

## Link Governance Learning Visit guidance



At The De Montfort School we are striving for exceptional teaching and learning (T&L). Governors have a responsibility to hold the Headteacher and Senior Leaders to account regarding the quality of T&L and so it is therefore vital that Governors are well informed as to the current quality of T&L. Learning Visits are an important tool to help achieve this.

Governors need experience to understand the challenges teachers face when aspiring to teach outstanding lessons and require some 'experience' of watching lessons and understanding how their effectiveness is judged. Learning Visits are visits to a relatively large number of classes for a relatively short period of time. Learning Visits reinforce our very high expectations of our students.

The remit of the link Governors is however, to support and challenge school leaders over their action plans to improve the quality of T&L provision. They do not make judgements about the quality of T&L that they've seen.

Governors should have a clear understanding of whole school strategy for improving the impact of T&L/pedagogy and practice, and should monitor closely and challenge school leaders to ensure that improvement plans and strategy are being carried out with appropriate impact and outcomes.

Governors should ask HOF/Senior Leaders key questions on T&L provision to ensure they are being held to account in their monitoring of the quality of T&L. A template has been devised to assist this.

Governors should endeavour to undertake a Learning Visit 3 times a year.

Learning Visits take place with a host member of staff and are developmental and constructive rather than judgemental and will not be used as part of an appraisal/capability.

1. Learning Visits will be conducted with minimum disruption to teachers and students
2. Learning Visits will be undertaken in a supportive and professional manner
3. There will be no formal evaluation of an individual teacher during a Learning Visit
4. Governors will complete a template following their visit and then feed back to the Governing body
5. Regular evaluations of the effectiveness of Governor Learning Visits will be held
6. Governors should also on occasion, ask a series of Safeguarding questions from those below:
  - Who would you go to if you had a problem?
  - Who is the schools' Designated Safety Lead (DSL)?
  - Do you feel safe at school?
  - Is there anywhere you do not feel safe?