

FIFTY QUESTIONS THE GOVERNING BODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER

Remember : “SO WHAT?”

1. What were the key findings of the last Ofsted report? What were the strengths?
2. Which were the areas identified for further development?
3. What progress has been made against these?
4. How has the school changed since the last inspection?
5. How does the school track attainment and progress?
6. How does the school intervene if data shows that students will not achieve what they should?
7. What is the picture in terms of attainment and progress in the school across all year groups? Have there been any concerns in the last three years? How have these been addressed?
8. How does the school's performance compare to national data?
9. What percentage of students performed in line with national expectations in the Core subjects? What percentage exceeded this? What percentage fell short? Were they of a certain ability or social status?
10. Are there subjects lagging behind? What is being done to address this?
11. How do the Disadvantaged progress and attain? What is being done to accelerate their progress and what is the impact?
12. How do SEND students progress and attain? What is being done to make sure that they reach their potential?
13. Is the school aspirational in setting targets?
14. Is your school meeting statutory regulations re advertising how the Pupil Premium is spent?
15. Are you aware of how much funding the school receives as part of the pupil premium grant?
16. How is this funding spent and how is the impact of that spending evaluated?
17. How does the progress of 'Disadvantaged' pupils compare with non-Disadvantaged pupils nationally? Why has the school failed to narrow this gap?
18. What is the current quality of teaching in your school? How do you know? Is it on an upward trend?
19. How do the SLT monitor this and what interventions are in place to drive the quality up?
20. What appraisal procedures are in place? How robust are these? What percentage of teachers were given standard pay progression / extra pay progression / no pay progression last year?
21. What does attendance and persistent absence data tell you? Any groups? • How compare to national?
22. What is attendance figure currently?
23. What has been the impact of the work to improve attendance?
24. How many pupils have repeat fixed term exclusions? Are any sub-groups over-represented?

25. Do pupils enjoy learning?
26. Can they talk knowledgeably about what they need to do next to improve?
27. Are they articulate and confident about their learning?
28. Do pupils have high aspirations?
29. Are pupils well behaved and polite?
30. Do you know how any poor behaviour is addressed? Are you familiar with the Behaviour policy?
31. Are learners taught in a healthy and safe environment?
32. Do you know the designated governor and staff member for safeguarding? How do they report back to the governing body?
33. Is there a culture of Safeguarding in your school? (include Prevent, FGM, CSE and e-safety)
34. How far will Senior Leaders go to protect children and ensure their safety ?
35. How do you act as a critical friend to the school and specifically, the head teacher?
36. How do you support the Head in his/her leadership role? How effective are you in this?
37. How are leaders grown and supported in the school?
38. How are new staff, including NQTs, inducted and supported?
39. How are support staff led and managed and how do they contribute to improving outcomes for pupils?
40. Do you understand the narrative of the school's curriculum? How has it been designed to both ensure a wide breadth of skills and knowledge and to ensure progress and attainment for all?
41. Are you familiar with the values and vision of the school?
42. Are you familiar with the School Improvement Plan and the school's priorities? How do you contribute to this?
43. Can you explain your role as a governing body?
44. How do you utilise your skills to best effect?
45. Does the governing body have the right skills set?
46. How have you developed as a governing body? What training have you accessed?
47. How do you think you could improve as a governing body?
48. Are governors linked specifically to areas of the curriculum or phases? How does this help you know more about the school? What is the impact of your involvement?
49. Are you aware of how the school manages its finances?
50. Are you aware of the Headteacher's Performance Management targets and how they relate to whole school priorities and the Performance Management targets of staff?