



# **RSA Innovative Education: Creativity and Innovation Link Governor Pilot**

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Innovative Education

# Introduction

Creativity and innovation are vital to schools. Schools which create an environment for creative thought and innovative ideas not only better able to deal with challenges, but also prepare their students for the job market of the future.

The RSA's research into the conditions necessary for creativity and innovation highlights the importance of leaders who model creative behaviours themselves. In institutions where this happens teachers, learners and others will also feel creatively empowered.

Working with Fran Plowright FRSA, RSA Innovative Education has developed the idea of a "Creativity and Innovation Link governor". Like other link governors, this person holds the school to account for, and provides support in, a specific area. We believe that if a school discusses creativity and innovation at this strategic level then they will flourish.

## Frequently asked questions

- Can a governing/ trustee board create link governors in this way?

Yes. "Link Governor" is not an official position, but exists by convention. Individual governing/ trustee boards can decide for themselves what positions of responsibility they have, and how they wish to appoint people to these. [For more information look at the governor's handbook Section 3 Paragraph 13.](#)

- I'm not an RSA Fellow can I still be involved?

Of course! The RSA wants to work with anyone who wants to make education more creative. If you are interested in applying for Fellowship you can always find out more on our [website](#).

- What support will the RSA offer during the pilot?

Lots. The Innovative Education Network is a community of like-minded people all working together to transform education. We are always happy to offer any support we can. Your questions, queries and ideas can be sent to [engagement@rsa.org.uk](mailto:engagement@rsa.org.uk) and a member of the team will get back to you.

- Do I have to be the only link governor in my school, can I share the responsibility?

No school is the same, so you will have to decide who would be the best person for the role in your school. If you think that the role should be shared, or even be the purview of a committee that's fine, but we'd love to know what you decide.

# Pilot methodology

**Hypothesis:** By creating a link governor position aimed at holding a school to account for innovation and creativity, staff within the school will feel more creatively empowered and will feel that creativity and innovation are important to the school.

## Method:

1. Register your interest with the RSA and download the pilot pack.
2. Create the position of creativity and innovation link governor with the understanding that this is a temporary 12 month position.
3. Send the creativity and innovation survey out to, and collect it back from, all staff in your school within 3 months of creating the position.
4. Use the survey results to decide on 3 actions or interventions you will take to improve the innovation and creative potential of the school and let the RSA know what you decide.
5. Implement your interventions or actions within your 12 month trial period.
6. At the end of the 12 month period re-send the creativity and innovation survey to all staff in your school and use this to evaluate the impact of your interventions or actions.
7. Meet as a governing body to decide if the Creative link governor role will be continued.
8. Feedback your findings and decision to the RSA.

# Creativity and innovation survey

## Your views on creativity and innovation

1. What is your role within the school?

- Teaching
- Support staff
- Leadership
- Governor/ trustee

2. What level of importance should be placed on creativity and innovation in your role?

Unimportant			Neither important nor unimportant			Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

3. How important should creativity and innovation to education be to pedagogy?

Unimportant			Neither important nor unimportant			Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## Our school's attitude to creativity and innovation

4. How important is the creativity and innovation of learners to the school?

Unimportant			Neither important nor unimportant			Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5. How important is the creativity and innovation of staff to the school?

Unimportant			Neither important nor unimportant			Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



6. Do you feel our school would reward you for creative or innovative thinking in your job?
- Yes
  - No

If yes, how:

7. Can you describe any situation where learners have been encouraged to be particularly creative or innovative?

8. Can you describe any situation where staff have been particularly creative or innovative?

9. Are there any other comments regarding creativity and innovation in our school which you would like to make?