

Survey results March 2023

Between January and March 2023, the DSGA ran a survey to assess the degree to which the website was used and to gather ideas for improvements, prior to relaunching an updated website later this year. Chairs of all Derbyshire schools were contacted, and we received nineteen responses as noted below. The map below shows that schools were distributed fairly evenly across the county, but the list below shows that all but one of the schools were infant/primary.

Schools whose Chairs responded:

1. Burbage Primary School	11. Heage Primary School
2. Coton-in-the-Elms Primary School	12. Killamarsh Infant and Nursery School
3. Crich Infants School	13. Melbourne Infant School
4. Cutthorpe Primary School	14. Newhall Infants and Nursery
5. Eyam C of E Primary School	15. Ripley St Johns CE Primary School and Nursery
6. Fairfield Endowed CofE (C) Junior School	16. Swanwick Sports College
7. Fairfield Infant and Nursery School	17. Tansley Primary School
8. Firfield Primary School	18. Turnditch Primary School
9. Hadfield C of E Junior School	19. Valley Federation of Edale and Hope Primary Schools
10. Hadfield Nursery School	<i>(Edale shown on map)</i>

Answers to questions:

Question	Yes	No
Viewed website in last 3 months	7	12
Found information looking for	7	-
Receive DSGA newsletter ¹	4	14
Attended DCC annual conference ²	3	11
Willing to share good practice	12	2

The table above shows that most respondents had not visited the website, do not receive the DSGA newsletter, and have not attended the annual DCC conference. However, the majority are willing to share good practice.

Ideas

We asked for ideas for improvement and several respondents replied to this – the ideas are listed below:

- Guidance on how to request an external review. LA contacts.
- How to deal with difficult situations and especially where to get advice.

¹ Note: the DSGA Newsletter is not currently being distributed, but we hope to restart it in the future.

² This year's conference is entitled **Inspire, Lead, Create. Stronger Together – a brighter and inclusive future for all** and takes place on Thursday July 6th & Friday July 7th 2023 at The Derbyshire Hotel, South Normanton, M1 Jct 28, Derbyshire (day 2 is for Governors). Details and booking information are on the S4S website here: <https://services.derbyshire.gov.uk/Event/197856>

- Information about:- How Federations are working - Sharing of good practice - Information on MAT formation - Potential governors and clerks.
- Links to support for governors relating to items for example finance, legal responsibilities, FAQs, where to get support from, free training, etc.
- Dates of meetings. DfE guidance, White Papers.
- Information on actual or realistic case studies.
- Ofsted & safeguarding updates.
- Signposting for good practice.
- Anecdotes of good practice from other governors.
- A 'live' Q&A section for governors³.
- Good ideas section where schools describe best practice which is economical on time.

Finally, we also asked for any further comments, and received the two comments below.

Comments

- To be honest – DSGA always seemed to be a bit of a closed organisation – those in the know join and run it; not really representative of schools across the county.
- I have never had any communication from the DSGA, I have never seen its website and have no idea what it offers.

Conclusions

- From the evidence we have, not many people visit (or know about?) the DSGA web site (note – the address is <https://www.dsga.org.uk/>). We will do our best to raise the profile (and usefulness) of the web site in the future.
- The two comments are obviously a concern. The DSGA Executive are unanimous in wanting the organisation to be as open and inclusive as possible and would be keen to both receive new members on the Executive Committee and respond to any specific concerns or issues directly (there is a contact form on the web site here: <https://dsga.org.uk/index.php/contact/7-cilla-hollman>).
- Several good ideas have been put forward. We cannot action all of them immediately, but will do our best to work towards them. Good practice examples/guides were mentioned, and if your school has any examples you would like to share, we would love to hear from you, and put it up on the web site!

We wish to thank all those Chairs who took time to respond to the survey, and will do our best to improve the DSGA and raise its profile in the coming months. Look out for us at Strategic Briefings, the Leadership Conference (see note 2) and other events – we would love to chat!

³ Note that DCC have started hosting a Chairs' networking session (two online events have been held so far). The next session is 27 Jun 2023 18:00 - 19:00 and can be booked here: <https://services.derbyshire.gov.uk/Event/198775>

