THE 15-MINUTE GOVERNANCE SELF-CHECK

Shape better governance with our reflection tool

Strong governance starts with honest reflection. The best boards aren't just compliant—they're curious, open to growth, and committed to learning.

Reflection helps boards:

- Become more strategic and self-aware;
- Focus on impact, not just process;
- Work better together, with shared understanding;
- Develop a learning culture that drives improvement.

These five areas are just the starting point. Great boards reflect regularly—on behaviours, culture, and the difference they make.

How to use this tool:

Use this tool to begin that journey toward becoming a truly learning organisation.

This tool works best when used by the full board—either during a meeting, a development session, or as a reflective exercise. Each member can score the five areas individually, then discuss together:

- Where do we agree?
- Where do we differ?
- What might we explore further?

Open, honest, supportive, and strategic conversations.

Area	RAG Rating	Prompt
Purpose & Priorities	🔴🟠🟢	Does your board have a shared understanding of what you're here to do—and why it matters?
Roles & Responsibilities	🔴🟠🟢	Are all members clear on their role, and confident in fulfilling it?
Strategy & Challenge	🔴🟠🟢	Do you focus on the big picture and ask strategic, purposeful questions?
Teamwork & Collaboration	🔴🟠🟢	Does your board work as a team, valuing each member's contribution and perspective?
Impact & Reflection	🔴🟠🟢	Can you show how your board is making a difference—and do you reflect on how to improve?

Next Steps

Check out our Top Tips for becoming a Learning Board. If our tool and tips have helped spark some useful thinking, that's great. But reflection is just the first step.

At Shaping Governance, we help you turn reflection into real improvement—with a structured approach that supports your whole board to work more confidently and effectively.

Find out more:

www.shapinggovernance.co.uk

Why choose Shaping Governance?

We have a strong track record of supporting boards to improve and are trusted across sectors to guide meaningful reflection. We offer two main ways to help:

- Our original Shaping Governance Reflect & Improve Programme – a focused 2-hour experience that helps your board reflect, share what's working, and plan improvements.
- An External Review of Governance – offering an objective, appreciative view to support deeper development.

Boards across education and public services choose Shaping Governance because it's not just about identifying gaps—it's about building capacity, confidence, and clarity that lasts.

5 ★ Rating on Google

View our Impact



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