

Governing Body Support Strategy 2023-2028

An Excellent Education for all by Working
Together



Introduction

In 2015, a Scrutiny Inquiry Panel was convened in recognition that the role of school governors had changed significantly, with governors playing an increasingly important part in the management of schools and school improvement. The panel sought to consider if existing measures and support w fit for purpose to enable governors to not only meet their statutory responsibilities but also ensure that support and challenge was as effective as it could be.

In January 2016, after a comprehensive review, the panel produced a report entitled “A Very Challenging Role: How can the Council ensure that school governors provide effective challenge for their schools?”. The panel found a significant number of conclusions and made a number of recommendations. The panel suggested and acknowledged that some of the recommendations could be achieved in the short to medium-term but others would need more time to be delivered.

Current position

There has been an unprecedented amount of change across the education landscape in Wales since the publication of the Inquiry Panel report. Changes include the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, the commencement of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act and the removal of school categorisation.

At a local level, the regional education partnership ERW has ceased and has been replaced by Partneriaeth. Local Authority membership to the regional educational partnership has changed since ERW and is now comprised of three local authorities instead of six. Governors Wales no longer exists and is now a private provider, Governors Cymru.

Despite the change and challenges that governing bodies have faced, good and effective practice still exists in governing bodies in Swansea. However, some examples have been observed where better and additional support for governors would improve their role in challenging and supporting schools.

To support governing bodies, further capacity was brought by the appointment of The Team Manager for Stakeholder and School Support who would be responsible for development of a new vision and strategy for school governance, in line with the Council’s priority in ensuring that leadership supports learner progress.

Strategic objectives

To ensure that governing bodies receive excellent support in order for them to discharge their duties lawfully and effectively to realise the Council’s priorities to ensure leadership supports learner progress

To reinforce and refresh that the challenge and support role for governors remains a focus for governing bodies and develop the new accountability responsibility for governors in in the draft School Improvement Guidance.

To ensure that governing body resilience is improved and therein share best practice with governors across Swansea.

The timeline for implementation of this strategy is proposed to be between now and the end of the calendar year 2023 and will require engagement with key stakeholders and partners to achieve this.

In order to deliver this strategy a School Governance – Development Action Plan has been designed and is shown at **Appendix A**.