The Role of the SEND Link Governor

The SEND Link Governor acts as the governing board's designated contact for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The role is strategic rather than operational and involves working closely with the school's SENDCo and senior leaders.

Key responsibilities include:

- Developing an understanding of the school's SEND provision and the needs of pupils with SEND.
- Monitoring how effectively the school implements its SEND policy and meets its duties under the SEND Code of Practice.
- Reviewing information on pupil outcomes, attendance, exclusions, participation, and progress for pupils with SEND.
- Understanding how SEND funding is allocated and used to support pupils.
- Meeting regularly with the SENDCo to discuss developments, challenges, and priorities.
- Visiting the school, where appropriate, to gain first-hand insight into SEND provision.
- Reporting back to the governing board and providing assurance that SEND responsibilities are being fulfilled.
- Championing an inclusive culture that promotes equality of opportunity for all pupils.

The SEND Link Governor should not become involved in individual cases or parental complaints, which remain operational matters for school leaders.

Working Effectively as a Link Governor

Both SEND and Safeguarding Link Governors should:

- Undertake relevant training and keep their knowledge up to date.
- Establish positive working relationships with school leaders.
- Arrange regular monitoring meetings with the relevant lead staff.
- Visit the school periodically to understand practice and provision.
- Maintain appropriate records of visits and meetings.
- Report key findings and assurances to the governing board.

- Focus on strategic challenge and support rather than operational decision-making.

Why These Roles Matter

SEND and Safeguarding are two of the most important areas of school governance. Effective link governors help ensure that vulnerable pupils receive the support they need, statutory duties are met, and the governing board can provide robust challenge and accountability. By maintaining informed oversight and constructive professional relationships, link governors contribute significantly to improving outcomes and keeping children safe.