



Barnsley Governors Association

Governance in a Time of Change

For Barnsley Governors Association Spring
Conference
16th May 2015

A familiar story on change

“ We trained hard ... but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization”

Arbiter, Gaius Petronius, Roman soldier
–allegedly!

The temptation to moan.....

► Constant changes to:–

- the national curriculum
- the OFSTED framework
- definitions of good teaching
- financial rules and regs
- assessment data
- expectations of leadership
- school structures
- local authority support
- and above all expectations of governors



I don't believe it!

So lets take a more balanced view– lets go “*Back in Time for Schools*”:-



- ▶ 1965
- ▶ 1995
- ▶ 2005
- ▶ 2015
- and then
- ▶ 2025

The 1965 Grammar school

- ▶ Some outstanding teaching
- ▶ Some outstanding results
- ▶ Passing on of enthusiasm for some subjects
- ▶ Single sex school
- ▶ Light touch inspection regime
- ▶ Light touch governance
- ▶ Some awful teaching
- ▶ Mixed results
- ▶ Bullying by both teachers and students
- ▶ Single sex school
- ▶ Virtually no inspection regime
- ▶ An appalling building
- ▶ Rejection of 'failing students'
- ▶ Little parental contact



Governance in 1965

- ▶ Governance? What governance?



1995 Primary school

- Ofsted inspections introduced but light touch at first
- Good support from the local authority.
- Heads increasingly left to get on with the job with more responsibility for HR and Finance
- Lack of investment in buildings
- Some poor teaching with no robust performance management
- First school league tables



Governance in 1995

- ▶ Governors slowly raising prolife and getting more authority over Heads
- ▶ More parental involvement and interest
- ▶ Lack of external pressure and light touch attainment support
- ▶ Governors focussed on practical issues such as building maintenance, health and safety and cultural and sporting events
- ▶ More training available

2005 Failing Primary school

- Tougher OFSTED regime
- Closer inspection of teacher and headteacher performance
- More rigorous scrutiny of school finances
- Much greater parental engagement
- Considerable new investment in school buildings
- Local authority losing influence, first academies introduced and number increasing



Governance in 2005

- ▶ Much greater pressure on governing bodies
- ▶ Governors held to account for failure to manage finances
- ▶ Tough questioning in Ofsted inspections
- ▶ Agendas increasingly focussed on attainment, behaviour and leadership



2015 Improving Secondary academy

- Very tough and constantly changing OFSTED framework
- Close attention to quality of teaching through performance management
- Huge pressure on Heads.
- Tailing of building improvement
- Some schools given effective independence
- Other schools compelled to become academies
- Local Authorities very much reduced
- Parental engagement reduced
- Regional commissioners



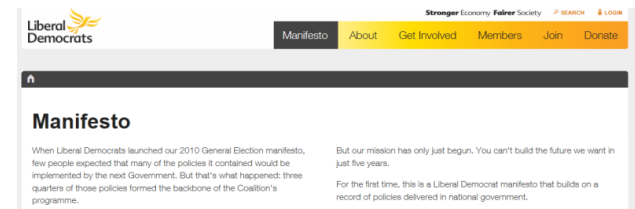
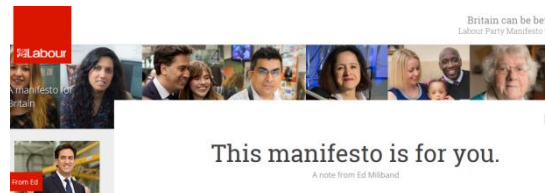
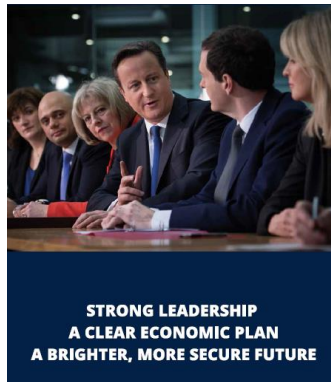
Governance in 2015 and now beyond

- ▶ Much greater expectations of governors
- ▶ Reconstitution
- ▶ Move towards smaller governing bodies
- ▶ Schools joining together with combined governing bodies
- ▶ Some governing bodies appointed by sponsors



So what will 2025 look like for schools?

Some clues in the party manifestos



Looking ahead to 2025.. (1)



- “ensure a good primary school place for your child, with zero tolerance for failure*
- turn every failing and coasting secondary school into an academy and deliver free schools for parents and communities that want them “*

(Conservatives)

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Looking ahead to 2025.. (2)



“– We will protect the entire education budget so that it rises in line with inflation, from the early years through to post-16 education and skills.

– We will raise teaching standards by requiring every teacher to become qualified and continue to update their skills and knowledge, introducing a new Master Teacher status and supporting plans for a College of Teaching

– We will turn around underperforming schools by introducing new Directors of School Standards in every area to monitor the performance of local schools and support them to improve. “

(Labour)



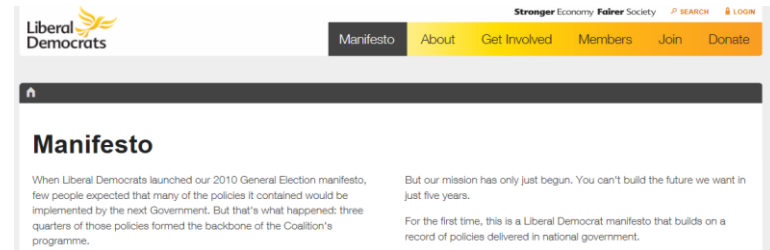
Looking ahead to 2025.. (3)



“We will protect the education budget from nursery to 19 – including early years, schools and 16–19 education.

– we will insist that every child is taught by a qualified teacher. “

(Liberal Democrat)



Looking ahead to 2025.. (4)



“–UKIP will give existing secondary schools the opportunity to become grammar schools

–We want to foster academic education among brighter poorer students still further, and ultimately, UKIP wants to see a grammar school in every town.

–UKIP will push for a range of different types of school, including grammar, vocational, technical and specialist secondary schools within a geographical area.”

(UKIP)



**Worryingly I can't find any mention
of governors in the manifestos...**

What measures would you like the new government to take to improve schools?