

## Schools Forum Membership September 2013

It was agreed at the July meeting of the Schools Forum that the Chair would review once again the balance of membership across phases and academies and maintained schools. This is based on the May 2013 census data below which excludes nursery and special schools.

Since the May school census (16<sup>th</sup> May 2013) Colnbrook primary School (221 pupils) has also converted to academy status and this has been included in the relevant figures below.

<b>Total NOR in Academies + Free Schools</b>	13008
<b>Total NOR in Primary Academies + Free Schools</b>	5996
<b>Total NOR in Secondary Academies</b>	7012
<b>Total NOR in Maintained Schools (Exc. Nursery + Special)</b>	12548
<b>Total NOR in Maintained Primary (Exc. Nursery + Special)</b>	9250
<b>Total NOR in Maintained Secondary (Exc. Special)</b>	3298
	Total: 25556

## Summary and Recommendations

### 1 Total membership across academies and maintained schools:

Of the total 25,556 pupils, 51% are now being educated in academies and 49% in maintained schools. To reflect this shift, Schools Forum would need 8 academy members and 8 from maintained schools. This is the current position.

### 2 Academy membership across phases:

There are currently 3 primary academy members and 5 secondary, one of which will become a secondary vacancy in September with the resignation of Maureen Mallinson (governor Westgate School).

Of the total 13008 pupils in academies, 46% are in primary academies and 54% in secondary.

It would seem pragmatic to recommend to academies a balance of 4 primary and 4 secondary members and a proposal is set out below:

#### Recommendation 1 - Academies

- Schools Forum recommends to academy proprietors that Jon Reekie, formerly a community school Governor member representing James Elliman primary school (now an academy), be nominated as an additional primary academy member. The proposal is made in the interests of continuity and maintaining experience on the Forum at a time of considerable change in funding. This would give 4 primary members.
- Schools Forum recommends to academy proprietors that the vacancy for a secondary member is not filled at this time to maintain the balance across phases.

### **3 Maintained schools membership across phases:**

Across the maintained schools, 74% of pupils are in primary schools and 26% in secondary. There are currently 3 primary members plus 2 vacancies. There are 2 secondary members plus one vacancy as a result of Julia Shepard leaving the Forum.

8 members are required. Taking account of the pupil numbers this would mean 6 primary members and 2 secondary. It has sometimes proved difficult to fill primary maintained school vacancies so it may be more prudent to seek nominations for both Headteachers and Governors across both phases.

#### **Recommendation 2 - Maintained schools**

- Schools Forum considers the best approach to the maintained schools' representation in the light of changing numbers of academies
- Primary and Secondary Governors and Headteachers be asked to make any nominations and these be brought back to Schools Forum to consider the elections required
- Headteachers and Governors to be asked to be mindful of the balance of types of schools in making nominations.
- A balance should be sought between Headteachers and Governors.

### **4 Future changes**

There are a number of things that would affect membership in the future which would mean further review:

- Further academy conversions
- New regulations are currently subject to consultation and, once adopted, these will mean a change of membership status for East Berkshire College. The College currently represents the 14-19 Strategic Partnership but this will change to being a representative of an institution (other than a school or academy) providing 16 – 19 education.
- If the PRU becomes an academy this would mean that the requirement to have a PRU member goes as the LA would no longer be maintaining a PRU. However, academies could be asked to include a PRU member within the academy membership. This principle could also apply to special schools.

*Maggie Waller  
Chair of Schools Forum  
September 2013*