

Membership, principles and terms of reference of the Education Partnership

THE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Membership

Individual member organisations will be responsible for representing and acting in the interests of their members and may send one representative to any Education Partnership meeting.

The Secretary of State may invite representatives of other organisations to particular meetings on an *ad hoc* basis, if he considers that this would assist the Partnership in carrying out its business.

Members [*invitations have been sent to:*]

Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)

GMB

Local Government Association (LGA) (4 representatives to reflect the scope of the LGA and its agencies)

National Governors Association (NGA)

National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

NASUWT

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)

UNISON

Unite the Union

VOICE

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)

Remit, Principles and Terms of Reference

Remit

The purpose of the Education Partnership will be to discuss, debate and engage its members in the development and implementation of DfE policy, particularly its implications for the school workforce. The Partnership will support the Government's priorities - including those to raise standards; reduce burdens; and raise the status of teachers - by providing a forum for representatives of relevant trade unions and professional organisations to work together constructively with DfE, contributing their professional and organisational perspectives to the consideration of workforce implications of education policy and its implementation.

Principles and Terms of Reference underpinning the Partnership will be as follows:

- ⇒ Membership is a continuing commitment. Members should participate on the basis that they fully intend to remain members for the duration of the Partnership.
- ⇒ Normal working will be by consultation, but by consensus on specific issues, as indicated by the Secretary of State.
- ⇒ Discussions must take place in confidence, to allow members to give constructive consideration to all the ideas or issues discussed, including any that they would not necessarily wish to be known to be discussing. Papers should be treated on a 'without prejudice' basis and be kept confidential to the Group and their immediate colleagues, unless there is clear agreement that a particular paper can be shared more widely. All members will maintain the confidentiality of discussions; apply an agreed protocol for dealing with the media on Partnership business; and engage constructively in discussion so that progress can be made. Organisations should not brief the media either before or after meetings on the proceedings of the Partnership.

⇒ The Partnership's work programme will focus on the Secretary of State's priorities; but all members are free to suggest agenda items and offer papers for discussion, consulting the Secretariat on timing and circulation. The Secretary of State's initial priorities for the Partnership's consideration are:

- Reducing bureaucracy: to deregulate and to reduce bureaucracy in schools, thereby freeing up schools to focus on raising standards; and
- Behaviour and discipline: to strengthen teacher authority over pupils and minimise opportunities for challenge to their authority; to toughen school discipline and make it easier for teachers to deal with violent incidents and remove disruptive pupils or items from the classroom; and to improve radically the environment in which disruptive and excluded pupils are educated.

⇒ The Secretary of State and his Ministers have ultimate responsibility for ensuring the development and implementation of education policy. Members will support and promote any agreed position and work together on its implementation.

Structure

The Partnership will operate by means of a bi-monthly meeting, chaired by a Minister, attended by General Secretaries.