

The effective board: governance diagnostic tool

Tool 10: board structure and processes – the role of governance in reviewing its constitution

Questions	Outcomes of discussion and evidence	How good are we? Grade 1, 2, 3, 4	How do we know?	What action do we need to take?
1. What systems are in place to review how the business of governance is organised and conducted?				
2. When was governance structure and process last reviewed and what were the outcomes?				
3. What roles do the chair, principal, clerk and other governors have in reviewing the structure and process of governance?				
4. What factors are taken into account when considering alternative models of delivering the vision, mission and purpose of the college?				

Activity 1 – in groups:

(for reviewing the current structure)

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the current governance structure. Suggest ways in which the committee system might be improved to encourage greater team involvement amongst governors.

Estimate how much governance time is spent on formal and informal activity. What recommendations would you make?

Discuss the effectiveness of current arrangements for governor away day activity and make recommendations.

Activity 2 – in groups:

(for visioning an alternative structure)

If you were designing a governance/stewardship model for a learning organisation - what would it look like?

What would be an effective structure?

What processes would ensure effective and accountable stewardship?

How does your current structure enable this?

What has this exercise told you about your current structure?

Feedback your outcomes to the rest of the board and agree collectively what actions need to be taken.

Linked resources

[Governance training materials](#): module 3 the main statutory framework; module 5 the process of effective governance.

[AoC governance resource library](#)

[LSIS excellence gateway](#)