

**BUXTON GOVERNOR'S CLUSTER GROUP**  
*Notes from the informal meeting held at*  
*St. Anne's Primary School, Thursday 23 April 2009*

*In attendance: Ken Airey, Burbage Primary, Stuart Conway, St. Anne's Primary & DSGA, Dawn Cummins, Peak Forest, Fr. Dennis Higgins, St. Anne's Primary, Charles Kitchen, Fairfield Endowed Junior, Peter Maxwell, Peak Forest, Lisa Rees, Fairfield Endowed Junior, Phil Smith, Buxton Junior, & Emma Steeples, Buxton Infants School.*

*Apologies: Roger Cooper, Burbage Primary.*

*Father Higgins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following introductions Stuart gave feedback from the previous meeting. Emma also reported that Paul Saunders was not able to attend this meeting but is willing to give us his input at a future meeting. It was agreed that we would accept his kind offer.*

*The group considered some of the implications for Governors in respect of the new Ofsted framework for inspections. It is proposed that there is to be a clearer focus upon the work of Governors. This is linked to the issues in the forthcoming report on Governance where the size of Governing Bodies and their effectiveness is under review. Documents on Governing Body self-evaluation were distributed for members to share with their Governing Bodies. Evidence is obviously an important element of this aspect of Governing Body self-evaluation.*

*Succession Planning, and its implications for Governors, was briefly discussed and this may need to be an agenda item in the near future.*

*Members offered suggestions as to how the group can generate more interest and improve attendance at these meetings. It was agreed that we should identify our own needs and determine how best these could be met. If we conducted a skills audit of all our Governors we would probably find expertise that could be shared to help us in some aspects of our work. Governor Support could also be approached to deliver local training and updating for us. Stuart will negotiate with Governor Support on costs for such services.*

**ISSUES IDENTIFIED:**

**ATTENDANCE AT CLUSTER MEETINGS**

**CHILD PROTECTION & ALLEGATIONS**

**GOVERNOR TRAINING, MENTORING & UPDATING**

**HEALTH & SAFETY                      SERVICES IN SCHOOLS**

**LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ROLE OF THE CLERK**

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS e.g. numeracy & literacy**

**PARTICIPATION IN CLASSROOMS**

*Father Higgins kindly offered to invite other Governors to attend their Governing Body meetings. This would give some insight as to how the Governing Body at St. Anne's operate. Stuart will discuss further and arrange for invitations to be sent. Are other Governing Bodies willing to offer similar invites?*

*We do need a strategy for improving attendance at our Cluster meetings. The notes and agendas will be published on the DGSA website. There will also be a reminder just prior to a scheduled meeting. It would be of great help if Governors would kindly confirm their attendance to the host school.*

*A collection of hand-outs and documents were available from DSGA (Derbyshire School Governors Association) and the NGA (National Governors Association) at the meeting. Stuart will ensure that similar updates will also be available at future meetings.*

*If there are issues you wished to be brought to the attention of Alan Charles please let Stuart know prior to their next meeting that is planned for the 22 June 2009.*

***THE NEXT MEETING IS TO BE HELD AT PEAK FOREST ON THE 2 JUNE AT 7.30pm. THE AGENDA WILL BE CIRCULATED IN DUE COURSE.***

*The meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to all who attended and to St. Anne's for their hospitality. Special thanks to Hilary for opening the school and making the refreshments.*