

A-Z of Governance

Not all of these suggestions are entirely serious but I hope they are least thought provoking...

A	Advocacy	Governors are advocates for all children not just their own.
B	Barriers	Think about what's stopping you; your Governing Board; your school from moving forward. Now jump...
C	Collaboration	The choice for C is long – Challenge, Confident, Conversation, Clerking, Courageous but what really matters is looking beyond your boundaries.
D	Decisions	Making them and sticking to them? Or knowing and accepting you sometimes get it wrong? D is also for Data. Some people just love it but it's ok to say you don't.
E	Everyone	Trying to Engage Everyone Everywhere in the school community is not easy but well worth the Effort. Think Educational Excellence Everywhere – seems so long ago now...
F	Forward	Going backwards is no longer an option. Neither is standing still so forward it is.
G	Givernance	Oh the joys of autocorrect – Governors are indeed <i>hidden givers</i> so thank you.
H	Headteacher	The holding to account of; not always easy
I	Inquisitive	Governors who are not inquisitive will be left behind. Asking questions helps show Impact.
J	Journey	Like 'landscape' journey is a much overused cliché. What governance journey have you been on?
K	Kettle	The most important piece of equipment in the school. Oh so selfish...Seriously though K is for Keeping Children Safe in Education. The Most Important of documents.
L	Link	As in Link Governors. Ofsted know what these are. I could have put Laugh because sometimes you have to...
M	Minutes	Minutes are very important evidence of effective governance or not ...
N	Nolan	When did you last think about the Nolan Principles? Well...?
O	Oversight	Again the list of O words is long – operational, opinion, opportunity, open, options, obfuscation...oversight won because with

		oversight the rest of the O's fall into place. NB I did not refer to O***d as that would have been too easy.
P	Pupils	It's easy to forget that we need to hear from Pupils whenever we can
Q	Quorum	This is very important and easily overlooked. I could have put Questions but I really hope you are asking lots of questions so you don't need me to remind you.
R	Review	Self-review, self-evaluation, and reflection – all good tips for being and sustaining effectiveness.
S	So?	So what? So why did that happen? So how are you going to changes things? I could have put strategic but I hope you are being that already. I should have put Safeguarding but this is our central tenet anyway... I hope
T	Triangulation	...is not just for Teachers. See R. And L. And I.
U	Understanding	Governors are required to undertake training to improve their understanding. It says so in the new Ofsted handbook.
V	Values	Sometimes it's hard to think of our values but they underpin everything we do as Governors. And it's ok if your values are not the same as mine as long as we agree to disagree. Collective responsibility rules.
W	Wellbeing	I have a mentor who asks me about my wellbeing. I'd highly recommend it!
X	eXcuses	No such thing anymore. It's no good telling Ofsted you didn't know what you needed to know...
Y	Yawn	Sometimes it is very hard not to do this in meetings. See W.
Z	Zero	Sometimes in the data a 0 is acceptable and sometimes it isn't. See D.