

5 Ways School Governors Can Prepare For Inspection

According to the State of Education Survey Report 2016, 40% of school governors find preparing for an inspection challenging. So here are five ways in which you can make yourself inspection-ready.

1. Become familiar with the *Inspection Handbook*

Inspectors are looking for governors who are informed about budgets and policy changes, professional development training, and how their school is dealing with under-achievement and preparing students to be citizens within their community.

2. Collect and prepare supporting evidence

Inspectors want governors to know their schools and to be able to point out what is working well and which are the areas requiring improvement. To do this effectively, you must have prepared examples of your 'success stories', and know what you, as part of the governance team, are doing to help address the areas identified for improvement focus. For example, you may wish to refer to minutes from meetings where those items were discussed.

3. Show your school improvement journey

Be ready to reference previous inspection reports and explain how school standards have risen since the last inspection. Inspectors want to know that, as governors, you have been part of the school improvement journey. So it's important to be able to provide good examples and case studies of what has been achieved and the action taken to strengthen previous weaknesses.

4. Deal with safeguarding effectively

Safeguarding is such a key aspect of any school inspection that you must be up-to-date on all relevant policies and be able to demonstrate how the school keeps children safe. This means being able to demonstrate the recruitment procedures you have in place to protect your school from unsuitable staff.

5. Support your Head Teacher

You need to be able to demonstrate how the school's governing body is supporting its Head Teacher. That means knowing about the professional development, support networks and information channels the school uses to ensure that you are kept up-to-date and well informed about what is happening in the school and the actions of the senior team.

To find out more about how to become 'inspection ready' with our dedicated training programmes please call us on +44 (0) 20 3637 4232 or email info@veema.co.uk.