the impact that training is having on their effectiveness;
- Keeping a record of the training that has been undertaken (provided by Governor Services);
- Working with the chair to ensure that the School Development Plan includes a strand on governor development;
- Putting together a handbook for your governing body;
- Coordinating governors' visits to school and the reporting back process.