

Overview of the Governance Internal Evaluation Tool



Purpose

This governance internal evaluation tool is for use by the Trustee Board to identify areas requiring improvement in governance practice. This will ensure ongoing improvement in student performance and well-being. It uses an explicit set of criteria for identifying the strengths and weaknesses of governance in individual Centres, groups of Centres, and nationally. Individual Centre data is confidential to each Centre.

Using the tool

The tool consists of an online survey that is completed by groups within the organisation. The responses are collated automatically and are compiled into a report for the board to review and decide on actions required.

The survey is filled out anonymously and a unique survey address is created and password protected by the user ensuring the results of individual boards cannot be shared unless the board gives permission.

The survey is based on the following four areas of governance:



Accountability

The board takes its accountability for the performance of students and Playcentre seriously and ensures that the Playcentre is well managed, well prepared and on track towards achieving its aims, objectives and targets.

Leadership

Boards provide strategic leadership and direction to Playcentre through the Constitution and policy framework which give direction to guide all Playcentre activities and decisions. Leadership involves setting direction, vision and strategy to ensure that every student achieves their educational potential.

Representation

The board, and individual trustees, are elected to act in an independent, stewardship role on behalf of those who cannot sit around the board table. The representation role includes effective succession planning, options for governing, and the importance of effective and meaningful community consultation and engagement.

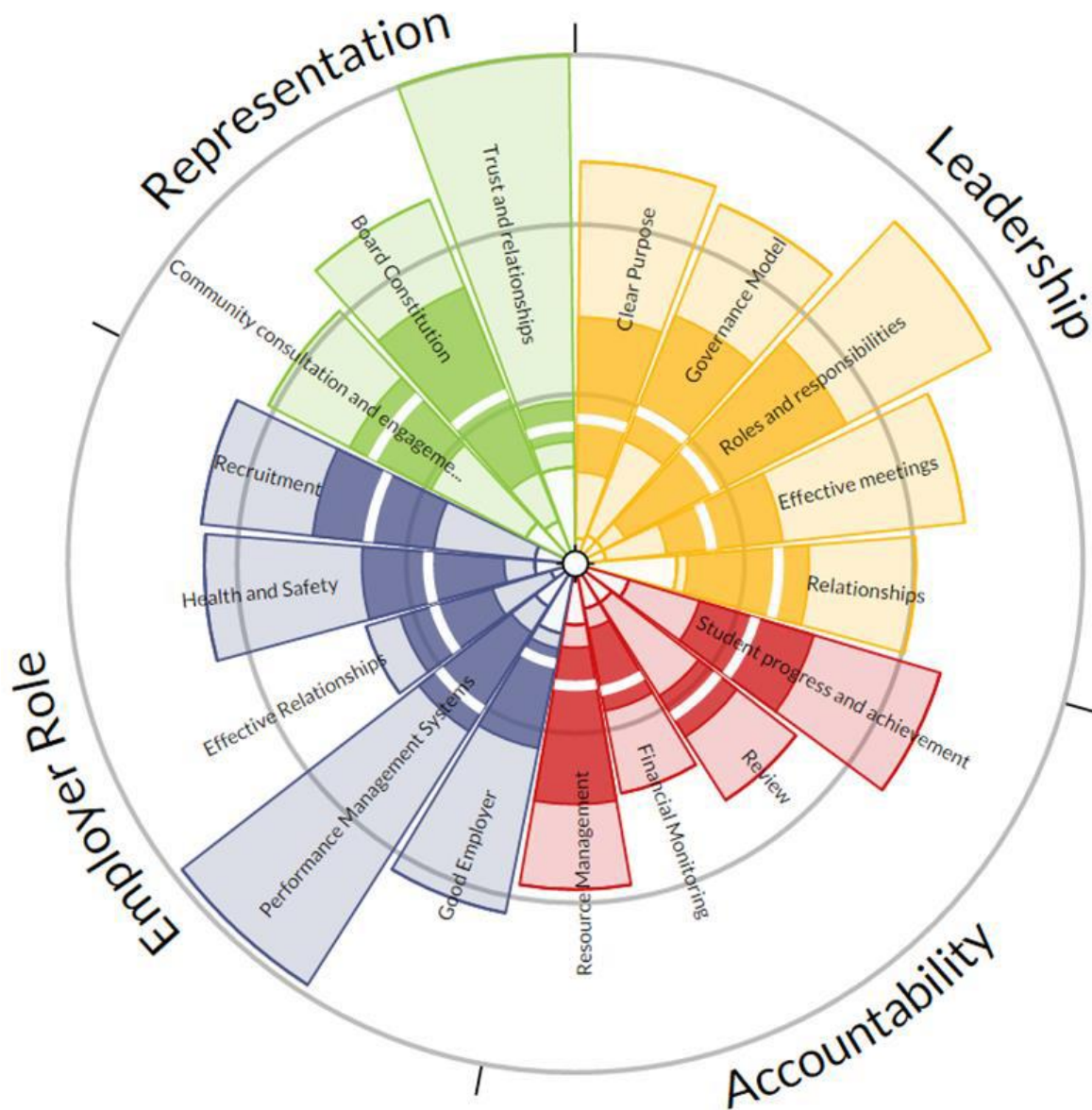
Employer Role

One of the most important responsibilities of the board is that of the legal employer of all staff. The board is responsible for a range of decisions and tasks that arise during the employment relationship, including ensuring there are policies, plans and programmes in place to meet all requirements related to this role.



Interpreting the polar map

A polar map is generated providing a summary of responses in the four key areas of governance. Each section can be drilled into for further investigation.



Why use the tool?

This internal evaluation tool will help a board to determine:

- Where are we at now?
- What does integrated practice (practice that is embedded in everything that we do) look like?
- What are our next steps?
- What progress have we made?

It has been designed for use in a variety of situations including:

- Boards of trustees to use themselves as part of their regular internal evaluation process
- An external facilitator to work through with the board and develop a professional development action plan
- An external provider to use as part of a needs assessment to determine areas requiring professional development and support.

