

26 MAR 2009

Memo

To: David Hermitt
From: Bryn Thomas, NASUWT School Rep, Bob Griffiths NUT School Rep
CC: Janet Newton, Carol Taylor, Helen Vale
Date: 26/03/2009
Re: Proposed move to Foundation Status

Foundation status may well bring with it many positives but we feel that there are inherent dangers with such a move. The reduction of LA governors could lead to an imbalance on the governing body that could be to the detriment of the school. Who will be the 'watch dogs' and will they be heard? Furthermore, a rigorous appointment process is in place for appointments such as deputy or head, but will such a process be in place for governors? How can the governors be sure that the school is getting the right quality of governor? Some are elected. Are they all elected? Are some invited or co-opted? What is the process and is it rigorous? All of these questions become more pertinent when the balance is altered.

The governing body will have a great deal of power and responsibility but without the supporting system of checks and balances that have been in place in the local authority model of school administration. If the governing body is swayed by personalities, particularly with no responsible group having oversight, then this could be disastrous for the school.

Bryn

Bob