The Role of the Safeguarding Link Governor

The Safeguarding Link Governor provides assurance to the governing board that the school has effective safeguarding arrangements in place and that children are safe.

This role involves working closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Headteacher, and wider leadership team to understand how safeguarding responsibilities are implemented across the school.

Key responsibilities include:

- Ensuring safeguarding remains a standing priority for the governing board.
- Developing a sound understanding of statutory safeguarding requirements and current guidance.
- Meeting regularly with the DSL to review safeguarding arrangements and emerging issues.
- Monitoring the implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Seeking assurance that safer recruitment practices are being followed.
- Reviewing safeguarding training arrangements and ensuring governors complete appropriate safeguarding training.
- Understanding how concerns are recorded, monitored, and escalated.
- Monitoring attendance, exclusions, behaviour, and pupil welfare information for any safeguarding trends.
- Participating in safeguarding audits and reviewing action plans arising from inspections or audits.
- Reporting safeguarding matters to the governing board while maintaining confidentiality.

The Safeguarding Link Governor must maintain a strategic oversight role and should not investigate safeguarding concerns or become directly involved in case management.

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.