

**Response Form**

**Consultation closing date: 28 February 2017**

**Your comments must reach us by this date**

**Consultation Paper - changes to the  
arrangements for school governance in  
maintained schools**

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| Name of Organisation (if applicable): Association of School and College Leaders |
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## Proposal – Enabling maintained school boards to remove elected governors

**Q1 – Do you agree that governing bodies should be able to remove an elected governor for such serious conduct that, for example, is contrary to fundamental British values, repeatedly brings the board into disrepute, or in circumstances where a governor has already been suspended on multiple occasions?**

|   |                             |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

We agree that there should be a mechanism to enable elected governors to be removed under certain circumstances. We would encourage the department to consider the following suggestions:

1. It would be better if the responsibility for removing a governor were to rest with the school's 'sponsoring body' (e.g. LA, religious authority, trust members, trustees) rather than the governing body itself. This would enable the chair to be removed if necessary, as well as other governors. We would therefore suggest the introduction of a mechanism for the governing body to ask the sponsoring body to remove an elected governor.
2. There should be an appeals process for a removed elected governor. It is important to ensure that this power is not exploited by governing bodies which are simply uncomfortable with the views or level of challenge presented by a particular governor. This is important for natural justice and to ensure compatibility with human rights legislation.

**Q2 – Should being removed from office make the individual ineligible from being re-elected or appointed as a governor at the same school or other schools?**

|   |                             |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

This is essential in order to prevent a potentially damaging cycle of removed governors simply standing again and being re-elected. The ban should stand indefinitely.

**Q3 – Do you think it is sufficient for specific examples/ expectations on the use of this power to be set out in statutory guidance rather than have the specific circumstances in which the power can be used fixed in regulations?**

|   |                             |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Responses should be emailed to [AGOG.Communications@education.gov.uk](mailto:AGOG.Communications@education.gov.uk)

Completed responses must be received within the department by close of business on 28 February 2017.