

National Governors' Association

March 2012 Bulletin Board

The National Governors' Association is an independent charity representing state school governors – the largest volunteer group in England – from both local authority maintained schools and academies. NGA provides support to members in the form of a weekly e-newsletter, bimonthly magazine *Governing Matters*, guidance on our website (www.nga.org.uk), an advice service for gold members, conferences, as well as guides for purchase. If you are a member of NGA, you will receive direct from us an e-newsletter every Friday in term-time. If you are not a member of NGA, and have found this bulletin useful, this is only a fraction of the information NGA produces for governors, please consider joining us: see section H.

This monthly NGA bulletin board is distributed to local governor associations and co-ordinators of governor services who are members of the NGA so that they can keep local schools up to-date. It is intended to update governing bodies on our work, the changes and developments in governance, and active Government consultations. So, please help to keep others informed by sharing and distributing this widely.

If you have any comments on this bulletin or suggestions for future editions: please contact laura.owen@nga.org.uk.

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A. Cover Story

Effective Governance: the eight essential ingredients

These eight ingredients are the basis for an effective governing body. They are based on research, practice, and the Ofsted report published last year. How many of these does your governing body have?

1. The right people round the table
2. Understanding role & responsibilities
3. Good chairing
4. Professional clerking
5. Good relationships based on trust
6. Knowing the school – the data, the staff, the parents, the children, the community
7. Committed to asking challenging questions
8. Confident to have courageous conversations in the interests of the children and young people

B. Education News

1. First cohort National Leaders of Governance (NLG) available for deployment

The first cohort of NLG will shortly be designated and available for deployment. NLG offer free coaching and mentoring to a chair of governors to support school improvement. They can support chairs of governors use and analysis of data to improve school performance, deliver more effective support and challenge for their headteacher, or provide new chairs with coaching and mentoring support. Brokerage for NLG is through College Associates, either directly with a school or academy; or in dialogue with the LA and diocese where relevant.

If you would like to find out more about how an NLG can work with you or a chair of governors you know, please email chairofgovernors@nationalcollege.org.uk.

2. Draft Constitution & Federation Regulations Available

Last week NGA received a copy of both the new draft Constitution and Federation Regulations from the Department for Education (DfE). The draft Constitution Regulations follow the Education Act 2011 to allow more flexibility in the make-up of the governing body and to allow a governing body to have a minimum of seven members. The NGA does not think that a governing body of seven is advisable.

The draft Federation Regulations make changes in regards to the dissolution of federations and governing bodies that wish to leave a federation on application for academy status.

The DfE has asked NGA to seek our members' comments on both sets of regulations. If you have any comments please email school.governance@education.gsi.gov.uk and also copy in NGA's Policy Manager at gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk by **Monday 12 March**.

www.nga.org.uk/Resources/Useful-Documents.aspx

3. NPQH is no longer compulsory

From 8 February the National Professional Qualification for Headship ceased to be compulsory for new headteacher/principal appointments. This does not prevent governing bodies from including NPQH as either an essential or desirable criteria in job specification, alongside other relevant management/leadership qualifications. NGA and National College are working together to produce an updated guide to recruiting senior leaders; it will be published next term.

C. NGA News

1. This Month's Poll

A new poll is now on the home page! Please vote in the March poll:

'What is the minimum number of governors the governing body needs to operate effectively?'

2. February's Poll

Last month we asked you:

'Should chairs of governing bodies be paid?'

61% Yes (448)
38% No (278)
0% Don't know (5)

Thank you to everyone who voted. This was the biggest poll so far! The results are really interesting, and will feed into NGA policy discussions.

3. NGA briefing on the Education Act is now live

The NGA briefing on the Education Act 2011 is now available to members. It explains the provisions of the Act and the effect they will have on governors and schools, including the freedom for the governing bodies of local authority maintained school to reconstitute if they wish (See item B2).

4. East of England Regional Meeting

The East of England regional meeting will be held in Huntingdon on 17 March at 10.00. Guest speaker Wendy Sheehan from GL Performance (a division of Granada Learning) will be discussing the new Ofsted framework.

This **free event** is open to any governor, including those who **are not members of NGA**. If you'd like to book a place, please email governorhq@nga.org.uk. A flyer will be sent to NGA members in the East of England region next week. Please distribute this widely.

5. Meetings attended by NGA

This item was previously featured in the bulletin board, but it has now been moved onto our website under 'About Us.'

D. Other News

1. Stonewall 'Speak Out' Survey

Stonewall is conducting a survey of young people who are, or think they might be, lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). The survey aims to assess the experiences of school or college, such as how it deals with bullying and how it helps young people who are LGB.

