**Questions for governors**

*ISC Sustainability Advisory Group*

*This paper is published in May 2023 and will be reviewed every 6 months. If you have any comments please email Simon Nathan (ISC Head of Policy) on* [*simon.nathan@isc.co.uk*](mailto:simon.nathan@isc.co.uk)

To support governing bodies in thinking through how to develop and implement a sustainability strategy, this paper sets out some ‘initial questions’ for governors to work through and discuss.

1. How important is this to the Governing Body – what is the reason for doing this?
   * having a positive impact on the world
   * to appeal to pupils/parents/staff members who may have an interest in these topics
   * cost savings
   * the idea of being self sufficient on energy use?
2. What are the targets, eg to be carbon neutral by 20xx?
   * Is the target achievable?
   * What short term targets need to be met to achieve this?
   * How do we measure this?  Do we need new reporting capabilities?
   * What are the boundaries, are we just looking at scopes 1&2 (controllable on the Estate) or are we including scope 3?
   * How does this fit in with overall strategy?  Are schools willing to make the required investment now, while there are so many other pressures on budgets (COL, energy costs, TPS, maintaining estates, business rates, VAT on school fees)?
3. Does the Governing Body have the skill set required to ask the right questions and interpret the answers – what training is required?  Does the Governing Body need to recruit a specialist?
4. Does the Governing Body want to create a separate committee, or should sustainability be on the agenda for all committees?
5. Who is going to lead this operationally?  A specialist recruited for this purpose, or an existing staff member with an interest in the topics?
6. How does the school create the right ethos on this?  Rather than being one person’s job, how does sustainability considerations filter their way to everyone in the school community?
7. What is the current carbon footprint/level of emissions?  How does this compare with other schools (similar size, or on a per pupil basis)?
8. What can the school do to make quick wins?   For example, in a boarding school it might be replacing old laundry facilities or boarding house boilers

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