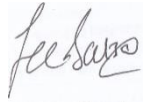


Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust

Unlocking the Potential of Collaboration

Governor Mentor/Buddy Guidance

This policy was ratified by the Board of Trustees on:	11 th December 2019
Signed by the Chair of Trustees:	
This policy will be reviewed by the Trust every three years. Next review date:	December 2022

Role of Governor Mentor/Buddy or Development Governor

Objectives

A Governor mentor/buddy should have 2 main objectives:

- To provide on-going support and information to the new Governor.
- To develop a committed and valued member of the Governing Body.

Initial support

The mentor could discuss the following with the new Governor:

- General expectations of Governors.
- The Governing Body's code of conduct.
- The meeting schedule, to reinforce expected time commitments and to demonstrate how the Governors work with the school during the year.
- A typical full Governing Body meeting agenda, to demonstrate how this normally works.
- National standards and expectations, alongside the school's performance, to clarify aspirations.
- Committees and their contribution to the function of the Governing Body, to identify any areas where the new Governor's skills can be put to use.
- Provide context for agenda items if dealing with an ongoing concern.
- Direct the new Governor to sources of support and information.

Mentoring should reinforce the value of Governors asking probing questions, even those that may seem obvious.

Contact between the new Governor and mentor could include face-to-face discussions, telephone calls and electronic discussions. This can be agreed by both parties, but contact should not be onerous for either individual.

It's vital to provide relevant information and advice at a pace that will support the new Governor rather than overwhelm them.

Ongoing support

After these initial discussions, and to allow the new Governor to ask questions while the mentor provides any relevant feedback, it would be beneficial for the mentor to speak with the new Governor before and after:

- Full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings.
- Activities such as Governor visits.
- Appeals panels.

What a Governor mentor/buddy is not

- It is not a long-term arrangement – an annual cycle of Governor meetings at most.
- It is not a substitute for formal training provision through the MAT or other Governor organisation.
- It is not a vehicle for canvassing support for a particular view or a way of influencing the decision making process.

Who should carry out the role?

The mentoring role could be provided by the chair, vice chair, a committee chair, or another experienced member of the governing body who has the capacity to carry out the role.