

Embracing the Role of a Sustainability Governor/Trustee: Guiding Schools Towards a Greener Future

The Crucial Role of School Governors in Achieving Sustainable Development

In an era where environmental concerns are at the forefront of global discourse, schools play a pivotal role in fostering sustainable development. As a sustainability link governor, you can significantly influence your school's ecological footprint and instil values of environmental stewardship for future generations.

Understanding Sustainability in Education

Sustainability in education involves more than eco-friendly practices; it means embedding sustainable development into the curriculum, school culture, and community involvement. This includes promoting energy efficiency, reducing waste, supporting biodiversity, and fostering an environment that values and respects our planet.

Key Responsibilities

Your role as a sustainability governor encompasses strategic planning, policy development, and community engagement. Here are some key areas of focus:

- **Strategic Planning:** Work with school leaders to develop a sustainability strategy known as a 'climate action plan' with clear goals and timelines. Advocate for policies that enhance energy efficiency and reduce waste. Building partnerships with local businesses, environmental organisations, and government agencies can provide support for sustainability initiatives.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Ask questions of school leaders about how they integrate sustainability topics into the curriculum, are they encouraging outdoor learning and environmental projects?
- **Energy and Resource Management:** Monitor the school's energy and resource consumption. Are school leaders promoting recycling and reducing single-use plastics?
- **Community Engagement:** Does the strategy set operational targets to involve the school community in sustainability initiatives through volunteering events on the school site, or community engagement events held by the school.
- **Reporting and Accountability:** School leaders should regularly report on sustainability performance through the governance structure. As a sustainability link governor your role will involve reporting back to the board on the areas that you have been monitoring.

Here is a short video for governors put together by Governors for Schools - https://www.canva.com/design/DAGRqSHsw2I/IZQ7BTu-nSes5maCuWrddw/watch?utm_content=DAGRqSHsw2I&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor

Resources and templates can be found here: [Climate Ambassadors resources](#)