

## SCHOOLS FORUM

**Date of Meeting:** 22 February 2017

**For:** Consultation

### Membership of the Schools Forum

1. Purpose of the report:

To review Forum membership in the light on new pupil population statistics.

2. Summary

Forum membership was reviewed in late 2015, with a changed balance of schools' representation established, based on May 2015 pupil census data. The current review updates this with reference to October 2016 census figures. In terms of putr

3. Background

#### *Requirements*

Membership requirements are set out in the School Forum regulations. Requirements for representation in Wokingham (given that there are schools in all the categories below) are:

- academies at least 1
- schools/academies at least 2/3 in relation to non-school 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 27 places. 7 are for 'non-school' members appointed by the LA, 20 for 'schools' members. Changes made in 2015 related to pupil population statistics in Table 1. The 2016 statistics are in table 2, indicating only marginal changes.

**Table 1: Distribution of Pupil Population: May Census 2015**

	Maintained	Academy
Primary	14459 57%	128 (inc. Charvil) 0.5%
Secondary	3162 13%	7063 28%
Special	266 1%	0
Total	17887 71%	7191 28.5%

**Table 2: Distribution of Pupil Population: October Census 2016**

	Maintained #	% (rounded)	Academy #	%
Primary	14449	57%	561 (inc. Charvil)	2%
Secondary	3046	12%	7233	28%
Special	248	1%	0	
Total	17610	69%	7794	31%

Applying these percentages to Wokingham's Schools Forum would cause no changes from last year (but see below p2). There are 20 schools members, of which 3 are required by regulation: 1 nursery, 1 special and 1 PRU. With 17 remaining schools members, the overall "best fit" representation would remain as follows, in compliance with minimum requirements noted above and assuming overall numbers continue.

**Table 3: Implied Distribution of Membership**

	Maintained	Academy
	rounded	rounded
Primary	10 up	0 down
Secondary	2 down	5 up
Special	1 (minimum)	0
PRU	1 (min)	
Nursery	1 (min)	

Points to note:

- The under-representation of primary academies is balanced by over-representation of secondary, with one of the secondary representatives currently responsible for a primary phase
- Reciprocal balance obtains both by phase and school status
- The 2015 report confirmed
  - phase representation might include governors and professional representatives within the numbers above
  - a transitional period in which additional members would be included, reflecting previous membership but not to increase the number of votes by phase/status of school
  - 6th form numbers were to be included in the calculations
  - An aspiration to reduce Forum numbers over time
  - 3 year tenure

In the light of these points

- Balanced representation appears to have been satisfactory for the past year and should be retained as the “best fit” option
- Schools have been represented by headteachers, business managers and governors
- It appears difficult to predict the future of Schools Forum beyond three years, which might be seen to influence views of the merit of making discretionary changes now.
- Additional members remain, with the result that a decision should be made to continue or not continue this arrangement (see below)
- There appears to be no current appetite to reduce numbers, nor to increase
- A “churn” of post-holders has meant that records of membership duration have not been retained. Records are now being established for the purpose of determining 3 year tenure, although future actions might reasonably be held pending national clarification of the duration of Schools Fora.

#### *Deciding about changing from current to new membership*

Current membership is shown in the annex. There appear to be one too many primary places, one too few secondary/academy, one too many PRU and Early Years, and a vacancy for the RC diocese. This appears to reflect the wish to accommodate change in member numbers by providing for voting numbers according to table 3 whilst retaining additional non-voting members on a transitional basis. So:

- Primary schools should be asked to confirm their 10 representatives or Forum should confirm the 10 votes for the phase
- Secondary academies should be asked to confirm their additional one
- Forum should confirm if it would recommend retaining the current transitional arrangement of supernumary membership, noting the options for supernumary primary, and PRU representatives, subject to which...
- The PRU should be asked to confirm their individual representative



*Secondary*

1. Ginny Rhodes
2. Paul Miller

Secondary Head – St Crispins  
Governor – St Crispins - Chair

*Academy / Free School*

1. Derren Gray
2. Mary Davies
3. Maggie Seagrove
4. Janet Perry

Academy Head Teacher – The Piggott School  
Academy Head Teacher – Maiden Erlegh School  
Free School Head Teacher - Oakbank  
Academy Business Manager – The Holt School

*Special Schools/PRU*

1. Sara Attra
2. Jay Blundell
3. John Bayes

Special school Head – Addington School  
Pupil Referral Unit – Foundry College  
Governor – Foundry College – Vice-Chair

Non School Representatives

1. Anne Andrews
2. Vacancy
3. Richard Dolinski
4. Vacancy
5. James Taylor  
College
6. Gail Prewett  
Complex
7. Mary Parker

Oxford Diocese  
Roman Catholic Diocese  
Wokingham Borough Council  
Children's Services officer  
Post 16 provider Bracknell & Wokingham  
  
Poperinghe Pre-School, AWS Community  
  
St Pauls Playgroup at Emmbrook Infant

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