

## October 2013 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. 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 section G.

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. New FFT Primary Governor Data Dashboard

The latest Fischer Family Trust (FFT) Governor Dashboard for primary schools is now available. This updated version contains 2013 key stage 2 results, improved gauges, and new Department for Education indicators. The FFT Governor Dashboard helps school governors hold schools to account, support and challenge the leadership team, and make more informed strategic decisions. It is essential reading for all governors.



The updated secondary dashboard will be available in mid-October.

If you are a primary school governor, ask your school to forward it to you. For more information see the link below.

[Fischer Family Trust 2013 Data Dashboard](#)

NGA helped initiate this resource and is working with FFT. If you have any feedback on the dashboard, please let [Ellie Howarth](#) know. Have a look at section F about NGA Partners to read more about some training the FFT is running on using the dashboard.

## B. Education News

### 1. Government responds on the role of school governing bodies

On Friday 13 September, the government released its response to the House of Commons Education Select Committee inquiry on the Role of School Governing Bodies. In July, the Select Committee made 23 recommendations to the government in regards to governance. You can read the full summary on the [NGA news page](#).

### 2. A shortage of primary places

Analysis from the Local Government Association (LGA), which represents more than 370 councils in England and Wales, shows that as many as two in three councils in England could see more children looking to start primary school in their area by September 2016 than there are places for. According to the LGA, Central Bedfordshire, Croydon, Bedford, Waltham Forest, Newham and Hounslow Councils will see the biggest demand for primary places, with the need to increase school capacity by 25 per cent or more by the start of the 2016 school year. Peterborough, Redbridge, Ealing, Bristol, Lewisham, Slough, Maidenhead, Sutton, and Barking and Dagenham will have to increase the number of school places by at least 20% by 2016/17 to ensure every child gets a place.

This has led to suggestions in some quarters that schools will need to operate 'split shifts' in order to accommodate the increase in pupils.

London Councils' latest analysis indicates that a further 83,470 school places are needed between 2014 and 2017, the equivalent to 199 new primary schools or 80 new secondary schools. The analysis suggests that the funding received from central Government will be insufficient to meet the need for extra places – with London boroughs a funding shortfall needing to contribute around £9,000 per pupil towards the costs of building pupil places locally.

At the same time the Government announced the opening of 93 new free schools, not all of which are in areas with a shortage of school places.

### 3. MPs to Debate School Governance

On Tuesday 8 October at 12:30 there will be a debate on school governors and school improvement, in Westminster Hall, in the House of Commons. Please e-mail your MP urging him/her to attend the debate, stressing the importance of school governance. You will find email addresses on [Parliament UK website](#), and remember to include your postal address (and/or that of the school) in the email to show you are a constituent.

If you copy [Philip Wood](#) into the email, he will make sure your MP receives a briefing before the debate. This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of governors and for us to provide some evidence of what is being done to improve governance up and down the country.

### 4. Students to study maths and English to 18

From this term, students who have not achieved a C or better in GCSE maths or English will have to study both subjects post-16. The government has said it would prefer these students to continue studying GCSEs, but they may take other qualifications – including functional skills and free-standing mathematics qualifications accredited by Ofqual – as a stepping stone to GCSE

study. Governors at schools with sixth forms will need to consider the implications of the changes on their staffing arrangements, in particular whether additional English and maths teachers will need to be employed.

Read more in NGA's [guidance section](#).

## 5. Ofqual announces changes to exam reform timetable

On 6 September Ofqual announced that new GCSEs in the sciences, history, geography and modern languages will be delayed until 2016. The Department for Education (DfE) initially wanted these to be made ready for first teaching in 2015, but in a letter to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, Ofqual Chief Executive Glenys Stacey said she cannot be confident that high quality qualifications in all subjects will be ready by then. She said that temporary changes Ofqual has made to science, history and geography makes them less of a concern, and therefore maths, English language and English literature will be prioritised. The regulator still aims to make these subjects ready for first teaching in 2015.

On 12 September the government announced proposals to reform performance tables for 16-19 education. It intends the new tables to include more information about vocational courses and will show where sixth forms and colleges have failed to ensure all their students have achieved C grades in GCSE maths and English. The DfE believes these changes will raise standards. It has launched a [consultation](#) on the proposals, to which NGA will be responding. Send your comments to [Ellie](#).

