

Schools Forum Membership March 2014

A review has been carried out of the balance of the current Schools Forum membership across phases, academies and maintained schools. The data used is numbers on roll as at 16th January 2014 (see table below).

Total NOR in Academies + Free Schools	14874
Total NOR in Primary Academies + Free Schools	7653
Total NOR in Secondary Academies	7075
Total NOR in Standalone Nursery Academies	0
Total NOR in Special + AP Academies	146
Total NOR in Maintained Schools including Nursery and Special	12635
Total NOR in Maintained Primary	8329
Total NOR in Maintained Secondary	3344
Total NOR in Maintained Nursery	695
Total NOR in Maintained Special	267

Total NOR in Academies + Free Schools	14874
Total NOR in Maintained Schools excluding special school and nurseries	11673
Total NOR in Academies + Free Schools + Maintained Schools excluding special school and nurseries	26547
Total NOR in Maintained Nursery and Special	962
Total pupils	27509

Summary

and Recommendations

1 Total membership

Schools Forum currently has 19 members. This includes 5 members representing: the maintained special school sector; the nursery sector; 16-19 providers; Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers and Children's Centres. This paper does not make any recommendations in respect of those members, only in relation to academy and maintained school membership.

Formerly, there was an additional member representing the maintained Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Recommendation 1

That membership is increased to 21. (The recommendations that follow in the remainder of this paper assume this level of membership and will need to be adjusted if total membership is different from 21.)

2 Membership across academies and maintained schools:

Of the total 26,547 pupils being educated in academies, free schools and maintained schools (excluding special schools and nurseries), 14,874 are being educated in academies and 11,673 in maintained schools. This represents 56% in academies and free schools and 44% in maintained schools.

Schools Forum currently has 7 academy members and 7 from maintained schools, 14 in total. In line with the percentage split above and the recommendation to increase the membership to 21, the new total of 16 academies / schools' members should be split into 9 academies' members and 7 maintained schools' members.

Nicky Willis was previously elected by academies to fill the next vacancy arising. This can now be put in place, bringing the membership in place for academies to 4 primary academy members and 4 secondary members, with one remaining vacancy to be filled.

Recommendation 2

- Academy proprietors be asked to elect an additional academy representative, giving 9 academy members in total

3 Academy membership

It is for the academy proprietors both to elect members and to decide on the phase balance but Schools Forum would wish to suggest that account be taken of the relative number of pupils in each phase and of the fact that there are now special schools and PRU academies in determining the 9 members.

Across the academies, 51.5% pupils are in the primary phase and 47.5% in secondary with the remaining 1% in special and the PRU. The primary / secondary phases are evenly represented with 4 primary academy members and 4 secondary members.

The previous maintained PRU member (Helen Huntley) has continued to attend Schools Forum to provide continuity and expertise and it would seem sensible for Schools Forum to recommend to academy proprietors that they consider Helen Huntley in electing the 9th member.

Recommendation 3

- In asking academy proprietors to elect a further member (see Recommendation 2 above) to ask that they consider this being Helen Huntley to represent the PRU and special academies.

4 Maintained schools membership

Schools Forum currently has 7 members representing maintained schools: 5 primary and 2 secondary. This accords with the proposal above that the 16 academies / schools' members be split into 9 academies' members and 7 maintained schools' members.

Across the maintained schools, 71.35% of pupils are in primary schools and 28.64% in secondary. This would mean that the current split of members representing the two phases across the maintained sector (5 primary and 2 secondary members) is correct and no changes need to be made at this time.

5 Future Membership

A number of members' terms of office end in September 2014 and the membership will require further review in the summer term to take account of this and of any other changes in membership as well as any further academy conversions.

Maggie Waller

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