<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

2. Sex and Relationships Education Survey for South West Governors

The Office for Sexual Health South West is running a survey of headteachers/principals and governors on their perceptions of relationships and sex education. If you are based in the South

West of England, please complete the online survey – it should take no more than five minutes. The survey closes on 30 March 2012.

<http://www.schoolsurveys.co.uk/nhssw>

3. National Family Week

The National Family Week is back this year on 25 – 31 August 2012. It is a celebration of families and family life.

Find out more at www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk.

4. How are your loos?

Nominations are open for the Loo of the Year Award! Promoted by the British Toilet Association, the competition has been running for 25 years. The closing date for entries is 31 July 2012. See www.loo.co.uk for more details.

E. Dates for your Diary

1. NGA Spring Regional Meetings: Driving school improvement

NGA regional meetings will focus on the theme of how governing bodies can best affect school improvement without over stepping the non-executive role. We will feed discussion into the Department for Education’s governance review. These free events are for **NGA members only**.

Region	Date and Time	Venue
North East	Tuesday 6 March, 19.00 – 21.00	Durham County Hall
London	Wednesday 7 March, 19.00 – 21.00	Hilton London Metropole
East of England	Saturday 17 March, 10.00 – 13.00	Hinchinbrooke School, Huntingdon (See C4)
South West	Saturday 17 March 11.00 – 14.00	Taunton (venue tbc)
North West	Monday 19 March, 18.30 – 20.30	Swallow Hotel, Preston
East Midlands	Tuesday 20 March, 11.00 – 14.00	Derbyshire (venue tbc)
South East	Tuesday 20 March, 11.00 – 14.00	London (venue tbc)

2. NGA at the Education Show, NEC Birmingham – Friday 16 March

The NGA will be exhibiting at the Education Show, as well as holding two seminars. They are free to attend, and will apply to governors of every type of school. To book a place, you will need to register with the Education Show (www.education-show.com).

10.30 – 12.30 Effective Governance in a changing world

Keynote speaker: Mike Ion, Best Practice Network

14.00 – 16.00 Effective Governance: Knowing your school

Keynote speaker: Tom Winskill, HMI Ofsted

Come and hear what the new Ofsted framework will mean for you.

3. Chairs of Associations Conference, Nottingham, 27 – 28 April 2012

Invitations have now been sent to chairs of local associations. If you are chair and have not received your copy, please email membership@nga.org.uk to update the membership details.

4. Yorkshire and Humberside Data Conference, Sheffield, Saturday 19 May 2012

This free event is open to anyone, not just NGA members. Please contact laura.owen@nga.org.uk for more information and a flyer for distribution.

5. NGA Summer Conference, London – Saturday 16 June 2012

Sir Michael Wilshaw, Ofsted HMCI, confirmed as a key note speaker!

6. NGA Conference and 2012 AGM, (venue tbc) – Saturday 24 November 2012

F. DfE Consultations (closing dates are for DfE)

1. [The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation: Determination of Turnover for Monetary Penalties](#) **Closing Date:** Thursday 15 March 2012
2. [Consultation on the Education \(Pupil Referral Units\) \(Application of Enactments\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012](#) **Closing Date:** Tuesday 20 March 2012
3. [Removing the duty on maintained schools to follow the information and communication technology \(ICT\) Programmes of Study, Attainment Targets and statutory assessment arrangements](#) **Closing Date:** Wednesday 11 April 2012
4. [Consultation on the Raising the Participation Age \(RPA\) regulations](#) **Closing Date:** Friday 13 April 2012
5. [Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Consultation](#) **Closing Date:** Monday 16 April 2012

To view the consultations, please go to <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm>.

NGA is always interested in hearing governors' views and experience on these and other topics; please e-mail any comments or copies of any submission you make to NGA's policy manager: Gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk

G. NGA Partners

1. School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)

The School Governors' One-Stop Shop is a charity dedicated to recruiting and placing school governors. Its services are free to schools, LAs, volunteers and employers. If your school's governing body has vacancies, or is seeking a volunteer with particular skills, contact SGOSS on 0207 354 9805.

Visit the SGOSS website at: www.sgoss.org.uk

H. NGA Membership Benefits

Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits. Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine, *Governing Matters*, sent to their home address, to have access to the members' only section of the NGA website, and to have the e-newsletter sent direct to their email address. If you have not yet given us the names, home addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please send details to: membership@nga.org.uk.

Governing bodies can join the NGA to receive more benefits. Every governor will gain access to the members' only area of the website, and receive the weekly newsletter.

Standard governing body membership: £63 entitles you to five free copies of the magazine, discounts on publications, and a free place at members' events.

Gold governing body membership: £250 ensures in addition that every governor receives the bi-monthly magazine *Governing Matters*; the school gets a free pack of guides, additional event places, and is entitled to advice from the NGA, including **access to our legal service**.