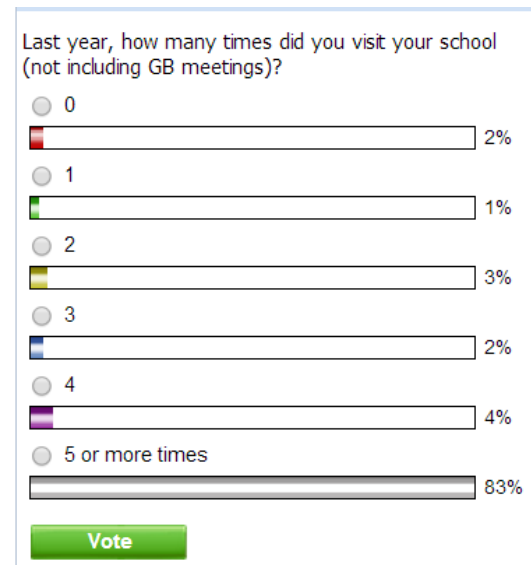
## C. NGA News

### 1. NGA Web Polls

The results of the last poll are in:

*Last year, how many times did you visit your school  
(not including GB meetings)?*

2% - 0 (14)
1% - 1 (9)
3% - 2 (18)
2% - 3 (14)
4% - 4 (23)
83% - 5+ (396)



**Please take the time to vote in the new NGA poll:**

*Does your employer allow you time off work for governance duties?*

Yes – paid

Yes – unpaid

No – I haven't asked

No – I am not allowed time off work

## 2. Clerking Service

NGA is going to pilot a **Find us a clerk** matchmaking service between schools seeking clerks and clerks available to offer their services to additional schools.



Clerks who are available and wish to be listed are required to complete a form, which will be used to create a profile that will be uploaded to the website. We will also list schools wishing to advertise any vacancies they have for clerks. It would then be up to individual clerks to contact the school and the school to select the most appropriate clerk. The NGA is not in a position to quality assure any of the clerks that appear on the list; however we have produced supporting material to assist with the selection process.

If you would like to be listed on this section, please contact Marty Uppal: [m.uppal@nga.org.uk](mailto:m.uppal@nga.org.uk).  
['Find us a clerk' flyer](#)

## D. Dates for your Diary

If you would like us to advertise your local event, please email Laura Owen ([laura.owen@nga.org.uk](mailto:laura.owen@nga.org.uk)).

### 1. NGA's Annual Conference and AGM

This year's AGM and annual conference will be held on Saturday 16 November in York. Places are filling up fast, so please do book now to avoid disappointment. Our previous conferences have been oversubscribed before the closing date.

Key note speakers:

**Sir John Holman** (Senior Fellow for Education at the Wellcome Trust) on School Performance Indicators

**Brian Lightman** (General Secretary of Association of School and College Leaders) on the Great Education Debate

Book your place [here](#). **This free conference is for NGA members only.**

## E. Consultations since the last bulletin

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|---|---|
| 1. <a href="#">Teachers' pensions regulations 2013</a>          | <b>Closing date:</b> Monday 11 November 2013    |
| 2. <a href="#">Changes to the system of school organisation</a> | <b>Closing date:</b> Thursday 24 October 2013   |
| 3. <a href="#">16-19 Accountability consultation</a>            | <b>Closing date:</b> Wednesday 20 November 2013 |

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).

## F. NGA Partners

### 1. Free FFT Governor Dashboard training workshops

To co-incide with the launch of its updated data dashboard FFT is running some further free workshops to help governors get the most out of them. The events for governors and school leaders will run in November and December, as follows:

- **LONDON** - Wednesday 20th November 2013:  
The Gibbs Building, The Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE
- **BIRMINGHAM** - Wednesday 27th November 2013:  
The Studio, 60 Cannon Street, Birmingham B2 5EP
- **MANCHESTER** - Tuesday 3rd December 2013:  
The Portland Thistle Hotel, 3-5 Portland Street, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester M1 DP

Delegates can choose to attend a workshop at either 15:30 or 18:00. The event, which will last about 90 minutes, will give delegates the space to improve their data literacy, an opportunity to practice using the dashboard containing their own school's data, support from FFT specialists to analyse their school's strengths and weaknesses according to the data, time to talk to other governors and develop questions for their next governing body meeting, as well as providing training resources to take back to their schools. For further information, or to book a space at one of the workshops, please visit <http://www.fft.org.uk/fft-live/governor-dashboard.aspx>

## G. 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. Members also receive generous discounts off our publications.

**GOLD governing body membership: £260** 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 advice service**.

**Standard governing body membership: £72** 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).

