

You are here: [Home](#) > [Guidance centre](#) > [Holding your school to account](#) > [Challenge](#) > [Knowing your school: Questions for governing boards to ask](#) > [Questions for governing boards to ask: health and safety](#)

Questions for governing boards to ask: health and safety

These questions are part of NGA's Questions for governing boards to ask. [Click here](#) to view the full range of questions.

Health warning: these questions need to be used appropriately. You need to consider the best time and place to ask any questions - it may be at the relevant committee meeting, rather than in a full Governing Board meeting, and must be pertinent to the discussion at hand. It is absolutely **NOT** intended that these questions should be handed over to the headteacher and an answer to each one sought. This is not a test for school leaders, but a tool to help governors.

If you are in any doubt about how to use these well, please contact NGA at governorhq@nga.org.uk.

Overarching question

Do we keep children safe and healthy?

- a) Do we meet the statutory health and safety requirements?
 - i. How does the school ensure it keeps up to date with relevant health and safety regulations and guidance?
 - ii. Is there a designated health & safety co-ordinator; are governors and staff aware of who this person is?
 - iii. How often are safety inspections carried out and are the outcomes reported to the governing body.
 - iv. Are the school's procedures for dealing with a breach or incident clear?
 - v. Are staff clear about the procedures for dealing with health and safety emergencies?
- b) Does the school have clear and proportionate procedures in place for approving (risk assessing) school trips/outdoor activities?
- c) How are child protection issues monitored, do we have a child protection coordinator (name, contact details)?
 - i. Are staff aware of the procedure that needs to be followed when they have concerns about child protection?
 - ii. Have staff and governors received appropriate child protection/safeguarding training?
 - iii. Do we run e-safety awareness training for staff, governors, pupils and parents?
 - iv. Have we ensured we have sought information to identify any members of staff who may be disqualified under the new disqualification criteria in early years?
- d) Is the school offering a good range of sports, and other outdoor activities (see also [question 12](#)):
 - i. How many pupils are participating in these?
 - ii. What could be done to get more pupils involved?
- e) Does the school food meet the School Food Standards (which came into force in January 2015)?
 - i. Has there been any change in take-up of school meals as a result of the introduction of universal infant free school meals?
- f) Has the school applied for Healthy School Food Standard/Artsmark/Eco-Schools etc?

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