

# Governors Wales

## Publications

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) commissioned Governors Wales to produce a revised complaints policy. The draft has been accepted by WAG and will be incorporated into the revised circular guidance, 'School Governing Body Complaints Procedures' in due course.

Governors Wales has recently produced fact files on 'The Annual Parents' Meeting' and 'Associate Pupil Governors'. These have been published in the last two issues of Cadwyn or may be found on the Governors Wales website: [www.governorswales.org.uk](http://www.governorswales.org.uk)

## Events

The summary report of the conference held on the 12th July 2008 on the School Effectiveness Framework is now available to be viewed or downloaded from the Governors Wales website (address above).

A regional conference was also held in North Wales on 23rd October in Llandudno. It is anticipated that one or more South Wales regional conferences will be held in the 2009 Spring term

## Clerks' Award

Arrangements for the clerks' award are underway. The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will present the award to the winner in Wales in an awards ceremony to be held on March 5th 2009 at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells.

Information was sent out to Chairs of Governors and LEAs last month (October).

## Future publications/events for 2008-2009

It is anticipated that three Governor Guides on Effective Governing Bodies will be produced for publication, the first at the end of this term and the remaining two in the Spring of 2009.

Further information is available from the Governors Wales' office:

Tel: 029 2048 7858 E-mail: [contact@governorswales.org.uk](mailto:contact@governorswales.org.uk)

# VSGA Chairs' Seminars

Date	Venue	Time
Mon 17 November	Llantwit Major Comprehensive School	7-9.00pm
Wed 19 November	Barry Comprehensive School, Barry	7-9.00pm

Governors are encouraged to attend one of the above Chairs' Seminars that are being delivered by the Vale School Governors Association (VSGA) Management Committee. They are being delivered by governors for governors at the above schools.

Each session will focus on **governing body committee structures with specific reference to finance** and how this can contribute to the overall effectiveness of the governing body. These sessions follow on from those held in November 2007 and May 2008 and aim to share good practice, providing an excellent opportunity to network with Chairs and Vice Chairs of other governing bodies in your area.

If you are an experienced Chair or Vice Chair this is the ideal forum to pass on your knowledge and expertise to lesser experienced Chairs and Vice Chairs for their benefit however these sessions are not only restricted to them. Any members of the governing body are welcome to attend.

If you haven't already booked your place you can do so by emailing [JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or ringing 01446 709106/8 (direct line).

Governor Support Unit

# Race Equality Briefing for School Governors



The Vale of Glamorgan Council Equalities Department recently commissioned Race Equality First to produce a Race Equality Briefing for School Governors. The briefing paper which has been distributed to all Chairs, Clerks and Headteachers highlights key areas of Race Equality that governing bodies have a responsibility to comply with.

According to Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, the governing body of a school is ultimately responsible for

- making sure the school complies with the amended Race Relations Act 1976
- making sure the race equality policy and its procedures are followed.

The duties of schools, as per the Act, are as follows:

## The General Duty:

The general duty, as set out in section 71(1) of the Act, says you must have 'due regard to the need':

- to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- to promote equality of opportunity
- good relations between persons of different racial groups

## Specific Duties

The Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2001 says that the governing body of a school must:

- (1) prepare a written race equality policy
- (2) assess the impact of its policies on pupils, staff and parents of different racial groups
- (3) monitor the impact and operation of such policies
- (4) Publish annually the results of the above monitoring

## Race Equality Policy...

is a crucial specific duty to be met. You must have a written race equality policy and review it every three years.

Code of Practice produced by former Commission for Racial Equality (now EHRC) also says:

The race equality policy should be a written statement of responsibilities and commitments. It could be linked to an action plan for putting the policy into practice. A good policy would:

- a. be part of the school's development plan;
- b. give details of how the school will put the policy into practice and assess how effective it is;
- c. clearly define roles and responsibilities, so that people know what is expected of them; and
- d. explain clearly what the school will do if the policy is not followed.

Further advice on what should be included on the policy can be obtained from "The duty to promote race equality, a guide for schools" available on EHRC's website. Also from Race Equality First and from Vale of Glamorgan Council's equality team.

If you do have any further queries after reading the briefing paper then please contact either: Alicja Zalesinska on 029 2022 4097 at Race Equality First – [www.refweb.org.uk](http://www.refweb.org.uk)

Vale of Glamorgan Council Equalities Team on 01446 709446 or by email: [equalities@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)