



What does the Governing Body do?

The purpose of the governing body is to help the school provide the best possible education for all its students.

The role of the governing body, with the help of the head teacher, is to take strategic decisions about the school.

This means we decide:

- what sort of school we want AFI to be –values and ethos
- what areas the school should focus on to improve the learning outcomes of our children
- what policies we want the head teacher and staff to follow on a day to day basis
- how to spend the annual school budget

The governing body plans, monitors and reviews. This means we:

- receive and discuss reports which show whether decisions we have taken have been acted upon
- receive and discuss reports on the quality of education so that we know what the school does well and can decide what the school should focus on to do even better
- receive and act upon reports about the health, safety, security and wellbeing of all our students and staff.
- receive and review reports on budgetary expenditure and conduct benchmarking exercises to ensure value for money

A key role for the governing body is to act as a critical friend to the school. This means we provide support and advice by:

- acting as a sounding board for ideas
- providing a second opinion on proposals
- providing help where it is needed

This means we provide challenge by:

- asking searching questions
- exploring alternative proposals

The full governing body usually meets four times a year. We therefore use sub-committees to share out the work between the full meetings. At Abbots Farm we have two sub-committees: Resources, and Performance and Standards. The Resources Committee looks primarily at the financial and staffing issues in school whilst the Performance and Standards Committee looks primarily at curriculum issues, targets and results.