

Reconstitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools 2014-15

All governing bodies of maintained schools must be constituted under the 2012 Constitution Regulations or the 2012 Federation Regulations, as appropriate, by 1 September 2015.

The governing body must not be smaller than seven members, and must include (subject to the requirements regarding foundation governors):

- at least two parent governors;
- the headteacher unless the headteacher resigns as a governor;
- one, and only one, staff governor;
- one, and only one, local authority governor; and
- the governing body may appoint as many additional co-opted governors as they consider necessary. (the number of co-opted governors who are eligible to be elected or appointed as staff governors must not, when counted with the one staff governor and the headteacher, exceed one-third of the total membership of the governing body.)

There are additional requirements for foundation and voluntary schools, including:

- Voluntary aided schools must have two more foundation governors than all other governors.

Good opportunity to review

- Governing bodies should be no bigger than they need to be to have all the skills necessary to carry out their functions.
- Governing bodies should review their effectiveness regularly, including the extent to which their size and structure is fit for purpose and their members have the necessary skills.
- The specific skills that governing bodies need to meet their particular challenges will vary. It is therefore for governing bodies and other appointing persons to determine in their own opinion, having regard to this guidance, what these skills are and be satisfied that the governors they appoint have them.

Surplus Governors

- Any surplus in the number of foundation governors must be resolved by the person responsible for appointing foundation governors.
- Any surplus in any other category of governor must be resolved by a separate vote of the governing the governing body on each category in which there is a surplus.
- Governing bodies, and chairs of governors in particular, should make every effort to achieve any restructuring or downsizing amicably through sensitive and honest negotiation about which governors are best placed to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school.

Support available

- Information in the Director's Report
- Suggest Governing Bodies begin discussions this term
- Barnet's Governor Services Clerks trained to support you
- Governor Support and Development sharing good practice workshop **Wed 1 October 2014** at The Hyde School (including committee structure)
- Search for 'Reconstitution' on www.gov.uk
- www.nga.org.uk has useful skills audit