



## Focus On...

### Leading the Way with School Effectiveness and Governance

As we reflect on the past year as a nation and within schools, we need to collaboratively shape the future for the children within and across our communities.

One of the three core functions for any governing board, including school leaders, is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.

A vision is a long-term, aspirational portrait of how a school will look different. The vision should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it continues to be relevant to the school's ever evolving context.

The following questions can support your discussions in collectively exploring and shaping the future direction of the school. Undertaking such an activity will be time well spent as it provides a foundation on which to build strategically:

- How often does your school revisit and refresh their vision? Is it still relevant to the school's current context? The impact of the pandemic on the community over the last two years may have changed the context of the local area.
- How has the school used a range of information from various sources including stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the current school's context?
- How do the school's values inform and shape the vision? How do you know?
- How are the vision and values reflected within practice throughout the school? Is there a set of principles and behaviours which you can see and feel as you walk around the school?
- How does the school's vision address safeguarding and inclusivity for all the community?
- How are all stakeholders working in partnership to develop a shared ownership of the school's vision and strategic direction?
- How does the school's vision drive whole school improvement and inform strategic planning at all levels?

### Next Steps

- What actions can be put in place to support a change of culture?
- How will it be embedded?
- How will it be monitored?
- How will it be reflected daily?
- Do you need support to enable the vision to be implemented?



How can the School Effectiveness team support you?

- Headteacher Induction Programme.
- [Being Strategic Self-Evaluation Course](#)
- [Being Strategic School Development Course](#)
- Education 4 Safeguarding (E4S).
- Link Adviser visits.

How can Governor Services support you?

- 'Being Strategic: Vision, Values and Strategy' Central Training Course

The aim of this course is to provide governors with an overview of their strategic role in relation to the first core strategic function. We will consider how the school's vision and values inform the strategy. In addition, we will explore the importance of school culture and its impact on realising the vision. This course will run on the following dates (please use the links below to book your place):

[Friday 29th November 2021 13:00 – 15:00](#)

[Tuesday 5th April 2022 18:00 – 20:00](#)

- ['Exploring values in an educational context'](#) Learning Module
- Bespoke consultancy to support you to develop your vision and values.
- Whole GB session to explore 'Being strategic'. Please contact [GovernanceSupport@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:GovernanceSupport@westsussex.gov.uk) for further details and to book this course for your governing board.
- National Governance Association ['Being Strategic'](#) document.

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