

REVIEW OF FORUM MEMBERSHIP & CONSTITUTION 2026-27

1. The constitution of the Early Years and Schools Forum (Forum) should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it still meets the requirements of the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2021 and that the membership reflects how children are educated in Nottinghamshire.

The regulations require that:

- 1) *Schools members and Academies members must together comprise at least two thirds of the membership of the forum.*
- 2) *At least one member must be a representative of the governing bodies of maintained schools and at least one member must be a representative of the head teachers of such schools.*
- 3) *Subject to paragraphs (4) to (7), primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.*
- 4) *Where the authority maintains one or more secondary schools, at least one schools member must be a representative of a secondary school.*
- 5) *Where the authority maintains one or more special schools, at least one schools member must be a representative of a special school.*
- 6) *Where the authority maintains one or more nursery schools, at least one schools member must be a representative of a nursery school.*
- 7) *Where the authority maintains one or more pupil referral units, at least one schools member must be a representative of a pupil referral unit.*
- 8) *An authority may determine that the number of members representing schools in a particular school category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools.*

2. The Early Years & Schools Forum membership was last reviewed in September 2025 in line with the Forum Constitution. The constitution is as detailed below:

School and Academy membership (based on pupil population)

- 4 maintained primary head teachers
- 1 maintained secondary head teacher
- 9 academy representatives
- 1 maintained special school head teacher
- 1 academy special school representative
- 5 governor representatives (2 maintained 2 academies and 1 special)

Non-school membership

- 1 FE representative from a Nottinghamshire College
- 2 PVI early years providers
- 2 Diocesan representatives (Catholic & Church of England)
- 2 Trade Union representatives (teaching & non-teaching)

Total membership: 28

3. This membership was based on pupil data extracted from the October 2024 census and has now been updated to reflect the latest data from the October 2025 census in the following table:

Sector	Number of Schools	October 2024 Census	%	Number of Schools	October 2025 Census	%
Primary – maintained	143	30,652	26.9	126	26,208	23.3
Secondary - maintained	1	975	0.8	1	975	0.9
Primary – academy	143	34,788	30.5	160	38,061	33.8
Secondary – academy	44	47,509	41.7	44	47,321	42.0
	331	113,924	100	331	112,565	100

4. The membership for maintained primary and academy members is based on a pupil population ratio and there has been a 3.9% shift in the number of pupils between the two census dates for these sectors. For the 2026-27 academic year, the number of members representing the primary maintained sector would need to be reduced from four to three, and members representing academies increased from nine to ten.
5. There is no statutory minimum or maximum size for a Forum. As a temporary measure, it is recommended that academy representation be increased to 10 members, while maintaining 4 primary maintained school representatives.

To support a gradual rebalancing of representation, it is further recommended that, should a vacancy arise through the resignation of a primary maintained representative, the position is not refilled. This approach would allow the Forum's membership structure to evolve naturally over time while maintaining effective representation across all sectors.

6. If the recommendation as set out above is approved the vacancy position would be: -

Sector	Current Membership	Recommended Membership	Vacancies
Maintained Primary	4	4	
Maintained Secondary	1	1	
Academy representatives	9	10	4
Maintained Special	1	1	
Academy Special	1	1	
Governors	5	5	2
FE representative	1	1	
Early Years Providers	2	2	
Diocesan representatives	2	2	1
Trade Union representatives	2	2	
	28	29	7

RECOMMENDATION

That the Forum:

- 1) Notes the content of the report.
- 2) Agrees the membership arrangements as set out in paragraph 5 and 6 of the report.

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