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Questions for governing boards to ask: Engaging parents

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

We keep parents informed and take account of their views?

- a) Are we meeting the statutory requirements on publishing information?
- b) How does the school communicate with parents?
 - i. How often? Who? For what purpose?
 - ii. How good is the school website as a source of information for parents? How do you know and how could it be improved?
 - iii. Should the governing body be communicating with parents?
- c) Do we ensure that parents are made aware of any changes taken place in school?
- d) When and how were parents last asked for their views about the school?
 - i. What did the results show?
 - ii. What action was taken as a result?
- e) How does the school development plan take account of parents' views?
- f) Is it easy for parents to get in touch with the school?
- g) Are parents directed toward Ofsted's parent view website?
- h) What is done to encourage parents to help their children learn?
 - i. What is the school doing to provide support to/for parents to do this?
- i) How are parents informed about their child's behaviour (bad/good) and what methods are used to engage them (parents)?
- j) Why are parents choosing - or not choosing - our school?
 - i. How do you know that? Are there better ways of learning this?
- k) Why do children leave the school before their final year?
 - i. How do you know that? Are there better ways of learning this?
- l) Should governors be carrying out focus groups to find out more?
- m) What complaints have we had from parents and what action was taken as a result?

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