

# Creech St Michael C of E VC Primary School

## GOVERNING BODY VISITS TO SCHOOL POLICY



*"Together, we love, learn and grow"*

***"Go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." John 15 v.16***

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The Board of Governors has a duty to oversee the direction and policies of the School, to monitor its standards and be held to account for its conduct and performance. Visiting the school is the best way for governors to: learn how it functions, keep under review how it operates, increase the Board of Governors' first-hand knowledge and inform strategic decision-making.

Visits should relate to the priorities determined by the School Improvement Plan. The Board of Governors should plan visits to cover a wide range of school work and each visit should be agreed and have a clear purpose. Governors must arrange their visits with the Head Teacher who has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the School.

### **Potential benefits and purpose of a visit**

#### **For governors:**

- To recognise and celebrate success
- To develop relationships with the staff
- To recognise and appreciate different teaching styles
- To understand the environment in which teachers work
- To monitor policies in action
- To inform decision making
- To find out about resources and prioritise them

#### **For teachers:**

- To ensure governors understand the reality of the classroom
- To get to know governors
- To understand better the governors' roles and responsibilities

### **What a visit is not about**

- A form of inspection to make judgements about professional expertise of the teacher
- Checking on progress of own children
- Pursuing personal agenda
- Monopolising school/teacher time

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### **Monitoring and review of Governors Visits Policy**

This policy should be monitored and reviewed bi-annually to ascertain:

- What has been the impact of governor visits?
- Have there been any unexpected benefits or problems?
- Is there a suitable balance of challenge and support?
- Can we improve our practice?

### **Governor preparation for a visit**

- Clarify the purpose of the visit. Is it linked to the School Development Plan? What are the relevant school policies? How does this determine the areas you are interested in?
- Make sure that the date chosen is suitable to the Head and the relevant teacher(s)
- Be clear beforehand exactly what you are looking for.

### **During the Visit**

- Remember you are making the visit on behalf of the Board of Governors. It is not appropriate to make judgements regarding the quality of teaching and learning or to make promises on behalf of the Board of Governors.
- Be punctual.
- Keep to the agreed timetable but be flexible.
- Observe protocol and be sensitive to the surroundings.
- Remember it is a visit not an inspection.
- Observe discretely.
- Don't distract the teacher during the lesson from his/her
- Be courteous, friendly not critical.
- Remember why you are there. Don't lose sight of the purpose of your visit.
- Listen to staff and pupils.

### **After**

- Discuss what you have observed, at a suitable time with the teacher. Use the opportunity to clarify any issue you are unclear about. For example, did your presence have any impact on the atmosphere in the classroom? If so, how?
- Reflect: how did that go? Has the visit enhanced relationships? Have I learned more about the school? Have I helped the Board of Governors fulfil its duties with regards to accountability?
- Thank the teacher for supporting you in your role as a governor. Be open, honest, and positive.
- Complete and submit your 'Record of Governor Visit' to the Clerk to the Governors.

**THIS POLICY SHOULD BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS. NEXT REVIEW DUE NOVEMBER 2023.**