

REVIEW OF FORUM MEMBERSHIP & CONSTITUTION 2025-26

1. The constitution of the Early Years and Schools Forum (the forum) should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it still meets the requirements of the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) 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 2024 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 2023 census and has now been updated to reflect the latest data from the October 2024 census in the following table:

Sector	Number of Schools	October 2023 Census	%	Number of Schools	October 2024 Census	%
Primary – maintained	152	33,414	29.2	143	30,652	26.9
Secondary - maintained	1	948	0.8	1	975	0.8
Primary – academy	133	32,656	28.5	143	34,788	30.5
Secondary – academy	44	47,407	41.4	44	47,509	41.7
	330	114,426	100	331	113,924	100

4. The membership for maintained primary and academy members is based on a pupil population ratio and there has been a 2.4% shift in the number of pupils between the two census dates for these sectors. For academic year 25-26 this will not affect the membership as primary maintained ratio is 3.50 rounded to 4, however for academic year 26-27 maintained primary will reduce to 3 members. It is recommended, therefore, that the membership remains the same as detailed in paragraph 2 for the academic year 2025/26.
5. 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	9	2
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	28	5

RECOMMENDATION

That the Forum:

- 1) Notes the content of the report.
- 2) Agrees to retain the membership as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

Toni Gardner
Assistant Accountant, Children & Families Finance
Chief Executive's Department
T: 01159 773487
E: toni.gardner@nottsgov.uk