Meet the Governance Support Team

Our knowledgeable & experienced team:



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Wellspring Governance Support Service

for Schools, Academies and MATs

Services to support your success



Wellspring is a Trust for the region, having no aspiration to 'go national'. We understand the local context and work in close partnership with our Academies. We are led by moral purpose and our charitable aims. Our Academies are achieving dramatic results. The Trust is now positioned to offer its services to the wider community of schools, to support your success.

The Importance of Good Governance

Effective Governance in schools is essential and Governing Bodies have never been more accountable.

'Governing Bodies are the key strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school and academy. They are also a key part of the overall system for school accountability. Governing Bodies have a vital role to play in driving up school and pupil performance and ensuring that resources are used well to give every child the best possible education'. Lord Nash. DFE Governors' Handbook.

Governing Bodies that are most effective understand their strategic role, ensure governors have the necessary skills and commitment, appoint an effective Chair to lead and manage the Governing Body and appoint a high quality clerk to evaluate their performance regularly.

Why Choose Wellspring Governance Support Services?

Our expert team understand the challenges and needs in schools. We value the relationships we build and work closely to ensure that we provide the best possible support. We have a proven track record in supporting schools across the region with their governance needs.

Our Solution

- Working together in partnership to support and enhance your governance arrangements.
- · A team of experienced governance professionals.
- We provide a quality service, committed to achieving excellent outcomes.

Our Charges

The service we provide to our clients is bespoke and is agreed after discussing their specific requirements in detail. It can range from the provision of basic clerking services, to enhanced support for Governing Bodies, to the provision of in-depth governance support. The costs involved depend of the extent of the service we provide.

Please contact Karen Froggatt (details overleaf) if you'd like any further information.

Governance Review and Guidance

Conducting a supportive review of the School's / Academy's governance arrangements and liaising with the Governing Body (GB) and School Leader, proposing ways of increasing the GB's effectiveness, highlighting any compliance issues and suggesting improvements to the practices in place

Effective Administration of Governing Body Meetings

- Liaising with Chairs and Principals to prepare focused agendas for GB meetings and ensuring that information provided for consideration by the GB complies with deadlines and meets the GB's requirements
- Distributing the agenda and papers according to the agreed timetable
- Ensuring that meetings are quorate and that Standing Orders are adhered to
- Producing accurate draft Minutes of GB meetings and a summary of agreed actions, indicating who is responsible for pursuing them and the relevant timescales
- Administration of any GB subcommittees, if required

Governance

Support

Services

Other Governance-related Support

- Ensuring compliance with statutory requirements in respect of governance information hosted on the School's/ Academy's website
- Liaising with the Principal regarding the updating of statutory and other policies and obtaining the necessary approvals
- Providing administrative support to the Chair in respect of complaints to the GB and clerking any appropriate appeal committees/panels which the GB is required to convene

Governor Development and Effectiveness

- Facilitating the GB undertaking periodic skills audits and effectiveness reviews and producing Governance Action Plans
- Actively supporting new governors, including in respect of induction training
- Actively encouraging governor/GB training and development and giving direction to individuals
- Maintaining records of training undertaken by GB members individually and collectively, ensuring adherence to agreed requirements

Advice and Support to Governing Bodies

- Ensuring that the GB is fully aware of its roles and responsibilities and supporting it in fulfilling these
- Advising the Chair and GB on governance regulations and procedural matters
- Being the first point of contact for governors with queries on procedural matters
- Supporting the GB in adhering to best practice in governance, including in respect of members' individual and collective performance
- Ensuring that statutory governance policies are in place and are reviewed by the GB as required

General Governing Body Support

- Supporting the targeted recruitment of new governors and the administration processes relating to governor elections
- Ensuring that agreed practices in respect of governors' appointments/re-appointments are adhered to
- Ensuring that agreed processes are adhered to in respect of the election of the GB Chair and Vice-Chair
- Ensuring that governor records are kept up to date and that statutory documentation meets requirements, such as Declarations of Interests and Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks