

1. Name

1.1 - The name of the Association is the Devon Association of Governance (hereafter DAG).

2. Objects

2.1 - To be an independent, apolitical association of governors/trustees and clerks/secretaries to Governing boards within Devon schools/academies. Hereafter clerks/secretaries are included in the phrase “governing boards”, and “Schools/academies” include all state funded schools within the Devon Local Authority (hereafter Devon LA) geographical area.

2.2 - To assist governing boards to further the interests of children in their schools and the standard of their education.

2.3 - To encourage co-operation between governing boards.

2.4 - To provide a vehicle for expressing collective views of governing boards and to make appropriate representations.

2.5 - To further good relationships with the Devon LA and other relevant bodies.

2.6 - To promote links with governor associations locally, regionally and nationally.

2.7 - To act collectively to improve the standard of school/academy education within the Devon LA and within DAG’s membership.

2.8 -To further governors’ interests nationally through membership of the National Governors’ Association (NGA).

3 - Membership

3.1 - Membership shall be open to boards corporately of all state funded schools within the Devon LA geographical area, subject to any policy of DAG.

3.2 - Individual governors/trustees and clerks/secretaries shall be DAG members by virtue of being members of a governing board which is a member of DAG.

3.3 - Associate membership shall be open to other appropriate and relevant individuals or bodies at the discretion of the Board, subject to any policy of DAG.

4 - Board and Officers

4.1 - The strategic planning, direction and policies of DAG shall be directed by the DAG Board (hereafter called The Board).

4.2 - There shall be an Executive Committee (hereafter called The Executive) responsible for the general management of DAG and for determining its Standing Orders. The Executive shall comprise of the Chair, Vice Chair(s), Clerk, Treasurer and other officers as deemed appropriate.

4.3 - The Board shall consist of nine voting members, five elected (in a cycle of 3 years: 2 in year 1, 1 in year 2 and 2 in year 3) for a term of 3 years at the Annual General Meeting (hereafter called the AGM), and up to four co-opted (by those elected) for a term of up to 3 years.

4.4 - Board members must be DAG members.

4.5 - Decisions shall be made by a simple majority.

4.6 - The Board will appoint a Clerk, Treasurer and officers as deemed appropriate, which are ex officio Board members.

4.7 - The AGM may determine appropriate rules for the election of Board members.

4.8 - Nominations for Board membership, which may be made either by governing boards or by the outgoing Board, with the permission of the candidates, must be submitted to the chair 28 days (or such period as an AGM shall decide) before the AGM in order for ballot papers or electronic voting to be prepared.

4.9 - At the first meeting after the AGM, the Board shall elect a chair and vice-chair(s) from within its voting members for a term of 1 year.

4.10 - No chair or vice-chair(s) shall hold the office for more than two consecutive three year terms

4.11 - The quorum shall be one third of voting members in office.

4.12 - The Board must meet at least 3 times each school year but it may call meetings as often as considered necessary.

4.13 - The Executive may meet as often as is considered necessary but its meetings shall be minuted and reported to the Board at its next meeting.

5 - Other Committees

5.1 - DAG may establish such other committees as they see fit.

6 - Finance

6.1 - The Board shall, as necessary, maintain a bank/building society account in the name of DAG, withdrawals to be made on the signature of any two out of four designated members of the board.

6.2 - 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.

6.3 - The accounting year will be from 1 April to 31 March following.

6.4 - The Board shall require the accounts to be audited/independently verified annually and presented to the AGM next following the end of the financial year.

7 - General Meetings

7.1 - General meetings may be called to consider special and immediate concerns, either by the Board or by the request of four or more governing boards (who are DAG members) to the chair. The agenda shall be made available to all DAG members no less than 14 days prior to the meeting.

7.2 - Each governing board which is a DAG member may be represented at General Meetings by 1 of its governors/trustees or clerks/secretaries with voting rights.

7.3 - The quorum shall be 12 voting representatives.

7.4 - Decisions shall be made by a simple majority.

7.5 - An AGM will take place. The agenda for the AGM shall be drawn up by the Board and must include any Resolutions from 2 or more governing boards submitted 28 days prior to the AGM. The agenda shall be made available to all DAG members no less than 14 days prior to the meeting.

7.6 - 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.

8 - Affiliation

8.1 - DAG may affiliate to any other body whose aims are consistent with the aims of DAG.

8.2 - The Board may negotiate on behalf of DAG and make recommendations to the AGM for action.

9 - Representation on Other Bodies

9.1 - 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.

9.2 - Should a vacancy occur between AGMs the Board shall have power to appoint.

10 - Alterations to the Constitution

10.1 - Alterations to the Constitution shall require a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a quorate General Meeting.

10.2 - The agenda and alterations shall be made available to all DAG members no less than 28 days prior to the meeting.

11 - Dissolution

11.1 - If the Board decides by a 3/4 majority to propose the dissolution of DAG, it shall call a special General Meeting giving no less than 28 days' notice.

11.2 - If a 3/4 majority of those attending agrees DAG shall be dissolved.

11.3 - If the special General Meeting is inquorate a second General Meeting shall be called, not less than 28 days after the first.

11.4 - If that second General Meeting is inquorate, DAG shall be deemed to be dissolved.

11.5 - Any assets shall revert to the Devon LA.

First adopted June 1993

Amended March 1996, March 1998, March 2008, March 2010, May 2016, October 2017 and November 2018.