

## September 2012 Bulletin Board

The National Governors' Association is an independent charity representing state school governors from both local authority maintained schools and academies. 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 governing bodies up-to-date 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 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 page 5.

If you have any comments on this bulletin or suggestions for future editions, please contact [laura.owen@nga.org.uk](mailto:laura.owen@nga.org.uk).

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### A. Composition of governing bodies

The new composition regulations for an LA maintained schools came into force on 1 September. If you are and wish to reconstitute your governing body, you will need to do so under these regulations. For any school that doesn't, the 2007 regulations still apply. Academies already have more flexibility on size and composition.

The main changes possible for LA maintained school governing bodies:

- Minimum of seven members of the governing body
- Minimum of two elected parent governors
- Maximum of one local authority governor; governing bodies can now set criteria for LA governors and reject those that do not meet them
- Maximum of one elected staff governor (not including the head) Staff may be appointed as co-opted governors provided staff (including the headteacher) comprise no more than 1/3 of the total governing body.
- Partnership governors – must have skills to contribute to effective governance and success of the school.
- Community governor and sponsor governor category abolished, and co-opted governor category created.

NGA members can read more detail about the changes in the NGA briefing paper, which will be online this week, and about how to go about reviewing size and effectiveness in. September's *Governing Matters*.

Please let us know your intentions by completing the poll on NGA's home page:

**Is your governing body planning to reconstitute following the introduction of the new Constitution Regulations in September?'**

## Education News

### 1. Pupil Premium

Unless practice changes, the pupil premium will have a limited impact on pupil attainment, according to a survey completed by the Sutton Trust. The survey, which asked teachers what their top priorities would be for the pupil premium, revealed that only 3% indicated they would use it for the most cost effective classroom approaches. The Sutton Trust has put together a [free toolkit that reviews over 20 approaches to improving attainment.](#)

From this September, schools need to publish information online; this must include information about how much pupil premium the school receives, how it has been spend and the impact it has had.

[www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/](http://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/)

### 2. Vetting and Barring

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 received royal assent in May this year, and some of the changes outlined will come into effect on 10 September. There will be a new definition of regulated activity, and the scheme will no longer cover such a vast range of people as was outlined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; governors will no longer be covered by the scheme, though many schools still require their governors to obtain a CRB check.

You can find a summary of the changes on the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/disclosure-and-barring/>

### 3. Raising the Participation Age

As you may remember, the Government is raising the age at which young people are required to continue in education or training. Pupils who started Year 11 in September 2012 will need to continue in education or training until at least the end of the school year in which they turn 17 (and of course they are then able to continue beyond that if they want to). Pupils in Year 10 or below from September 2012 will need to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

Young people will have a choice about how they want to continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- Full-time education, such as school or college
- An Apprenticeship; or
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

For further information, please see:

<http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rpa>

### 4. NLG Applications: are now open: see page 5

## B. NGA News

### 1. The NGA Outstanding Governance Awards

The NGA is proud to announce the launch of the Outstanding Governing Body and Outstanding Clerk awards 2013! There are two awards up for grabs: the outstanding governing bodies, and one for outstanding clerks. They are open to anyone from any kind of school, and you do not have to be a member to nominate or be nominated.

The NGA awards are designed to celebrate and promote good practice, and the award is not necessarily presented to the most improved school. It's a 'wonderful recognition' for the work you do, so please consider nominating your governing body or clerk. Please see the NGA website to download a nomination form.

### 2. Training for Chairs of Governors; National College awards licenses

The NGA and Eastern Leadership Centre (ELC) have been awarded a license by the National College to provide training for chairs and aspiring chairs of governing bodies. We are one of eighteen successful partnerships who will be working across England to provide the National College programme. NGA and ELC are leading a large partnership of many local providers spanning a number of other local authorities as well as the Eastern regions. For more information or to be involved, contact Jacqueline McCamphill at ELC: [jacqueline.mccamphill@elc-cambridge.org](mailto:jacqueline.mccamphill@elc-cambridge.org).

### 3. NGA Top Tip

**It is good practice to adopt a Code of Practice at your first governing body meeting of the year.**

NGA has updated its model Code of Practice for both local authority maintained schools and academies. This resource is free for everyone to download from the NGA website.

