

THE IZAAK WALTON AGREEMENT

"Excellence and innovation for rural communities"

1. PURPOSE AND DEFINITION

Peak 11 is a federation of the eleven secondary schools in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales area of Derbyshire. It exists to raise standards. It will bring to these rural learning communities even higher standards of excellence than are currently being achieved. In particular, it aims to plan collaboratively a coherent and inclusive curriculum for the young people in our area, using a range of innovative strategies in partnership with other agencies and providers.

2. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 The Strategic Board

2.1.1 The Strategic Board (SB) will oversee the activities of the Federation. In particular it will:

- act as the guardian of the Izaak Walton Agreement (IWA). It will review the Agreement annually and no changes to it will be made without its consent;
- approve an annual development plan and reports of progress against the objectives in that plan;
- approve any new members and review the list of partners annually;
- arbitrate in cases of dispute between the members of the executive when a majority of the executive so wish;
- be accountable to funding bodies and the governing bodies of the eleven schools for the work of the Federation.

2.1.2 The SB will consist of the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of each of the eleven schools. By agreement with the Chair, these individuals may be represented at meetings by another senior member of staff or another governor. Meetings will be attended by senior officers of the LEA and Derbyshire LSC and the Executive Officer of the Federation but these individuals will not have voting rights. The SB will elect a Chair annually. This person may not be a member of the Executive and may not represent the same school as the person elected to chair the executive (q.v.). If voting is evenly divided, the Chair will have the casting vote.

- 2.1.3 The Chair may take Chair's action outside of the SB meetings, if for example a signature is required on an agreement already approved by the Executive. Such action must be reported to the SB at its next meeting.
- 2.1.4 The SB will meet twice in every academic year. Extraordinary meetings outside these times may be convened by a request to the Chair signed by at least four schools or by a letter of resignation from one of the eleven schools. A quorum shall consist of representation from eight schools. By agreement with the Chair, if only one representative from a school is present, he or she may cast a proxy vote on behalf of the absent representative.
- 2.1.5 Minutes and agendas of the SB will be available for inspection in all schools and copies will be sent to the Chief Education Officer.

2.2 The Executive

- 2.2.1 The Executive will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership of the Federation. In particular, it will:
- prepare the annual plan;
 - report on the progress of the annual plan;
 - receive reports from the working groups (q.v.);
 - agree terms of reference for the working groups.
 - make bids for external funds;
 - monitor progress of all projects, reporting twice a year to the SB;
 - allocate funding to schools either by the agreed formula or by varying from this where the need arises. Such allocations shall be reported to the SB;
 - purchase services such as consultancy, marketing or evaluation;
- 2.2.2 The Executive will consist of the heads of the eleven schools, with the Executive Officer in attendance. It will elect a Chair each academic year. This person may not represent the same school as the person elected to chair the SB.
- 2.2.3 The Executive will meet at least six times a year.

2.3 Working Groups (WGs)

- 2.3.1 Working Groups will be set up in relation to particular issues. Some groups will have the role of 'standing committees', acting as liaison groups for ongoing work. Others will be project based, delivering agreed outcomes to an agreed deadline. Standard terms of reference will state:

- which school leads that group or groups;
- the frequency of reporting to the Executive;
- the arrangements for clerking;
- the chair or facilitator, who need not be a headteacher;
- any aims or targets relating to an external funding body or the agreed plan;
- the name or job title of any LEA or LSC officer who may be invited to act as link for the project.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The eleven schools of the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales are foundation members. Only members may use the Peak 11 logo and stationery. From time to time, the SB may consider increasing the membership. Only the SB can admit a new member.
- 3.2 Any member may resign from the Federation by giving six months notice in writing to the SB, stating the reasons for its resignation. The SB will then meet to discuss the reasons for the resignation, agree any changes to the IWA and any measures which need to be taken to ensure that the work of that school and the supporting funding received is reallocated.
- 3.3 Any member has the right to be included in any project, unless the terms of the body funding that project explicitly exclude the school for reasons beyond its control. Equally, there is a principle of subsidiarity: any member has the right to abstain from any particular project if it feels that the project is inappropriate for its needs or priorities at that time.
- 3.4 Although membership is limited to the eleven schools, the Federation will form partnerships with other agencies in order to carry out its objectives. The SB will invite organisations to become partners, and agree with the organisation how this partnership will assist the Federation with one or more of its objectives. Partnership status will normally be reviewed after 12 months. Federation partners may use the Peak 11 partner logo.
- 3.5 If at some stage in the future, it is necessary to consider the dissolution of the federation the following steps should be taken by the SB:
- A special meeting of the SB should be convened, with not less than 10 working days notice being given of the meeting.
 - This meeting should receive reports on the circumstances giving rise to the need for dissolution and on the current commitments, financial and other, which the federation has incurred.

