What is Good Governance and Why Do Schools Need It?

Good governance is a set of responsibilities, practices, policies, and procedures exercised by an institution to provide strategic direction to ensure objectives are achieved and resources are used responsibly and with accountability. Good governance practices support schools by helping them manage their resources so they can deliver quality education.

How Can Good Governance Benefit Schools?

- A more democratic and responsive system of school management, including more efficient utilization of resources
- Greater participation of all stakeholders (teachers, students, parents and school management) in the development of school policies, rules, plans, and code of conduct
- Greater transparency in all school activities, including increased flow of information among all stakeholders about school plans, finances, rules and regulations, and programs
- Strengthened accountability among stakeholders to improve school management
- Coordination among various levels of formal governance (e.g., the District Education Office, Resource Centre, or other educational institution)
- More open communication among stakeholders about how to manage schools

What are Some of the Basic Aspects of School Good Governance?

1. Participatory Organizations
   1.1 Formation of the School Management Committee through an election process
   1.2 Formation of the Parent–Teacher Association through an election process
   1.3 Formation of a Children’s Club in the school
   1.4 Formation of Children’s Club in school through an election process
   1.5 Formation of sub-committees as needed (such as a Physical Construction or a Teachers Selection Committee) through inclusive parent meetings

2. Participatory Planning, Management and Monitoring
   2.1 Meetings with stakeholders, Resource Centres, the District Education Office, the Regional Education Directorates, the Department of Education, the Ministry of Education, the Village Department Council (VDC), the District Development Council (DDC), and the Municipality (at least four times per year)
   2.2 Equal and active participation of stakeholders inclusive of all ethnic and caste groups, religions, and genders in community meetings
   2.3 A School Management Committee (SMC) meeting once every two months
   2.4 A Parent–Teacher Association (PTA) meeting once every two months
   2.5 Organize public hearings with all school stakeholders (two times per year)
   2.6 Conduct an interaction and discussion program among teachers, students, parents and school management for each class (once every three months)
   2.7 Preparation and annual review of academic plans, PTA action plans, and financial plans through meetings with teachers, students, parents, and the SMC.
   2.8 Compulsory participation of stakeholders in generating local resources for the school
   2.9 Participation of the SMC, students, teachers, parents, and the DEO in the preparation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
   2.10 Meeting processes are determined through a democratic, consultative process (e.g., the number of meetings, meeting agenda, fixed meeting time, and decisions on agenda items)
   2.11 An expressed commitment by all local political parties, the SMC, teachers, and students to make the school a zone of peace

3. Teacher and Staff Management
   3.1 A Teachers Selection Committee is formed as per the Education Act
   3.2 Teachers are recruited through the Teachers Selection Committee according to all required processes
   3.3 Making arrangements for induction training to newly recruited teachers for their professional development by the school within its available resources
   3.4 Conduct relevant teacher trainings
   3.5 Conduct trainings according to school subjects areas
   3.6 Conduct trainings in accordance with curricular changes
   3.7 Arrange seminars cum workshops to foster teacher responsibility and accountability
3.8 Conduct teacher performance evaluations based on the following criteria:
- Regular attendance
- Start and end classes on time
- Manage and use instructional materials
- Relate to students according to their psychological needs
- Use a variety of inquisitive teaching and learning methods
- Involve all students in the learning process
- Ensure coordination between students and parents
- Discourage discriminatory behavior among students
- Be attentive to school and student cleanliness
- Be involved in extracurricular activities

3.9 Conduct staff performance evaluations based upon the following criteria:
- Transparent maintenance of the accounting system
- Maintain updated information on the school
- Knowledge of duties and responsibilities of the job

4. Resource Management
4.1 Generate essential resources for the school from local and other sources through the active participation of stakeholders
4.2 Disclose information on the resources generated and how much of those resources are used for teaching
4.3 Manage and maintain the school building, toilets, drinking water, and furniture
4.4 Keep a record of resources generated from donors and local agencies
4.5 Keep a record of the property of the school (mobile and immobile)
4.6 Conduct income-generating activities

5. Monitoring
5.1 Monitor the management of drinking water, toilets, library, and other basic facilities
5.2 Monitor classroom conditions and seating arrangements for students
5.3 Monitor the arrival and management of students
5.4 Monitor teacher arrival times and time spent teaching
5.5 Monitor the execution of activities under the annual plan
5.6 Monitor the teaching environment based on the following criteria:
- Child-friendly teaching
- Use of various methods of teaching
- Appropriate use of corporal punishment
- Management of the alternate teacher in the absence of main teacher

6. School Policy and Guidelines
6.1 Develop detailed rules and code of conduct through discussion in the meetings of stakeholders
6.2 Application of these rules and code of conduct
6.3 Develop and apply a code of conduct for the school
6.4 Make available and maintain a complaint box
6.5 Frame policies on professional development of teachers and preparation of training materials
6.6 Management of penalizing teacher disobeying those rules and code of conduct

7. Information Disclosure
7.1 Disclose social and financial audit reports
7.2 Sending of letters and fax to the concerning persons and organizations for information disclosure
7.3 Disseminate important information through radio
7.4. Publish student achievements through wall magazines
7.5 Disclose the school’s annual plan
7.6 Disseminate information received through DEO to relevant stakeholders
7.7 Notify relevant stakeholder of school programs
7.8 Disclose SMC meeting decisions
7.9 Frame and display accountability chart

8. Accountability
8.1 The PTA is accountable to the school and community
8.2. PTA members are aware of their roles and responsibilities
8.3 SMC members are aware of their roles and responsibilities
8.4 The SMC is accountable to school and community
8.5 The head teacher and teachers are accountable to school management and students
8.6 The head teacher and teachers are committed to their jobs
8.7 The head teacher and teachers are disciplined
8.8. Students are dedicated to their learning
8.9 Students are disciplined
8.10 Stakeholders actively participate in the decision-making processes for committees and sub-committees
8.11 Disclose the achievements of the Children’s Club

This section taken from the School Good Governance Guidelines