<http://www.nga.org.uk/Resources/Useful-Documents/Code-of-Practice.aspx>

## C. Dates for Your Diary

### 1. London Regional Event: 'Holding Schools to Account' – Saturday 6 October

The London Regional Meeting, on the morning of 6 October, will feature a keynote presentation from Tom Winskill HMI, Ofsted, on Inspecting Governance under the new framework from September 2012. The event will start at 10.00 and finish at 12.30.

Although this meeting will be open to non-members of NGA and to members from outside London, but priority will be given to London members. To book, please go to the NGA website: <http://www.nga.org.uk/Events.aspx>

## 2. East of England Regional Event: ‘Developing governing bodies’

The East of England Regional Meeting, on the morning of 13 October at Stansted, will feature a keynote presentation by Emma Knights, Chief Executive of NGA, on improving the effectiveness of governing bodies, and will hear from a National Leader of Governance about their work in supporting chairs of governors. The event will start at 10.00 and finish at 12.30.

To book, please go to the NGA website: <http://www.nga.org.uk/Events.aspx>

## 3. Preparing for the year ahead: Other NGA Regional events in the Autumn

In each of the other regions there will be an opportunity for governors to meet and learn from others across the region. Emma Knights (NGA’s Chief Executive) or Gillian Allcroft (NGA’s Policy Manager) will lead a discussion on the key issues for governing bodies in 2012/13:

Region	Date and Time	Venue
North West	Monday 17 September, 18.30 – 21.30	Preston
Yorkshire & the Humber	Tuesday 18 September, 19.00 – 21.00	Wakefield
West Midlands	Wednesday 19 September, 18.30 – 20.30	Birmingham
North East	Monday 1 October, 19.00 – 21.00	Durham
East Midlands	Wednesday 17 October, 11.00 – 15.00	Northamptonshire
South West	Saturday 20 October 11.15 – 15.00	Taunton
South East	Tuesday 23 October, 11.00 – 13.00	London

These discussions are free to NGA members: further details on [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).

## 4. Acas Employment Relations in a Changing Education Sector

Wednesday 10 October, Nottingham

Acas are holding a seminar with the East Midlands Employment Relations Forum on the changes in education aimed at HR personnel, trade union representatives and academy and free school representatives. Key speakers include Ed Sweeney (chair of Acas), Bill Simmonds (Chief Executive of NASBM), Bob Johnson (NASUWT National Official), Chris Pickering (Executive Principal of Diverse Academies Learning Partnership), and Barry Day (Chief Executive of Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust and Greenwood Academies Trust).

**Price:** £25 (ex VAT), FREE for members of East Midlands Employment Relations Forum

**Book:** [www.acas.org.uk/emschools](http://www.acas.org.uk/emschools) 08457 38 37 36

## D. DfE & Ofqual Consultations since the last bulletin (closing dates are for DfE)

### 1. [Making Foreign Languages compulsory at Key Stage 2](#)

**Closing Date:** Tuesday 28 September 2012.

To view these consultations, please go to

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/consultations>

NGA is always interested in hearing governors' views on these and other topics; please email any comments, or copies of any submission you make to NGA's policy manager: [Gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk).

## E. NGA Partners

### National College for School Leadership

The application round for Cohort 2 of **National Leaders of Governance** (NLGs) is now open and will close at 10.00 on 1 October (with the deadline for endorsements a week later on 8 October).



This is an important part of the National College's programme to support the development of governors. Potential applicants are encouraged to refer to the [eligibility criteria](#) on the National College website to identify whether they meet the requirements for the role.

Applications *must* be made online. To do this, applicants will need to be a member of the National College. Applicants can [register now](#). For further information, email [chair.ofgovernors@nationalcollege.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chair.ofgovernors@nationalcollege.gsi.gov.uk)

## F. NGA Membership Benefits

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.

**GOLD governing body membership: £250** ensures in addition that every governor receives NGA's magazine *Governing Matters*; free induction guides, additional event places, and is entitled to advice from the NGA, including **access to our legal service**.

**Standard governing body membership: £70** entitles you to five free copies of the bi-monthly magazine, discounts on publications, and a free place at members' events as well as the weekly newsletter and web resources.

**Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits.** 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](mailto:membership@nga.org.uk).

