

St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School



GOVERNOR VISITS POLICY

*“We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn
love and grow together”*

Reviewed: Autumn 2021
Next review: Autumn 2024
Reviewed by: Teaching and Learning Committee

Ratified at Full Governing Body meeting

Signature:

Chair of Governors

Date ratified: 14th October 2021

Policy to Guide Governor Visits to School

Back ground Information

At St Vincent de Paul School governors are highly valued and essential members of our community. They demonstrate huge commitment and dedication and their expertise, drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds, is impacting positively on school improvement.

One of the key roles and responsibilities for the Governing Body is to monitor the progress and performance of the school. Undertaking visits demonstrates the Governors' role in the strategic management of the school by helping to hold the school to account and evaluate its progress.

Governors are an important part of the school team and are welcomed into the school by staff. It is important that governors and staff work together as professionals for the benefit of the whole community and in support of the school's aims and priorities. If the agreed principles and procedures are followed then Governor Visits will be an enjoyable experience for all involved, and will result in effective monitoring by the Governing Body, which will contribute to school improvement.

The Governors visiting schedule is an integral part of the school's yearly monitoring calendar.

The school intends to offer at least two opportunities each year for Governors to join together during the school day to work on a specific strategic purpose. This will involve seeing the school in action during the day. In addition to this Governors are encouraged to be involved in other events that happen in school from time to time. Each Governor is encouraged to make at least one visit a year during school time, agreeing the purpose of the visit with the Headteacher in advance.

Governors may visit the school in order to experience a variety of activities. For example they may wish to attend a school assembly especially if it is being presented by a class or year group. They may volunteer to be an extra adult on a school trip or to assist with a specific activity such as an outdoor learning lesson. On some occasions they may wish to meet with a class teacher or other member of staff to discuss curriculum developments or to become more familiar with a specific policy. Governors may also benefit from a tour of the school or by visiting a classroom to observe learning opportunities for pupils.

To ensure that governor visits are worthwhile and purposeful the following guidelines should be agreed and followed.

Properly planned visits will enable Governors to:

- see the school at work and observe the range of attitudes, behaviour and achievements
- get to know the staff and experience their commitment to the school
- give active support to the staff and the activities of the school
- be aware of the effect of change and different approaches to teaching and learning
- evaluate resources and discuss with staff further requirements

- gain first-hand information to assist with policy making and decision taking
- work in partnership with the staff

Before making a visit Governors will:

- contact the Headteacher and agree a date, time and focus for the visit
- clarify the etiquette, courtesies and expectations for the visit
- agree which classes will be visited (if this is the purpose of the visit)
- draw up a timetable for the visit with the Headteacher/member of the SLT/subject coordinator
- check that relevant staff are aware of the visit and the expectations of them

On the day of the visit the Governor will remember to:

- arrive on time and clarify the timetable with the Headteacher/ member of the SLT/Subject Coordinator
- act as an observer and only participate in the class at the invitation of the teacher (if the visit entails a classroom observation)
- respect the professionalism of the teacher, supporting but not interfering
- be calm and enjoy the visit

After the visit the Governor will:

- if necessary meet with a senior member of staff to discuss any observations.
- briefly describe their visit to the governing body without identifying individuals

Whole school agreement to this policy will ensure that our school community continues to value the efforts and consideration of our governors and also benefit from their valued insight and contribution.