

September 2017: Likely Questions for Governors during an Ofsted Inspection

The following questions were provided by a current Ofsted Lead Inspector at the September 2017 “Keeping in Touch” conference. Although not a definitive list – and some questions may need tweaking in the context of a special school, for example evaluative questions about the impact of TAs on learning - the main themes and foci are very likely to be explored with governors during the inspection’s first day.

Learning:

- What does achievement and progress look like across the school?
- How do you know what constitutes good/outstanding progress?
- Which groups are of a concern in terms of their achievement?
- What is the school’s priority in terms of raising attainment?
- How effective is the school working to close the gap?
- Can you explain the school’s strategy for addressing lack of progress?

Additional Funding:

- How is the Pupil Premium funding being used?
- How effectively do leaders measure its impact on outcomes for pupils?
- How effect is the governing body at holding the school to account for this?

- How is the Sports Premium funding being used?
- How effectively do leaders measure its impact on outcomes for pupils?
- How effect is the governing body at holding the school to account for this?
- As above for all other additional funding streams

Teaching, Performance Management and Pay:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of teaching across the school?
- Where are your strongest teachers?
- How is performance management used to improve the quality of teaching?
- What support is there for the relatively weaker teachers?

- How do you reward excellence?
- Are your best teachers your highest paid teachers?
- When was the last time that a teacher was refused a pay award?
- How many teachers are approaching the threshold? What is their performance like?

Leadership and Management:

- To what extent are governors reliant on information from the headteacher and other senior staff?
- To what extent do governors monitor aspects of the school’s work for themselves to increase their knowledge?
- How involved was the governing body in the creation of the school development plan?
- How do you know that the priorities listed in the development plan are the most appropriate?
- What actions has the leadership taken to reduce workload?

NB

In terms of the process of inspection, the Lead Inspector recommends that, rather than relying on the chair or vice-chair to attend the interview, the school should identify all the governors who are most able to get into school with minimal warning and then, once the phone call has been received and timings agreed, arrange for 3 to attend the actual interview.