

External Review of Governance

Introduction

External Reviews of Governance (ERGs) is a self-evaluation of the effectiveness of your governance arrangements supported by an external expert. ERGs are triggered by:

- Ofsted following a Requires Improvement grading with a specific recommendations for a governance review;
- A local authority (or an academy trust) for schools in Measures ;
- by the school itself simply wanting to review its governance as it would other aspects of school performance

The Department for Education now recommends that all schools review their governance internally every year and commission an external review periodically, typically every third year

In all cases the process, is one of self-evaluation supported by an external specialist beginning with an identification of the schools' governance priorities and culminating in a set of recommendations from which the governors themselves derive an action plan. Where the ERG is required by Ofsted, the process must also include a follow-up Process Implementation Review (PIR) but this is recommended good practice in all cases.

A summary of the process

The review of governance would typically include:

- an initial exploratory discussion to focus on the key areas for action;
 - gathering data (e.g. analysis of key documents, a discussion with the Chair of Governors, Headteacher and governors);
 - the key foci will determine the kinds of evidence and process to follow (e.g. attend governors meetings, review performance reporting, governors skills audit);
 - a feedback session with the Chair of Governors and appropriate others (e.g. Headteacher, other governors, senior leadership team) or the full governing body to set out:
 - the governors performance against the benchmark standards
 - areas for improvement
 - action plan
 - a short written report recording the outcomes (plus a presentation to the full governing body if required)
 - A short visit and review of progress (a Process Implementation Review) one or two terms later
-



Centre for the Use of
Research and
Evidence In
Education

Related Services

The ERG is a diagnostic process which identifies areas for action but does not implement them. Schools often value support in the implementation phase, for instance:

- To carry out and interpret a governors' skills audit
 - Undertake training of some or all governors in interpreting performance data (e.g. RAISEOnline)
 - Assist the Clerk and/or the SLT to improve the reporting to governors
 - Support the Chair and/or Head with coaching/mentoring during the implementation phase
-

About the consultant

Paul Crisp is a National Leader of Governance, a Teaching and Leadership Adviser (both designated by the National College of Teaching and Leadership) and Chair of the Futures Academy Trust (incorporating President Kennedy School Academy) based in Coventry. He has undertaken many reviews of governance for primary, secondary and special schools across the full range of effectiveness from those with Ofsted Good or Outstanding (keen to hone their processes to maintain the grade) to schools in measures.

He has also undertaken skills audits, Pupil Premium Reviews and offered executive coaching to Chairs and Heads/Principals. He is Managing Director of the Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE) in which role he undertakes evaluations and research and development projects of all kinds and sizes. He is a frequent platform speaker on governance, leadership development, professional development more generally and the application of research to professional practice

Financials

The cost will depend on the exact circumstances and mix of services but a stand-alone External Review of Governance would typically cost around: £1500 plus travel, (subsistence if any) and VAT

Further Information

For further information contact us at:

Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education

8th Floor

Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry CV1 2FJ, UK

Tel 024 7652 4036

Email; shin.cheung@curee.co.uk

www.curee.co.uk