



## **Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL Cymru's) and ACM/AMiE response to Guidance and model procedure for school governing bodies in Wales**

**The Association of Teachers and Lecturers** represents over 160,000 education professionals across the four constituent parts of the United Kingdom. It draws its membership from teachers and lecturers, leaders and support staff in maintained and independent schools, and Further Education Colleges. As well as campaigning vigorously to protect and enhance members' pay and conditions ATL also believes that the education profession has a key role in developing education strategy and policy. ATL Cymru represents over 6,500 education professionals in colleges and schools across the whole of Wales.

**The Association for College Management** is the TUC affiliated trade union and professional association that champions, represents and supports managers in the post-16 education and training sector throughout the United Kingdom. Our membership embraces academic and business managers at all levels up to and including college principals. In Wales the Association is governed by the ACM Wales Committee, an autonomous committee of the ACM National Executive Council. There are over four hundred further education college managers in membership of ACM in Wales.

In 2008, realising the common shared values and commitments of Associations, ACM and ATL joined together to form AMiE – the Association of Managers in Education. AMiE represents managers across the spectrum of colleges and secondary and primary schools. As an organisation that crosses the traditional divide between schools and colleges it is thus uniquely placed to voice concerns and provide innovative solutions to the challenges of post-16 education. The formal merger of the two organizations took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

We welcome the publication of this consultation document. We believe that governing bodies in schools need a clear steer on how to handle complaints in the correct manner. We have seen many times in the past issues escalating as school governors have not been equipped in how to adequately deal with complaints. While we support the proposals for compulsory training of governors

we remain skeptical that this will sufficiently answer the problem. We fully accept that this document has limited scope and operates under the present governance dispensation but we would urge that school governance is subjected to the same investigation and scrutiny that has been visited on HE and FE. We do not believe that the current model is either optimal or sustainable.

#### **Section 4: Special Circumstances**

Under complaints that are withdrawn (4.18) we would like to see a section on vexatious complaints added here.

#### **Appendix A: Summary of dealing with concerns and complaints**

We believe that this flowchart is clear and very useful.

#### **Contact:**

Dr Philip Dixon  
Director, ATL Cymru  
Tel: 02920 465 000  
Email: [cymru@atl.org.uk](mailto:cymru@atl.org.uk)