

What does inspection mean to Governors?

By Senior HMI Stephen McMullan at the NCOGs Governors Conference Oct/Nov 2017

Questions to governors...use 'Professional Curiosity!'

The Ofsted inspector will call the Head Teacher and ask - What is governance like in the school?

What difference has the Trust made?

Safeguarding

How do you know that the training that you have undertaken is effective?

Is this school doing all it can to minimise the risk of harm to children?

Tell me what you know about safeguarding?

Tell me about FGM?

Training for staff on safeguarding - How do you check it and what do you do?

What steps do you take to check safeguarding? Monitoring and evaluation and the impact of the safeguarding training?

Tell me about attendance? How is it followed up?

Tell me about child sexual exploitation?

How do schools identify the right pupils and how do they know that they are at risk?

Safeguarding – the capacity of leaderships to fix it

Are Secondary Schools employing analysts who will look at what is statistically relevant?

70% pupils entered, only 30% passed accreditation? Why?

What steps are in place to manage workloads?

It is now important to see how it is reflected for leaders and managers

Remember!!...Governors have the ultimate safeguarding responsibility

Evidence: Case study – Ofsted will track through the process and procedures checking that the right steps have been taken and what have you done about it?

Does this conflict with your data?

If it isn't documented - then tell me what steps you have taken what are your safeguarding practices?

Single Central Record – How often is it checked?

Have governors signed off the Single Central Record when it hasn't been correct?

Evidence, initiative, instigated support to pupils and families

Are staff tenacious?

How do governors check it - equally tenacious?

Allegations against staff and other adults?

Leadership and Management

Hero Heads – Is it sustainable at all management levels?

What are they offering and capable of offering the school?

Question what the curriculum gives to pupils?

Can I prove this statement?

LA support - reported on it to Ofsted as part of the inspection

SEND – Check the internet trail

Do you know about the outcomes for SEND children?

Special Needs Additional funding - is it being spent exclusively?

What progress do SEND children make?

What happens about the children who are absent?

How can you be sure the SEND information is up-to-date?

Self-Evaluation – Impact of what you have done

1. Are the pupils getting an adequate level of Education?

2. Do you have the capacity to fix it?

3. If not – what are the reasons?

Stakeholder Engagement - Ofsted check out parents point

Do they know who to go to?

Are governors attending parents evening with a 'rosette' to make themselves known?

How Ofsted engage with various groups

Are governors making a difference and leading the Strategic direction of the school?

What involvement do governors have?

What's the impact of governors and leaders of the school?

Complaints

Do governors investigate complaints?

What learning is put in place from complaints?

Performance Management

Limitation - How many pay rises for staff have been rejected?

...and why?

Has the documentation been challenged?

Performance

Ofsted sometimes only needs to show an interest – taking note of the performance management and use it effectively

Is it impacting positively?

New updated Inspection Handbook updated Oct

2017 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>