



CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The organisation shall be called The **Kent Governance Association** (KGA).

2. Purpose

To champion the highest standards of education for all in Kent by supporting outstanding governance,

3. Values

- 3.1 To put the learner at the centre of everything we do
- 3.2 To promote outstanding governance and education in Kent
- 3.3 To work collaboratively with relevant bodies nationally, locally and county wide
- 3.4 To provide a valued, cost effective support structure for Governors, Members and Trustees across Kent
- 3.5 To be independent of political affiliation

2. Objective(s)

Through the establishment of an Executive Committee (the Executive)

- 2.1 To broaden participation in governance to reflect the culture and diversity of the County
- 2.2 To provide sustainable democratic forums for the exchange of ideas, to identify and distribute best practice and share experience and concerns amongst Education focused Governors, Trustees and Members
- 2.3 To provide formal channels of communication between Governors, Trustees and Members of education providers and Kent County Council (KCC) and a mechanism for consultation and negotiation on educational matters
- 2.4 To further Kent Governance interests regionally and nationally through membership of the National Governance Association (NGA) and other relevant bodies
- 2.5. To provide a coherent voice for making representations to local and central government on matters of common concern
- 2.6 To work with KCC to deliver a sustainable format for local governance network meetings
- 2.7 To work with KCC to improve the skills, competencies' and ability of Kent Governors, Trustees and Members
- 2.8 Based on information provided by KCC, to support the recruitment of Governors, Trustees and Members across Kent

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the KGA shall be open to Governing Bodies of all Kent schools
- 3.2 Individual Governors and Trustees shall be Members of the KGA by virtue of being members of a governing body in Kent
- 3.3 The Education Learning & Skills Corporate Director or nominated representative shall have a right to attend any meeting of the association, its Executive or any working group

4. Finance and Subscription

- 4.1 The Executive is committed to keeping any charges to Members to a minimum.
- 4.2 The Executive will review its subscription rates annually
- 4.3 The Executive will negotiate its funding and Affiliation fees to the NGA with Kent County Council annually

5. Executive (Committee) Members and Officers

- 5.1 The Executive shall consist of a maximum of 30 Members and ideally comprise of:
 - Up to two Members selected by and from each of the local districts
 - representation from across the spectrum of delivery models
 - a representative of the Children, Young People and Education DirectorateA maximum of six additional memberships may be offered at the discretion of the Executive
- 5.2 At the first meeting of each academic year, the Executive shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair
- 5.3 No Chair or Vice Chair may normally hold office for more than 3 years consecutively
- 5.4 The term of office for an Executive Member shall normally be four years. No Executive Member may normally hold office for more than two terms (8 years)
- 5.5 Where a local district fails to select or elect an Executive Member, the Executive will make every effort to encourage and support a local appointment. However, where this proves impossible the Executive may make its own appointment in order to strengthen and support long term local participation
- 5.6 An Executive Member may be removed from office if he/she has failed to attend a KGA executive meeting for 6 months without offering accepted apologies
- 5.7 The quorum shall be one third of those executives in office. The chair shall have a second or casting vote if there are equal numbers for and against a proposal
- 5.8 The Executive shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Association
- 5.9 The Executive shall appoint a Clerk to the association to be paid as a level 2 clerk in accordance with the KCC Clerking Agency rates
- 5.10 A resolution to amend this constitution can only be considered by the Association at a county meeting at which an amendment to the constitution is shown as an agenda item
- 5.11 The Executive will be governed by the Policies of KCC
- 5.12 The Members of the Executive are unpaid volunteers who may claim any demonstrable, reasonable expenses in accordance with KCC expenses Policy

6. Working Groups

The Executive may establish such working groups as it sees fit.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 There shall be three Countywide Governance Assemblies per year, autumn, spring and summer
- 7.2 To consider special and immediate concerns, 'Additional County meetings' may be called either by the Executive or as requested by a minimum of 10 governing bodies
- 7.3 The Executive shall draw up the agenda for each Countywide meeting and approve the minutes of each meeting

7.4 The Executive shall meet a minimum of three times each Year, with each meeting planned to precede a Countywide Assembly by a minimum of one month. Additional meetings of the Executive may be convened at such times as they deem necessary to conduct the effective management of the Association.

8. Representation on other bodies

Where the Association is invited to nominate representatives to other bodies, such persons shall be selected in accordance with any protocols agreed by the Executive.

9. Dissolution

If the Executive decides, by a two third majority vote of those attending a quorate meeting, to propose the dissolution of the KGA, it shall call a Special General Meeting (SGM) for all Members of the Association giving not less than 60 days' notice to debate and decide the issue. If a two third majority of those attending and voting agree with the Executive, the KGA shall be dissolved.

Amended by the KGA Executive, February 2017


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Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform


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Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Directorate for Children, Young People and Education


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Chair, Kent Governance Association