



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



2014 Amendments To The School Governance Regulations 2012

July 2014

Explanatory note for dioceses and schools

1. The Department for Education have made several amendments to the School Governance Regulations 2012. All schools are now required to be constituted under these regulations by 1 September 2015.
2. The 2014 amendments enable governing bodies to structure their membership more effectively:
 - a. A smaller governing body is more likely to be cohesive and dynamic.
 - b. Governors should be appointed according to the skills needs of the governing body, rather than on a stakeholder representative basis.
3. The mechanism for reducing the size of the governing body is explained in the statutory guidance, and involves undertaking a skills audit.
4. Governing bodies *may* reconstitute from 1 September 2014 and *must* reconstitute by 1 September 2015. The initial amending regulations created some confusion about this, but new regulations have introduced a clarifying amendment to avoid any doubt.
5. When approaching the changes, the following documents are important:
 - a. [The School Governance \(Constitution\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) or [The School Governance \(Federation\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
 - b. [The School Governance \(Constitution and Federations\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)
 - c. [The Department's Guidance](#) (n.b. As statutory guidance, governing bodies are required to have regard to this)
6. The National Society recognises the challenges associated with reconstituting all governing bodies over a single year, but regards these changes as an exciting opportunity to bring renewed energy and focus to the work governors in Church Schools. To that end we will circulate resources to support governing bodies in the process of reconstitution wherever possible.

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