

Effective School Governance in International Contexts

Reflection activity:

Why ask questions? 'Questions are useful tools, they:

- open lines of communication
- give us information
- improve interactions
- facilitate analysis and diagnostics of a situation
- allow us to propose our own ideas
- help us to understand the priorities of others
- stimulate motivation to learn
- motivate creativity.'

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Task:

- Using some of the questions in the Veema document, Essential Questions for Effective Governance, Resource 1, (extract below) or compile your own starter questions, consider how you might extend these by probing further. You could use Resource 2, the example scenario given in the webinar, to help you.
- Think about how your questioning coaches the headteacher to improve the school.

Resource 1

Sample Questions

- How well do pupils behave in lessons.
- How well do pupils behave around school?
- Do pupils have a positive attitude towards school and learning?
- What measures are in place to ensure the behaviour policy is applied consistently across the school?
- How good are attendance and punctuality?
- Is bullying a cause for concern?
- Are safeguarding procedures fully in place?

Resource 1

Example scenario. Probing questions.

- Q.** I see the results show an increase in expected levels in science. Can you tell us how those judgements came about?
- A.** These were made by the class teachers.
- Q.** How do we know that these judgements are accurate?
- A.** We make comparisons with exemplar samples and also carry out low stake tests to gather evidence.
- Q.** Could the quality be improved? If so, how?
- A.** We are always keen to improve. Perhaps a link with a similar school to carry out an external moderation task would add another layer of accuracy.
- Q.** How can the governors support you with this?
- A.** Support in finding a suitable partner school.



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