



**A Presentation  
to the Worshipful Company of Educators**

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**Governance:  
The past, the present, and future  
prospects**

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**Governance:  
The past; the present and future prospects**

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**The past . . . . .  
The School Governance Study 2008**

- A national survey of with 5000 respondents
- Interviews with approximately 50 stakeholders
- Interviews with 30 headteachers
- Funded by Business in the Community
- Subsequently taken forward with further analysis and study





## Governance:

The past; the present and future prospects

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### **The School Governance Study 2008 Main messages**

- School governing is important.
- Generally, school governing is working well but there is scope for improvement.
- Schools are changing and governing will need to change.
- School governing is overcomplicated



## Governance:

The past; the present and future prospects

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### **The School Governance Study 2008 Main messages – continued**

- School governing does not have a sufficiently high profile.
- New arrangements for school governing are emerging
- The role and nature of school governing needed to be better understood at all levels





## Governance:

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### **The School Governance Study 2008 Some reflections . . .**

- School governing – overloaded, overcomplicated, and overlooked
- The role of the chair, and the role of the clerk
- School governing under pressure
- The stakeholder model
- The role of the local authority



## Governance:

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### **The State of School Governing Project 2014**

- A national survey of governors
- 7000 respondents
- Findings compared with the 2008 survey

Supported by the University of Bath, the Education and Employers Taskforce, the National Governors Association and the Department for Education





## The State of School Governing in England in 2014

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- **School governing in England is functioning well and moving in the right direction** – significant improvements since 2008
- **Governor recruitment** - 66% of respondents said recruiting governors is difficult – and in all governor categories.
- **Recruiting difficulties** - can impact negatively on governing body effectiveness



## The State of School Governing in England in 2014

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- **Governing bodies and the core responsibilities assigned to them.** Governing bodies strongly prioritise their school's educational and financial performance – less priority given to longer term strategic issues
- **The role of the chair** - An important educational leadership and management responsibility
- **The role of the clerk** - Is a step-change needed in how the role is viewed?





## The State of School Governing in England in 2014

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### **School governors typically make a substantial and very positive contribution**

- Governing practices are typically 'high level' and significant.
- As volunteers, governors are responsible for a large slice of the schools budget of £46billion/year.
- Governors spend a considerable amount of time on their governing work – which is worth about £1billion a year.



## Governance: The present, and future prospects

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### **The present, and future prospects**

- The current context for school governing is very turbulent and challenging.
- The school system is experiencing an enormous amount of change, for example, the curriculum and assessment, teacher training and structural change.
- 'Academisation'





Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- The declining/changing role of the local authority
- The formation of multi academy trusts
- The regional schools commissioners



Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- Sponsorship of schools requiring improvement
- The education system is very fragmented
- The nature of government policy proposals
- School funding





Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- The working of multi-academy trusts
  - The scheme of delegation – maximising delegated responsibility
  - The matrix management problem
  - The silo-MAT issue
  - MATs as mini-local authorities



Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- Recruitment is likely to remain an issue
- A pressure to make governing bodies smaller (‘It’s not a question of how big it is but how good it is’).
- The local government involvement
- The role of the church/religion in the system





Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- Making sure parents have a significant place in school governing and governance
- The role of the Regional Schools Commissioners
- Making sure school governors still have a governing role



Governance:  
The present, and future prospects

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**The present, and future prospects**

- Making sure the new MAT-based system is sustainable
- The payment of governors
- The future of a state-funded system

