



AUSTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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The Role of the Link Governor at Austhorpe

As governors, we can learn a great deal about the school from internal and external data, Head Teacher reports and School Improvement Adviser reports, but if we really want to understand the essence of life at Austhorpe, there is no substitute for experiencing the environment and communicating with pupils and staff.

In order to promote this, governors are linked to the school in two ways:

Each governor is allocated to a year group of pupils, and remains with that cohort as they progress through school. By agreement with class teachers, visits are arranged so that governors can observe their class at work, and talk informally to the children. By observing the lessons, looking at wall displays, and seeing samples of work in books, it is possible to get a “feel” for the teaching and learning taking place, and there are opportunities to focus on aspects of the School Improvement Plan, such as marking and feedback, differentiation, etc. This is a practical opportunity for governors to know our school.

Each governor is also linked to a member of the teaching or support staff with subject or aspect responsibility. Meetings can be arranged with relevant staff to gain a deeper understanding of how a subject, such as Science, is taught, or how the school supports Special Needs children. There are greater opportunities to ask questions of the member of staff than through a written report.

It is an expectation that following a class visit or a meeting with a member of staff, the governor concerned will produce a brief report, to be distributed to all colleagues, in order to further our understanding of how Austhorpe operates.

The more we know our school, the more the Governing Body can support and challenge it in our shared aim of being outstanding. It is this goal that should be borne in mind in all link governor activities.

