



Report to the Schools Forum

Title:	School Forum Membership – Secondary Schools
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1. Purpose of Agenda Item

- 1.1. The purpose of this agenda item is to consider the secondary school membership of schools forum as agreed at the October 2018 Schools Forum meeting. The report focuses on pupil numbers in secondary upper and secondary grammar schools to inform any proposed change in future membership. Given the recent successful elections, any such change to the membership will only be possible when the next round of elections for the secondary phase becomes due.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Schools Forum's constitution sets out the rules for schools forum membership in Buckinghamshire and this is set in line with the DfE's guidance on the structure of schools forums. The DfE's guidance states: 'the balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies members **must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category.**' Additionally at the last Schools Forum meeting, members were informed of the legal advice that '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.'

2.2. In September 2018 Schools Forum took the opportunity to look at the membership and the split between maintained and academy schools, based on pupil numbers. The final decision taken did not fully reflect pupil numbers for secondary schools as representation remained as per the elected membership.

2.3. The agreed membership in the Secondary Sector is as follows:

- 8 Representatives
 - 2 Maintained Schools
 - 6 Academy Schools

3. Review of Current Membership – mainstream secondary schools

3.1. Updated pupil numbers do not differ to any great extent from last year. The current school and academy membership is as follows, based on January 2019 census data:

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
Secondary Maintained	6	5,956	16%	1		2		2	
Academy/Free School/UTC Upper	31	31,248	84%		7		6		6
SubTotal	37	37,204	100%	1	7	2	6	2	6

4. Secondary Schools Membership- Further Pupil Number Analysis

4.1. Based on pupil numbers, membership between Secondary Upper and Secondary Grammar would be a 5:3 split 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

4.2. Membership broken down between Maintained Upper, Academy Upper and Academy Grammar would be 1:3:4 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

4.3. A combination of the two tables with an overall 5:3 split of Upper and Grammar would produce an option for membership, which moves away from the current membership Maintained Upper: Academy Upper: Academy Grammar 2:2:4, by reducing Maintained Upper from 2 to 1 representation and increasing Academy/free sch. Upper from 2 to 4, and reducing Academy Grammar from 4 to 3, as shown in the table below:

Secondary Schools	Type	Maintained Academy	Total Pupils	% Split	Member Split	option pupil no.	option split	option Membership	Current Membership
Maintained Upper	U	M	5,956	16%	1.28	5,956	28%	1.41	2.00
Academy/Free School/UTC Upper	U	A	15,135	41%	3.25	15,135	72%	3.59	2.00
Total Upper			n/a	n/a	n/a	21,091	100%	5.00	4.00
Academy Grammar	G	A	16,113	43%	3.46			3.00	4.00
Total			37,204	100%	8.00			8.00	8.00

5. Recommendations

5.1. To note the Secondary School pupil number analysis set out in 4.1 to 4.3 in the report above.

5.2. To agree the proposal set out in 4.3 above to change the current membership at the next round of secondary phase elections to:

- 1 Upper Maintained School
- 4 Upper Academy/Free Schools
- 3 Academy Grammar Schools