



THE CRITICAL FRIEND – SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK ... **ONLY SUGGESTIONS**

- ◆ Is there a clear vision for the school?
- ◆ What are the school aims?
- ◆ Where are we now? Where are we going? How will we get there?
- ◆ What part do governors play in the School Development/Improvement Planning process?
- ◆ How is the School Development/Improvement Plan monitored?
- ◆ How and when are school policies reviewed, evaluated and revised? Do you have a checklist in place?
- ◆ Is school improvement and raising standards at the top of the governors' agenda?
- ◆ How do this year's results compare overall and by subject with those of previous years?
- ◆ How do they compare with national standards? LEA standards? Similar schools?
- ◆ How well do different groups of pupils progress?
- ◆ Are some groups of pupils doing better than others?
- ◆ Are the targets set for pupils challenging yet realistic?
- ◆ What is the current rate of exclusions in the school?
- ◆ What is the attendance rate like and how does it compare with National and LEA standards?
- ◆ Does the governing body fulfil its statutory duty in reporting to parents on an annual basis?
- ◆ Does the governing body hold an annual parents' meeting?
- ◆ How does the governing body make itself accessible to parental enquiries?
- ◆ How are parents consulted about major developments in the school?
- ◆ What were the key issues from the last Estyn inspection?
- ◆ How do governors monitor what happens in school?
- ◆ What are the school's strengths and weaknesses?
- ◆ How do governors ensure that the financial planning reflects the priorities of the school?
- ◆ Is there an agreed policy for governor visits to schools?
- ◆ Are governors linked to a year group or department?
- ◆ How are the strengths of the school communicated to parents and the wider community?
- ◆ Are pupils consulted on various issues for their opinions/ thoughts (e.g. School Council)?