

DEVON ASSOCIATION of GOVERNORS

Constitution

As Amended 25 March 2010

1. NAME

The name of the Association is the **Devon Association of Governors** (hereinafter referred to as DAG).

2. OBJECTS

- I. To be an independent, apolitical association of Governors and Clerks to Governing Bodies (GBs) within Devon. Hereafter Clerks are included in the phrase "Governing Bodies".
- II. To assist GBs to further the interests of children in our schools and the standard of their education.
- III. To encourage co-operation between GBs, schools and Local Learning Communities (LLCs).
- IV. To provide a vehicle for expressing collective views of governors through GBs and to make appropriate representations.
- V. To further good relationships with the Local Authority (LA) and with other relevant bodies.
- VI. To promote links with governor associations in Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay for the furtherance of common objectives locally, and to look for national shire county association partners.
- VII. To act collectively to protect the integrity of education in the county and within DAG's membership.
- VIII. To further governors' interest nationally through membership of the National Governors' Association (NGA).

3. MEMBERSHIP

- I. Membership shall be open to GBs corporately of all Devon schools.
- II. Individual governors shall be members by virtue of being members of a GB in membership of the Association. No-one may be a member of DAG or a member of the DAG Board who is not currently a member of a school GB or Clerk to the GB which is itself a member of DAG.
- III. Honorary non-voting membership may be offered to other appropriate and relevant bodies (e.g. DAPH, SHAD and, DASH) at the discretion of the Board, subject to any policy of DAG.

4. REPRESENTATION

- I. GBs in membership will be represented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by one named voting member, who must be registered as such with DAG's Executive Officer, but any other member governor may attend and speak
- II. Representatives unable to attend a meeting of DAG or, if applicable, of the Board, may arrange for a substitute for that meeting with the consent of the Chairman.

5. BRANCHES

- I. GBs will be encouraged to group together in Branches based on LLC areas, or any other grouping which is appropriate to their needs, for the purposes of mutual support, the exchange of information and ideas, response to consultations and the submission of Resolutions to the AGM.
- II. Branches shall determine their own terms of reference and procedures, provided they are not contrary to the Objects of DAG.

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6. DAG BOARD and OFFICERS

- I. The strategic planning, direction and policies of DAG shall be directed by the DAG Board (Hereafter Board). There shall be an Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") responsible for the general management of DAG and for determining its Standing Orders.
- II. The Board shall consist of nineteen voting members, twelve elected annually at the AGM and seven co-opted by those elected. When making co-options the Board shall take into consideration the types of school represented and their geographical spread. DAG's representatives on any LA Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Board, supported by cooptees and volunteers identified by the Board. Three Area Officers (AOs) and three Research Officers (ROs) will be appointed to support the Executive Officer (EO) and promote DAG activities in their areas and by responding to local and national consultations. The EO and AOs will be the Executive Committee (EC) and will implement the requirements of the Board.
- III. The AGM may determine appropriate rules for the election of members to the Board.
- IV. Nominations for the Board, which may be made either by GBs, by branches or by the outgoing Board with the permission of the candidates, must be submitted to the EO twenty eight days (or such period as an AGM shall decide) before the AGM in order for ballot papers to be prepared.
- V. At the first meeting after the AGM the Board shall elect a chair, who shall be chair of DAG and shall hold office until the next election, two vice-chairs, an EO and Treasurer, who shall hold office likewise. The chair and vice-chairs must be elected from members of the Board, but the EO and Treasurer need not be. In exceptional circumstances the Board may appoint to the posts of EO or Treasurer persons who do not comply with Article 3(II), but in those circumstances they shall be non-voting members of the Board.
- VI. No chair or vice-chair shall hold the office for more than three years consecutively
- VII. The quorum shall be one third, excluding the EO and Treasurer if they are appointed from outside the Board.
- VIII. DAG may create such honorary offices as it sees fit. Should it create the titular office of President that must be filled by election at the AGM. The Board shall be entitled to offer nominations. The President shall be entitled to receive all minutes and relevant papers.

7. OTHER COMMITTEES

DAG may establish such other committees as it sees fit.

8. FINANCE

- I. The Board shall, as necessary, maintain a bank/building society account in the name of DAG, withdrawals to be made on the signature of two officers from the 4 nominated signatories
- II. All monies shall be applied to further the objects of DAG and for no other purpose, except that the expenses of representatives attending DAG meetings or of officers on DAG business authorised by the Board may be paid, if finances permit, on a scale to be determined by the Board.
- III. The financial year will be from 1 April to 31 March following.
- IV. The Board shall require the accounts to be audited, or independently examined, as appropriate, annually and presented to the AGM next following the end of the financial year.

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9. CONFERENCE/ AGM / MEETINGS

- I. Full meetings of DAG shall be referred to as Conferences.
- II. There shall be one Conference a year.
- III. Additional Conferences may be called to consider special and immediate concerns either by the Board or at the request of two or more branches or four or more GBs.
- IV. The quorum shall be 12.
- V. Each individual representative shall have one vote and decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- VI. An AGM will take place. The agenda for the AGM shall be drawn up by the Board and must include any Branch Resolutions or Resolutions from two or more GBs submitted to them up to four weeks prior to the AGM. The agenda shall be sent out not less than two weeks prior to the meeting to all registered representatives and Chairs of Governors.
- VII. Resolutions may not be put from the floor at an AGM, except with the assent of two thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

10. AFFILIATION

DAG may affiliate to any other body whose aims are consistent with the aims of DAG. The Board may negotiate on behalf of the Association and make recommendations to the AGM for action.

11. REPRESENTATION on OTHER BODIES

Where DAG is invited to nominate representatives on to other bodies, the AGM shall elect such persons from the nominations proposed by the Board unless the AGM shall decide to delegate the election to the Board. Should a vacancy occur between AGMs the Board shall have power to appoint.

12. ALTERATIONS to the CONSTITUTION

Alterations to the Constitution shall require a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a quorate meeting of which 60 days due notice must be given to each branch and each member GB.

13. DISSOLUTION

If the Board decides by a simple majority to propose the dissolution of the DAG, it shall call a special Conference giving not less than 60 days notice. If a simple majority of those attending agrees DAG shall be dissolved. If the special Conference is inquorate a further meeting shall be called, not less than a month after the first. If that second meeting is inquorate, DAG shall be deemed to be dissolved. Any assets shall be transferred to such other non-profit making body having objects similar to those of the DAG, as the Board shall determine.