

The Constitution of the Barnsley Governors Association

The BGA is a private company limited by guarantee, and is an independent, democratic, non-political association of school governing bodies in the Barnsley MBC area, which aims to support, promote and improve school governance.

It is committed to *raise attainment, achievement and aspiration* for all school students in Barnsley.

The Association will act in accordance with The Seven Principles of Public Life: -

Selflessness

The Association will take decisions solely in terms of the public interest and will not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Members will not place the Association under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, the Association will make choices on merit.

Accountability

The Association is accountable for its decisions and actions to the public and will submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

The Association will be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that it takes. Reasons for their decisions will be given and information will only be restricted when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Members of the Executive will declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Members of the Executive will promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Aims

The principal aims of the Association are to: -

1. Encourage co-operation between governing bodies
2. Encourage and facilitate the sharing of good practice and exchange of experience
3. Regularly inform and consult members on issues affecting school governance
4. Maintain a strong working relationship with the Barnsley Local Authority and other relevant stakeholders and be the means for the local authority to consult governors

5. Express the collective views of members locally and nationally
6. Identify the training and development needs of governors and work with others to ensure that high quality training is available to meet the needs of members
7. Maintain membership of, or contact with, appropriate bodies concerned with school governance.
8. Maximise the provision of procurement of services for Governing Bodies by sharing their experiences.

Membership

Membership of the BGA is open to any governing body of a publicly funded school, IEB and those institutions providing post 16 provisions within the Barnsley L.A. and which pays the subscription as determined by the annual general meeting.

Any individual governor whose governing body is not in membership may become an associate member on payment of the subscription determined by the annual general meeting.

Each governing body has one vote in elections and at general meetings, which shall be cast by a duly nominated governor, or their substitute. Associate members will have no vote.

All member governing bodies will be assigned to one of four geographical clusters, for the purposes of communication.

Executive Committee

Between AGMs, the affairs of the BGA shall be managed by an Executive Committee, which shall meet at least once during each school term.

There will be 12 members of the Executive Committee who will act as the Directors of the Company, and shall be:

- The four principal officers
- Up to 8 elected representatives from Governing Bodies
- One governor from a special school
- Up to two governors appointed by the Executive Committee

N.B. Only governors whose governing body is in financial membership may serve on the Executive Committee.

The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be not less than half its members.

The role of the Executive Committee shall include:

- Responsibility for the day to day work of the BGA
- Ensuring that the officers represent the BGA effectively in a manner that reflects its aims and policies
- Appointing representatives to local, regional and national bodies in order to represent and further the aims of the BGA
- Ensuring that member governing bodies are kept regularly informed of the work of the BGA
- The Executive Committee shall require the accounts to be audited annually (March to April) and presented at the AGM next following the end of the financial year.
- The Executive Committee may affiliate the Association to any other body whose aims are consistent with those of the Association.
- The Executive Committee shall have the power to establish sub-committees and other groups which will assist in the achievement of the BGA's aims.

Officers

The principal officers of the Association shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These shall be elected annually at and by the Annual General Meeting from the governors of member governing bodies for a period of one year. Officers may serve for no more than three consecutive years.

The Executive Committee may create other officer roles from amongst its membership.

Annual General Meeting

The BGA will hold an Annual General Meeting each year in September. The business of the AGM will include:

1. A report from the Executive Committee on its year's work.
2. Consider any proposals submitted by member governing bodies or the Executive Committee.
3. Consider any proposals and make changes the constitution
4. Elect its four principal officers and other members of the Executive Committee. (Those standing will be required to declare at the meeting any personal interests, which would or could cause a conflict of interest)
5. Receive and approve a report of accounts from the Treasurer.
6. Agree the annual subscriptions for Governing Bodies and Associate members

7. Appoint independent Auditor.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, at least one other general meeting will be held in each school year.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association may be requisitioned by 20 per cent of member governing bodies on giving 28 days notice in writing to the Secretary. All governors whose governing body is in membership, and all associate governors, are entitled to attend general meetings.

The quorum of a general meeting shall be not less than one quarter of member governing bodies represented.

Other Matters

The Executive Committee may apply for grants for activities which support the aims of the Association.

The Executive Committee may establish a scheme to reimburse reasonable expenses incurred by its members in carrying out the business of the BGA.

No member of the Executive Committee shall be paid any remuneration for their work for or on behalf of the BGA.

All monies shall be applied to further the aims of the BGA and for no other purposes.

The Treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and submit audited accounts to the Annual General Meeting.

The BGA will maintain a bank or building society account in its name. Withdrawals will be made by any two of four nominated Executive Committee members.

The BGA will not go into debt.

The Constitution may be amended, supplemented or varied by resolution forming part of the agenda of an AGM or EGM subject to twenty-eight days notice in writing to the Secretary.

A resolution for a dissolution ballot may be approved at an AGM or EGM; there must then be a postal ballot of all member governing bodies and a simple majority is required for dissolution to take effect.

Any assets remaining, after discharge of liabilities, shall be donated to educational charities, the charities to be nominated by the Executive Committee and details circulated to members with the dissolution ballot paper.