

# Examples of questions for the governing board to ask senior executive leaders

**Health warning:** these questions need to be used appropriately. You need to consider the best time and place to ask any questions – it may be at the relevant committee meeting, rather than in a full governing board meeting, and must be pertinent to the discussion at hand. It is not intended that these questions should be handed over to the senior executive leader and an answer to each one sought. This is not a test for school leaders, but a tool to help those governing.

## 1. Raising standards

- **Why is progress in some subjects under national expectations?**
  - What is your strategy for improving the areas of weak performance?
- **Why is progress in some subjects or year groups better than others in the school/Trust?**
  - What is being done to raise performance specifically in those areas which are underachieving?
  - What has worked well and can we use it more widely?
  - How does this relate to the quality of teaching across the school or trust?

## 2. Extracurricular provision

- **Are the extracurricular activities physically and financially accessible to all pupils?**
- **Are the extracurricular activities part of the plan to close the gaps in attainment between different groups of children, particularly those from poorer families, and is this working?**
- **How do you monitor the impact of extracurricular activities? Is this used to improve and adapt them?**

## 3. Behaviour

- **What measures are in place to deal with persistent poor behaviour? E.g. systems to identify and address the needs of pupils who continuously display disruptive behaviour.**
  - How do you monitor pupils causing concern?
  - Do you/the staff know the root causes of poor behaviour?
  - What external support do the staff have for dealing with any behavioural issues?

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- Have all staff received appropriate training in relation to dealing with aggressive pupils where restraint may be required?
- **How many pupils have been excluded (fixed term and permanently) in the last term/year/three years?**