



Subject Heading:

Representation on the Schools Funding Forum

Report Author:

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Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This report updates members on the current membership of the Schools Funding Forum and proposes a revision based on the most up to date pupil numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum agrees Option C from the proposals set out in section 3 below.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

DFE guidance on schools forums advises as follows:

There is no maximum or minimum size of a schools forum. Authorities may take various issues into account in deciding the actual size, including the need to have full representation for various types of school, and the local authority's policy on representation of non-schools members. However, care should be taken to keep the schools forum to a reasonable size to ensure that it does not become too unwieldy.

Types of member: schools forums must have 'schools members', 'academies members and 'non-schools members'. Schools and academies members together must number at least two-thirds of the total membership of the schools forum and the balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category, so the structure of Forum should be regularly reviewed.

Academies members must represent mainstream academies and, if there are any in the LA area, special academies and alternative provision academies. There is no requirement for academies members to represent specific primary and secondary phases, but it is encouraged that representation remains broadly proportionate to pupil numbers. Academy members must be separately elected and designated from maintained school representatives.

The DFE operational guidance states that Schools Forum members will need the skills and competencies to manage Forum business and to take a strategic view across the whole education estate whilst acting as representative of the group that has elected them. Furthermore, they should be easily contactable and pro-active in raising the profile of issues and communicate decisions, and the reasons behind them, effectively.

2. The need for review

Since the current constitution was agreed there has been an increase in the number of maintained schools that have become academies and it is likely that more will convert during the academic year 2017/18. The introduction of a national funding formula will lead to a DFE review of the future of Schools Forums but in the meantime it continues to be statutory requirement for a Schools Forum in each local authority.

3. Proposals

The current membership and proposals (as highlighted) are as follows:

School members

	Current	Option A	Option B	Option C
Primary - Maintained				
Head Teachers	6	5	5	5
Governors	3	3	3	2
Primary - Academies				
Head Teachers	1	1	1	1
Governors	0	0	1	1
Secondary - Maintained				
Head Teachers	1	1	1	1
Governors	0	0	0	0
Secondary - Academies				
Head Teachers	3	3	3	3
Governors	2	2	2	2
Special - Maintained				
Head Teachers	1	1	1	1
Governors	0	0	0	0
Special - Academies				
Head Teachers	1	1	1	1
Governors	0	0	0	0
AP - Academy				
Head Teachers	1	1	1	1
Governors	0	0	0	0
Total School Members	19	18	19	18

Non School members

Post 16	1	1	1	1
Early Years – PVI	1	1	1	1
Diocese	1	1	1	1
Trade Unions				
Teaching Staff	2	1	1	1
Support Staff	1	1	1	1
Total Non School Members	6	5	5	5
Total	25	23	24	23

Appendix A details the current balance of school member representation and the number of pupils in each sector.

It is further recommended that trade union representation is rationalised at one each for teaching and support staff.