



Report to the Schools Forum

Title:	School Forum Membership – Schools only
Committee date:	15 th October 2019
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1. Purpose of Agenda Item

1.1. The purpose of this agenda item is to review the membership of schools forum as agreed at the September 2018 meeting. Additionally, as requested by Schools Forum, the report provides information on pupil numbers in secondary upper and secondary grammar schools to inform any proposed change in the current membership. Given the recent successful elections, any such change to the membership will only be possible when the next round of elections is due.

2. Background

2.1. The Schools Forum's constitution sets out the rules for schools forum membership and this is set in line with the DfE's guidance on schools forum structure.

2.2. Last year the Schools Forum took the opportunity to look at the membership and the split between maintained and academy schools, based on pupil numbers. Membership from Nursery, Special schools and PRUs, given their relative size were not based on pupil numbers but on the DfE's publication "Schools Forums structure". Primary and Secondary schools' membership was considered based on pupil numbers - but the final decision taken did not fully reflect pupil numbers for secondary schools and Schools Forum voted to increase the overall membership of all schools from 23 to 24.

2.3. In September 2018 Schools Forum agreed the membership as follows:

- Maintained Nursery Schools – 1 Representative
- Primary Sector - 10 Representatives
 - 2 Maintained Infant Schools
 - 2 Maintained Junior Schools
 - 4 Maintained Combined Schools
 - 2 Academy Schools
- Secondary Sector - 8 Representatives
 - 2 Maintained Schools
 - 6 Academy Schools
- Special Sector – 3 Representatives
 - 2 Maintained Schools
 - 1 Academy Schools
- Pupil Referral Units – 2 Representatives

2.4. During recent discussions the forum has debated whether the secondary school membership should reflect local circumstances, namely to clearly set out secondary upper and secondary grammar schools representation. At the time it was felt further guidance was needed.

2.5. Legal advice has now been received which suggests Schools Forum can take this forward within the current framework:

- The Schools Forums Regulations provide a framework for the appointment of members, but allow a considerable degree of discretion in order to accommodate local priorities and practice. The guidance suggests that good practice is for the forum to review membership as a standing item at each meeting, which suggests that the responsibility for determining membership on an ongoing basis lies with the forum, subject to ensuring that the forum has the right balance of members in accordance with the regulations and that any decision is made in line with the forum's constitution.

2.6. As part of the analysis shown below, the report includes details on pupil numbers to enable further discussion.

3. Review of Current Membership – mainstream schools

3.1. The current school and academy membership is as follows, based on January 2019 census data:

School Forum October 2019 : Based on January 2019 Census Data

Schools by Type and pupil numbers				Membership Based on Pupil Numbers		Current Constitution		Current Members	
School Type	Total Schools	Pupil Numbers	% of Total Pupils	Maintained	Academy	Maintained	Academy	Maintained	Academy
Primary Maintained	152	36,959	44%	8		8		7	
Primary Academy	33	9,661	12%		2		2		2
Secondary Maintained	6	5,956	7%	1		2		2	
Secondary Academy/Free	31	31,248	37%		7		6		6
SubTotal	222	83,824	100%	9	9	10	8	9	8
Nursery Maintained	2	315		1		1		1	
Special Maintained	8	1,116		2		2		1	
Special Academy	2	303			1		1		1
Pupil Referral Unit	3	124		1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	459	169,506		13	11	14	10	12	10

3.2. In order to meet the constitution fully we require one additional Maintained Junior School representative and one additional Maintained Special School representative.

4. Secondary Schools Membership- Pupil Number Analysis

4.1. Updated pupil numbers do not differ to any great extent from last year as shown in 3.1. The current constitution for this phase reflects the decision made by schools forum last year and not the pupil number data. Given the recent successful election of members, any variation to the constitution would not take effect until the next round of elections. The following tables at 4.2 and 4.3 provide 2 cases for consideration.

4.2. Based on pupil numbers, membership between Secondary Upper and Secondary Grammar would be as set out below:

Secondary Schools	Type	Maintained Academy	Total Pupils	% Split	Member Split	Current Constitution	Current Membership
Secondary Upper	U		21,091	57%	4.54		4.00
Secondary Grammar	G		16,113	43%	3.46		4.00
Total			37,204	100%	8.00		8.00

4.3. Based on pupil numbers, membership between Maintained Upper, Academy Upper and Academy Grammar would be as set out below:

Secondary Schools	Type	Maintained Academy	Total Pupils	% Split	Member Split	Current Constitution	Current Membership
Maintained Upper	U	M	5,956	16%	1.28	2.00	2.00
Academy/Free School/UTC Upper	U	A	15,135	41%	3.25	2.00	2.00
Academy Grammar	G	A	16,113	43%	3.46	4.00	4.00
Total			37,204	100%	8.00	8.00	8.00

5. Recommendations

5.1. To seek representatives from the Maintained Junior School and Maintained Special School sector in line with the current constitution set out in 3.2.

5.2. To note the Secondary school membership pupil number analysis set out in 4.2 and 4.3 for further discussion and agreement.