

Leadership and Governance

Top Tips For School-based Nurseries

1

Integrate nursery governance into whole-school structures

Consider including nursery matters in school leadership meetings and strategic planning.

This raises the nursery's profile and ensures alignment with school values and priorities.



2

Appoint a dedicated early years link governor

You may want to assign a governor with a specific remit for early years.

Their role should include monitoring quality, supporting compliance, and advocating for nursery needs at board level.

3

Prepare for dual inspection frameworks

It's important to understand both Ofsted's EYFS and school inspection criteria.

This enables leaders to present a coherent narrative of quality across the nursery and school.



4

Strengthen SEND oversight and accountability

Educate governors on the EYFS framework. Ensure governors are equipped to ask about interventions, learning journeys, and inclusive practice.

This promotes transparency and drives improvement in provision for children with additional needs.

5

Hold regular leadership check-ins

Consider scheduling fortnightly meetings between nursery and school heads to coordinate calendars, risk assessments and events.

Include nursery leaders in curriculum planning and school improvement discussions to ensure alignment with early years pedagogy, developmental milestones, and whole-school priorities



6

Embed a culture of inspection readiness

Treat inspections as everyday reflections of quality, not high-stakes events. This mindset reduces pressure on staff and improves consistency.

Ensure every team member can articulate the pedagogical rationale behind daily routines and activities.