

**DERBYSHIRE SCHOOL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION  
AND  
DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUED EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP**

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## ***STRATEGIC OVERVIEW***

This agreement is designed to secure a structured approach to ensuring the quality and effectiveness of school improvement strategies through a working partnership between the autonomous and independent Derbyshire School Governors' Association and the Derbyshire Local Authority.

School governors have a key role to play, alongside other stakeholders, as champions for the Every Child Matters agenda based on coherent local visions for Children and Younger People and appropriate strategic decision making at school and community levels.

Governors are unique as a wholly volunteer workforce carrying a high degree of responsibility and accountability.

The Association and the Local Authority recognise that school improvements and the achievement of high standards as supported by sound strategic planning on the part of school governing bodies and by the Local Authority.

Thus the Association and the Derbyshire Local Authority share a number of key purposes and aims.

Collectively therefore, we have agreed to work together with common purpose and method to:

- Promote school improvement and high standards of educational achievement in all the Local Authority's schools.
- Promote high standards of governance in all the Local Authority's schools and recognise the importance of governors' collective views presented by the Association.
- Promote mutual trust, transparency and communication between the local Authority and schools through partnership working.
- Encourage and develop school governors understanding and ownership of the E.C.M. agenda, including the relationship to extended service provision and Children's Centres.
- Encourage, support and promote cooperation between governing bodies to further the interests of all children attending Derbyshire schools, disseminate good practice, and provide regular updates on strategic policy and exchange of information.
- Support and encourage the provision of information, research advice and high quality training for governors and governing bodies in Derbyshire.
- Hold meetings, seminars, workshops, courses, exhibitions, conferences, as appropriate to inform school governors and advance the provision of high quality public education in Derbyshire.
- Facilitate and encourage every Derbyshire school governing body to maintain active interest and participation in Association activities and functions.

Both organisations share a concern for securing adequate resource provision for education in Derbyshire.

Both are learning organisations committed to active, responsive, working partnership.

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Derbyshire Local Authority will work with Derbyshire School Governors' Association to secure governor representatives to sit on statutory committees/admissions as appropriate.

### ***PLANNING AND STYLE OF WORKING***

Derbyshire Local Authority and Derbyshire School Governors' Association are committed to working closely and cooperatively, but with rigour and challenge.

They aim to:

- Have an honest dialogue which supports informed debate, problem solving and planning.
- Share and celebrate joint achievements and successes.
- Seek to conduct their business in an open and consultative manner.

### ***JOINT WORKING***

There will be many informal opportunities for working together on issues of mutual concern. However both organisations are committed to meeting formally in the following forums:

Collectively, we agree to work together using the following methods:

- A continual review of partnership arrangements
- Dissemination of information and the sharing of examples of good practice
- A collaborative approach to raising the profile of the respective roles of the Authority and the Association
- A collaborative approach to identifying priorities
- Regular exchanges of information and updates on strategic policy and service changes
- A joint approach to raising awareness of school improvement and promoting governance issues
- To have agreed systems in place to ensure a consistent, collaborative, co-ordinated approach to governor system
- The joint provision of high quality training opportunities closely linked to the identified needs for the governing bodies
- To sustain the independence of the Association. Funding to the organisation will be considered by the Cabinet Member and Director of Children and Younger Adults on an annual basis
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of services to schools through Best Value review and feedback to the Authority on the quality of service
- Association representation, where appropriate, on Authority committees and working parties
- Association to be nominating body for governors for election to statutory committees where appropriate

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***EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT***

Both organisations are committed to an ongoing review of the effectiveness of the partnership and will hold an annual evaluative review meeting from the agenda and working practices for the forthcoming year will be agreed.

Peter Thorne, President of Derbyshire School Governors' Association

Signed.....

Paul Mason, Hon Secretary, Derbyshire School Governors' Association

Signed.....

David Shaw, Deputy Director

Signed.....

Alan Charles, Cabinet Member for School Planning and Support

Signed.....