



Bexhill 6th Form College

**CORPORATION  
LINKS  
POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER: SG4**



## PURPOSE

- To develop Governors' knowledge of curriculum, business support and other areas of the College's operations.
- To provide opportunities to visit classrooms and other learning environments to see teaching, learning and assessment in action.
- To provide opportunities to talk to managers, staff and students
- To encourage Governors to use their existing skills and experience to benefit the College
- To raise the profile of the Corporation by providing opportunities for staff and students to meet informally with Governors
- To familiarise Governors with the College's physical environment.

## STRUCTURE

Members of the Corporation are able to experience elements of the day to day operation of the College through Governors' Mornings, attendance at meetings and attendance at College events.

### Governors' Mornings

Governors are invited to Governors' Mornings once per year. During the morning, Governors will be allocated to different areas of the College. This approach aims to provide Governors with an insight across all areas of the College over a period of time. Areas will be circulated in advance of the mornings. Individual requests to visit specific areas of interest are welcome and will be accommodated where possible.

The Principal will provide suggested areas of focus for the morning however, if there are any particular issues or areas Governors would like to explore, they should inform the Principal who will inform the relevant Manager.

Topics for discussion during link visits might include:

- How the area is meeting the requirements of study programmes.
- How the area promotes high levels of performance and supports student to achieve their target grade.
- What the area is doing to increase student achievement and value added.
- Pastoral Support for Students.
- Levels of retention, pass rates and achievement (retention x pass rate) .
- Curriculum developments including T levels
- Enrichment offered within the area both within and outside of timetabled classes
- Success stories.
- Quality assurance systems including student feedback and issues being raised in the area.
- Delivery of work-related learning and work experience for all students within the curriculum
- Links with community and industry.
- Management & operational priorities for area.

Governors are reminded that:

- day to day management of the College's operations is the responsibility of the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, working within the strategic framework of policies decided by the Corporation.

- informal discussion issues with staff and students is in no way an alternative to usual management communication channels.
- they should avoid expressing opinions, giving commitments on behalf of the Corporation, or in being drawn into matters of a managerial nature.
- any issues that have been drawn to their attention should be raised with the Principal at the end of the morning who will ensure that any necessary investigations are undertaken and a response made to the individual Governor or the Corporation.

Governors are asked to provide the Principal and Clerk with a brief report at the end of their visit. This should include feedback on the nature of the visit and key issues discussed including any issues of concern, lessons learnt and any ways the visit could have been improved. A template will be provided (page 4).

Any additional visits with College Managers outside these meetings should be by request to the Principal or the Clerk who will refer the request to the Principal.

### **Link Governors**

Lead Governors also support the specific areas of the Colleges work; for example:

- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)
- Arts and Culture
- Higher Education
- Safeguarding and Health & Safety
- Property
- Marketing
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

For Safeguarding and Health & Safety and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, the link Governors attend College meetings where they are able to provide additional expertise and support to the College. A brief report from the meeting is fed back at Corporation meetings.

### **Self-Assessment Panel Meeting**

A Governor is invited to attend the Self-Assessment Panel Meeting. This is usually either the Chair or the Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Quality Assurance Committee.

### **Other link events**

Other opportunities to speak directly to managers and staff are provided at individual link events which will take place before Corporation meetings. This might include a 'speed dating' event where Governors have the opportunity to talk to a number of Heads of Section on a key issue or presentations from managers on key areas of the College's work such as individual sections or a key support area, strengths are areas for development.

### **Attendance at College events**

Members of the Corporation are regularly invited to attend exhibitions, concerts and other College events. Information is provided at Corporation meetings through the Principal's reports. Invitations are also sent out by the Principal or the Clerk.

## **REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME**

The Clerk will ensure that link activities are appropriately reported.

The Search Committee will review the Corporation Links Policy every three years at its summer term meeting.

**Governors' Link Event Evaluation**

Name: ..... Activity: ..... Date: .....

Please comment on what went well with today's activity

What did you learn which you didn't know before?

Anything else you would wish to hear more about as a result of the activity?

Any other areas you would be interested to learn about in relation to the College's operation or comments you would like to make?