

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT FEDERATION OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (WALES) REGULATIONS 2009

CONSULTATION RESPONSE PROFORMA

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Please tick one of the following boxes that best describes you as a respondent:

School Governing Body []

Headteacher []

School Staff []

Teacher Union [x]

LEA []

Diocesan Body []

Parent []

Pupil []

Other [] Please specify:

Responses to the consultation may be made public. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the author are published along with the response unless you indicate otherwise. Would you prefer that your response is kept confidential.

Yes []

No [x]

Please comment as fully as possible to help us with the guidance.
Responses should be returned by **24 October 2008**.

SECTION 2:

Q1. Do you agree that all categories of school should be able to federate under a single governing body? If not please give your reasons.

Yes.

Different categories of school would find it problematic to federate as there would be different policies in the different schools, causing staff, parents and pupils to see unfairness (Stephen Baldwin).

No- distance governors from the individuals within schools- the picture becomes too big (Janet Trimby)

Q2. Do you agree that schools from different LEAs should be able to federate? If not please give your reasons.

Yes- probably different provision in terms of services, etc

No- problems with ethos, etc (Janet Tribmy)

This could also be problematic. One member commented that they belong to a church which belongs to two different denominations. This can be a problem as all paperwork has to be done twice, once for each denomination. What would happen if LEA's gave different amounts of

Q3. Do you agree that there should be no upper limit on the number of schools that could form or join a governing body federation? If not, please state what you consider the maximum number of schools should be and your reasons.

Limited by upper limit on governors

Geog

Research to see if no which should not be exceeded: not practicable

No- could lead to educational WalMart! (J.T)

In general, members feel that the issue of representation on governing bodies will be a serious problem. Both teaching and non teaching staff need to be represented, as they are now. Every school in a federation would need to be represented, but what about the numbers? Teacher, staff and parent governors would doubtless feel an affiliation with one school out of the federation and those in the bigger school (s) could presumably out vote those in the smaller. For the same reason, it would be unfair to vote for teacher and staff governors from all schools in a single ballot- the voters in

Q4. Do you agree with the principles of governing body membership based on proportional representation? If not please give your reasons.

Yes

No- power struggles, etc (JT)

Q5. Do you agree the minimum and maximum size of a federated governing body should be between 9 and 29 governors (excluding sponsor, additional community and associate pupil governors?)

Yes but see 3
Excessive large bodies

Q6. If not, why do you disagree with these figures and what do you consider should be the minimum and maximum numbers?

Q7. Do you consider that a federation should be managed by an 'appointed officer'. If so who do you consider should carry out this role and why?

Who appoints? Need clarification.

Appointed officer would be a problem if there were other head teachers, but a single head for different school would also be problematic- the head needs to be available to deal with the day-to-day running of the establishment and to make important decisions. (S.Baldwin)

A chair of governors who has no idea about education other than what he is fed is bad enough this would be worse! (JT)

Q8. Do you agree that a federated governing body should be able to appoint a single headteacher to manage the federation. If not please give your reasons.

Yes.

Workload pressure

No- Walmart (JT)

Q9. Are you content that the religious ethos of a school would be preserved under these proposals?

Yes

No- clearly a potential source of conflict (D.Hytch)

Possibly- since the school would be a separate entity from the others, but there would be resentment should there be additional money going to the religious school.

No- JT

Q10. Do you support the proposals regarding the responsibility of the federated governing body for staffing matters? If not please explain why and what alternatives would you propose?

Yes

Teacher and non-teach governorship into one cat- No different groups have different needs (JT)

Q11. Do you agree with the arrangements for Estyn inspection of schools in a governing body federation? If not please give your reasons.

Yes

Q12. Do you agree to the proposals for Estyn inspection of new schools that may join or form a federation? If not please give your reasons.

Balance, not excessive

Section 3:

Q13. Do you have any comments on the process for establishing a federation?

Who ensures?
Importance of buy in

Section 4:

Q14. Do you agree the proposals for parent governor representation and elections? If not please give your reasons.

Yes

Q15. Do you support the proposals to merge the teacher and non teacher governorships into one category? If not please give your reasons.

No

Q16. Do you agree that headteachers should have a 'reserved governorship' unless they choose not to be a governor?

Yes

Yes- D.H

Heads should have direct contact with governors meetings, if only as a friend of the court (JT)

Q17. Do you agree that at least one of the school staff governors should be a teacher (in addition to the headteacher)

Must be

Yes- DH

Absolutely (JT)

Q18. Should all school staff in the schools in the federation be balloted and the person(s) whether teaching or non teaching, who have the majority votes becomes the school staff governor?

No

No- each school needs to be represented (D.H)

1 school, 1 staff governor

Q19. Do you agree that if a member of staff has a child in the school where they are eligible to be a staff governor, the member of staff should be barred from becoming a parent governor.

Yes

Q20. Do you have any comments on these proposals for categories of governors?

See further

Section 5:

Q21. Do you agree the proportional representations of the different types of federations set out in paragraphs 5.5 to 5.11 above? If not please give your reasons.

See

Section 6:

Q22. Do you have any comments on these proposals for the instrument of government?

No

Section 7:

Q23. Do you have any comments on Section 7?

No

Section 8:

Q24. Do you agree with these proposals for schools leaving a federation?

Yes

Section 9;

Q25. Do you agree the process for dissolving federations? If not please give your reasons?

Yes.