**The Role of Health and Safety Governor**

For detailed guidance see; <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/governors/education-governors-intranet/governors-secure-azsearch/governors-secure-healthandsafetypage.htm> and

http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/sensible-leadership/school-leaders.htm

Overall accountability for health and safety lies with the employer of the members of staff in the school. However day-to-day running of the school including responsibility for the health and safety of staff and pupils is delegated to the head teacher and school management team. They have a key role in making sure risks are managed effectively on site.

Sensible and effective management of health and safety relies on every member of the management team making sure risk is managed responsibly and proportionately. Good communication by all parties is critical to getting this right.

Where you have employee health and safety representatives or a safety committee (in Chalk Ridge this is covered by Resources Committee) they can play a valuable role in contributing to the development of a positive health and safety culture.

In local authority controlled schools in England and Wales (community and voluntary controlled schools) the Board of Governors role is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. The Board of Governors may have control of the premises both during and outside the school day, and may oversee a delegated budget for some maintenance activities. They are not the employer.

In England an increasing number of Boards of Governors are also trustees of the charity that runs the school, and/or directors of the company responsible for the school. If this is the case, their role is identical to that set out for the employer.

### What you need to do

* Take reasonable steps to make sure that the school is following the employer's policy and procedures e.g. through regular discussion at governance meetings.
* Ensure staff receive adequate training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.
* Promote a sensible approach to health and safety, making use of competent health and safety advice when required.
* Work in close partnership with the head teacher and senior management team to support sensible health and safety management and to challenge as appropriate.

### Key message

The governing body have a key part to play in tackling risk aversion, helping to provide a wider sense of perspective and helping the school to get the balance right on managing risk.