

## **SCHOOLS FORUM**

### **Membership of the Schools Forum**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To review the membership of the 'schools' and 'academies' categories of Forum membership in view of the increased number of academies (and reduced maintained schools) in the borough.

To review the balance of representation between education phases for school representatives

#### **Suggested Action**

Members are asked to consider the balance of Forum membership in all categories

Members are asked to confirm views on the balance of Forum membership in all categories, in order to allow for a fully representative meeting.

#### **Summary**

The Schools Forum current membership, pupil numbers and their implications for Forum membership. The conclusion is that there should be a re-balancing between phases as well as status.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that

1. Membership reflects table 3, proposal 2
2. School members all vote; non-school membership/voting remains as currently
3. Governor members may be proposed by phase/status of schools
4. 3 years terms of office apply, with rolling end dates

#### **Supporting Information**

##### Requirements

The membership requirements of Schools Forum are set out in the School Forum Regulations. Requirements for representation in Wokingham (given that there are schools in all these categories) are:

- academies at least 1
- schools/academies at least 2/3 in relation to non-schools members
- maintained schools at least 1 head; at least 1 secondary; at least 1 governor
- special schools at least 1
- nursery schools at least 1
- PRUs at least 1
- 14-19 partnership at least 1
- Early Years providers at least 1

The LA is *required* to secure that primary, secondary and academy schools' representation is broadly proportionate, having regard to the number of *pupils* registered at them.

The LA has a *power* to determine that the number of members representing schools in a particular category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of *schools* in that category when compared with the total number of schools.

The LA has a power to appoint non-schools members for a term of office it determines. Schools members are elected by members of the relevant group. Determination of their term of office is not specified.

#### Wokingham Schools Forum Constitution

Wokingham's Schools Forum comprises 29 places. 7 are for 'non-school' members, 20 for 'schools' members. Details are in Table 1, which also illustrates the agreement resulting in numbers of votes allocated by membership category. Thus the proportions of votes are 16/6, also consistent with the requirement for a two-thirds majority for schools. There is no prescription as to the size of Schools Forum.

See Table 1 Current membership

See Table 2 Show the current number on roll for each phase

See Table 3 Alternative proposals

#### **Table 1 Schools Forum Membership**

**There are 29 members in total:**

##### **Maintained Primary Schools**

1. Brian Prebble	Head – Rivermead Primary	10 votes allowed
2. Carol Simpson	SBM – Colleton Primary	
3. Corrina Gillard	Head – Emmbrook Infant	
4. Elaine Stewart	Head – Aldryngton Primary	
5. Emma Clarke	Head – Farley Hill	
6. Helen Ball	Head – Polehampton Infant	
7. Ian Head	Governor – Aldryngton Primary	
8. Julia Mead	SBM – St Sebastian's CE Primary	
9. Sally Hunter	Head – Wescott Infant	
10. Sylvia Allen	SBM – Hawkedon Primary	

##### **Academy Schools**

Primary	1. Ali Brwon	Head – Nine Mile Ride	5 votes allowed
Secondary	2. Ben Gobler	Head - Bohunt	
	3. Derren Gray	Head - Piggott	
	4. Ginny Rhodes	Head – St Crispins	
	5. Janet Perry	SBM - Holt	
	6. Jonathan Peck	Director of Finance – Maiden Erlegh	
	7. Keith McConaghy	SBM - Oakbank	
	8. Paul Miller	Governor – St Crispins	

### Early Years

1. Gail Prewett	Early Years representative	2 votes allowed
2. Ian Morgan	EY Provider - Little Ducklings Day Nursery	
3. Kerry Clifford	Head – Ambleside Maintained Nursery	

### Special School

1. Sara Attra	Head - Addington	1 vote allowed
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### Pupil Referral Unit

1. Jay Blundell	Head – Foundry College	1 vote allowed
2. John Bayes	Governor – Foundry College	

### Non-school Representatives

1. Anne Andrews	Oxford Diocese	1 vote each allowed
2. James Taylor	Post 16 – Wokingham and Bracknell College	
3. Patricia Davies	Wokingham Borough Council – Assistant Director for Education	
4. UllaKarin Clark	Wokingham Borough Council - Councillor	
5. Vacancy	Roman Catholic Diocese	

The balance of posts is slightly towards primary, that of votes towards secondary. The special sector appears well represented. Since the regulations require a match with both phase and status of schools by pupil numbers, an illustration of pupil numbers follows.

**Table 2 – Current numbers on Roll**

Current number of roll as at October 2017				
Description	Maintained	%	Academy	%
Primary	12604	53%	3,320	14%
Secondary	1601	7%	6,197	26%
Special	187	1%	41	0%
Total per Maintained and Academy	14392	60%	9,558	40%
Total number on roll			23,950	

**Table 3: Suggested Forum schools representation based on current numbers**

#### Proposal 1

	Maintained	Academy
Primary	8	2
Secondary	1	4
Special	1	0
PRU	1	

Early Years	1	2 (other)
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**Including other representatives, 5, this would be 25 members**

**Proposal 2**

	Maintained	Academy
Primary	4	1
Secondary	1	2
Special	1	
PRU	1	
Early Years	1	2 (other)

**Including other representatives, 5, this would be 18 members**

Should 6<sup>th</sup> Form numbers count?

Numbers above relied on all pupils including 6<sup>th</sup> form. Points made in October were noted in the minutes, around:

- EFA funding of DSG, and SFA of sixth forms;
- The position of post-16 pupils in special schools;
- The impact on pre-16 management of post-16 pressures for secondary schools;
- What regulations prescribe.

Sixth form numbers are 2741 ie slightly lower than the maintained secondary figure representing 13% of the total (table 2). Removing them would suggest a need to reduce the secondary representation by slightly less than 1 (table 1) or 0.5 (table 3), split between maintained and academy schools. That would represent a challenge worthy of Solomon, solving which would not change the overall primary /secondary balance proposed.

The requirement for 14-19 partnership representation in Forum suggests that the will of parliament was that post-16 matters should be discussed and represented at Schools Forum, as with the implications of requirements for nursery and pre-school representation. Given also the marginal effect of 6th form numbers it is proposed that they be included in the calculations.

Membership and voting numbers

Forum members share an interest in the health, including financial health, of the local schools system as a whole; they are system leaders. In that spirit, decisions by consensus have properly dominated those taken by voting. However, we need clarity about this. Members of the House of Commons, Wokingham Borough Council and Norton St Philip

Allotment Society may all vote. Not so in this Schools Forum; therefore we need to be satisfied that (a) voting numbers meet requirements for membership and balance, and (b) there is an advantage in having additional persons routinely “in attendance”. It is proposed that voting numbers reflect table 1 or a variant such as in table 3.

### Governor Representation

Wokingham has an established model of governors contributing to Schools Forum; that appears to be a strength. It was noted previously that an outcome in the current membership is an anomalous representation of phases, which arguably should be considered as we review the balance of membership. Guidance steers us towards appropriate representation of the balance of pupil numbers/schools, and appears to leave the nature of representation to the bodies represented.

On that basis we should aim for phase/ status representation by heads or governors, to be determined by phase representatives, rather than governor representation per se. Where there is a difficulty in identifying a governor able to stand for the phase, then that phase determines a school employee from the phase or a governor from another phase at their discretion.

### Duration of Terms of Office

No duration is currently specified. Representation is routinely limited in such a way in other fora. Forum members might wish to support a rolling 3 year term, such that changes are staggered and continuity preserved. In the first instance, and in order to secure that staggering process, existing schools members with the longest history of membership might have a one or two year term, according to their length of existing tenure.

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