- If the SB decides it is appropriate to dissolve the federation the SB should determine the date on which the federation will cease to exist and determine terms of reference for a small committee to oversee the practical steps which will need to be taken. These are likely to include the apportioning of any assets or liabilities and the allocation to individual schools of any outstanding work required under existing contracts. The advice of the local authority will be sought at all stages.
- The SB must inform all members and all partner organisations of the decision to dissolve the federation within three working days of the meeting.

4. STAFFING

- 4.1 Peak 11 is not an employer. It does however need to buy support services so as to avoid headteachers' time being taken up by administration of the Federation and may use some of its project income to buy the services of a consultant.
- 4.2 It does need core support from an Executive Officer. This individual will provide clerking to the executive and the SB as well as to any working groups that may require it and will undertake executive functions set out by the Executive.
- 4.3 It may also buy administrative support from a school, either in relation to a particular project for which that school is lead school or in relation to core support as determined by the executive.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1 Individual projects will be self-funding. The lead school is responsible for reporting on money spent against allocation to the funding body and the SB. Some of the project funding will cover overheads such as dissemination and administration.
- 5.2 The SB will set an annual budget for the administration of core functions. This will include core staffing, travel, marketing and publicity, the servicing of meetings and some training and development.
- 5.3 Each member will make an annual contribution. The SB will determine the amount of the total membership contribution, taking into account the budget required and any support from the LEA or the LSC and any external donations and contributions made. The amount payable by each school will then be determined by the agreed formula.
- 5.4 Unless an external funding body determines otherwise, any external project money coming into the Federation will be allocated to schools by the agreed formula, after any central costs have been taken into account. The agreed formula will be published with the annual budget. The Executive has the power to vary this formula, taking into account the principle of subsidiarity, but must report such variation to the SB.

- 5.5 The current agreed formula is 40% distributed equally between all schools plus 60% distributed on the basis of pupil numbers.

6. EVALUATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

6.1 Since we are aiming for excellence, standards are crucial and need to be monitored.

6.2 Evaluation will be carried out in two ways:

- arrangements for evaluation will be built into each project;
- the Federation will enter into a partnership with an external institution to carry out an agreed programme of evaluation

6.3 A Peak 11 quality assurance system will be devised. This will make use of particular specialisms and any Leading Edge schools within the Federation to develop teaching skills across the curriculum. The following data will be monitored and published for the Federation:

- year on year retention and progression data;
- year on year student attainment data

6.4 In time, we expect this to interact with the LEA QDD system.

7. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7.1 Members should take every opportunity to bring Peak 11 to public attention. In particular, they are expected to:

- use the logo on their stationery;
- refer to Peak 11 in any public report on a Peak 11 project;
- include Peak 11 activities in newsletters, advertisements, governors' reports and heads' reports to governors;
- include a Peak 11 specific section in their School Improvement Plan.

7.2 A Peak 11 newsletter will be published at intervals to be agreed and a Peak 11 website will be established and arrangements made for regular updates and contact points.

7.3 A Peak 11 Conference Day will be held every two years and a closure day may be dedicated to this.

8. RELATIONSHIP WITH DERBYSHIRE LEA AND LSC

8.1 Each annual plan will clearly show the role played by the LEA and LSC.

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