

ICT Governor

The school's role is one where we give all learners, staff, pupils, parents and the wider community, both confidence and competence in the current and future use of technology and one where we enable them both to learn now and to manage their own learning throughout their life.*

The role of the governor linked to ICT is an important strategic one. The governor linked to ICT will wish to ensure that the governing body meets its responsibilities in helping the school resource, plan and deliver a coherent and effective ICT strategy.

It is appreciated that schools' needs differ, depending on size, Key Stages and experience.

The following are areas in which the governor for ICT may feel able to contribute:

- to a school vision for the future use of ICT in relation to staff, pupils, governors, parents and the wider community;
- raise the awareness of the Governing Body to the developing use of ICT within the school;
- attend meetings specifically for governors and curriculum ensuring that ICT and IT security is a periodic agenda item;
- report developments in ICT to parents in the annual general report;
- comment on and perhaps contribute to the development of the ICT development plan with the ICT co-ordinator and the headteacher or Senior Management Team;
- contribute to the formulation of the school ICT policy;
- assist in co-ordinating the ICT plan for curriculum and administration;
- encourage the school to increase the use of ICT to reduce bureaucratic burden;
- realise the potential of ICT as a resource for governors;
- plan for ICT to be used to promote inclusion to support special needs pupils.

Security:

- with the headteacher, ICT co-ordinator and other governors, consider the development of a school website, paying close attention to pupil security and intellectual property;
- agree a safe use policy for internet and e-mail;
- ascertain how the school has adopted the "IT Security and Privacy Guidelines for Schools";
- ensure that the responsibility for IT security has been allocated to a member of staff.

Training:

- liaise regularly with the staff development officer, ICT co-ordinator and SMT member responsible for learning and ICT;
- consider the level of skills amongst support, teaching staff and governors in the application of ICT to learning and the management of learning.

Community Use:

- consider how the school can develop as a focus in a connected learning community working with other learning organisations to improve access; and
- how the schools' ICT facilities can be made available for use out of school hours by pupils and the wider community.

Monitoring:

- the legal requirements for ICT, including IT security, privacy and licensing;
- the arrangements in the school for complying to the "IT Security and Privacy Guidelines for Schools";
- the development of ICT as a curriculum subject;

* Vision 2020 paper

Resources

- ensure the governing body has a 3-5 year investment plan, ensuring the school's ICT resources are able to contribute to increasing levels of achievement and attainment; and
- with the headteacher, ICT co-ordinator and other governors, be involved in the process for the procurement of new ICT resources;
- ensure that discussions and decisions about ICT resources are based on school improvement criteria, contributing to improving the school's existing resources and have regard for Best Value principles
- meet government computer pupil: PC ratio targets of 11:1 (8:1) in primary and 7:1 (4:1) in each secondary school by 2002 (August 2004 targets in brackets);
- with the headteacher and/or ICT co-ordinator, provide a regular updated assessment of the school's ICT resources, including content, connectivity, telephones, maintenance, computers, associated equipment and understand their impact on learning and the management of learning.

Where can an ICT Governor go for more help?

Governor Development at Cricket Road <http://education.oxfordshire.gov.uk/governors/index.cfm?goldtick=governors>
Oxfordshire County Council booklet IT Security and Privacy Guidelines for Schools

The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTa) has a number of information sheets for governors on the role of ICT in schools. <http://www.becta.org.uk/>

There is also a listing of website addresses which should be of particular interest to Governors which was prepared by JAPONITE on behalf of the DfEE governor helpdesk <http://www.japonite.org.uk>

Any governor with a curriculum interest would find it useful to refer to the National Curriculum online at: <http://www.nc.uk.net/>

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