**Roles of the Effective Governing Body**

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
4. understanding their strategic role – building a productive and supportive relationship with the Headteacher while holding them to account for school performance and taking hard strategic decisions in the light of objective data;
5. ensuring governors have the necessary skills and commitment, including to challenge the school to bring about improvement and hold leaders to account for performance;
6. appointing an effective Chair to lead and manage the governing body
7. evaluating their performance regularly in the light of Ofsted expectations and other good practice and making changes as necessary to improve their effectiveness.

Governing bodies may decide to task individual governors to take an interest in a specific area, such as SEN, safeguarding or health and safety. There are many different models and governing bodies are best placed to decide for themselves what will work best in their own circumstances. It is the overall governing body, however, that in all cases remains accountable in law, to Ofsted and to the local community for the exercise of its functions. The DfE expects every governing body to focus strongly on its core functions and to retain oversight of them.

It is essential that governing bodies recruit and develop governors with the skills to deliver their core functions effectively. However, it is equally important to emphasise that the skills required are those to oversee the success of the school, not to do the school’s job for it. For example, a governor with financial expertise should use their skills to scrutinise the school’s accounts, not to help prepare them. If a governor does possess skills that the school wishes to utilise on a pro bono basis, then it is important that this is considered voluntary work and not governance, and steps should be taken to ensure that this does not blur lines of accountability.