

Schools Forum

Date: 20 March 2025

Time: 8.30 to 10.30

Venue: Via Microsoft (MS)
Teams

Paper

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Public

Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution**Responsible Officer**Sam Bradley email: Samantha.bradley@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 256411**Summary**

At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum approved the constitutional arrangements for the annual re-apportionment of membership to take account of the changing mix between maintained and academy schools. This report details the required re-apportionment from April 2025 based on the academy conversions up to March 2025.

It is also appends an updated version of the Constitution to operate from April 2025.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2025 as outlined in the paper and detailed with vacancies in Appendix A.

REPORT**Membership**

1. All local authority School Forums are constituted in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. Shropshire Schools Forum approved the current Constitution at their meeting on 13 September 2012, with the new Constitution becoming operational from 1 October 2012.
2. At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum received a report on a document from the then Education Funding Agency (EFA) - now Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) - which referenced a requirement for regular reviews of Forum membership to take account of the pace of academy conversions and to ensure that membership remains proportionate (based on pupil numbers).
3. The following membership structure has operated from 1 April 2022: 6 primary (3 headteachers, 3 governors), 1 secondary (1 headteacher), 12 academy, 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation.



4. In the November 2013 report Schools Forum agreed that a re-apportionment of membership should take place annually, from 1 April, using the pupil numbers from the previous October's school census.

5. In order to model the position from April 2025, the school census information from October 2024, and based on the number of academies as at 05 March 2025, has been used to assess the impact on representation. The table below summarises the revised representation (noting that 19 school places are apportioned by excluding special and PRU members).

	Oct-24	Apportionment	
	Total NOR*	%	No.
Maintained Primary Schools	8,304	22.7%	4
Maintained Secondary Schools	525	1.4%	1
Academies (as at 05 March 2025)	27,787	75.9%	14
	36,616	100.0%	19
<i>*excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs</i>			

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2025, membership should be amended and terms of office updated. Remove vacancies in Primary Governors with two additional representatives sought from Academies. The numbers of pupils in one maintained secondary school remains at a very low level (when taken as a percentage of the overall pupil population), however it is proposed that they continue to retain a place in the structure. The proposed membership, as at 01 April 2025, is attached as appendix 1 as part of the updated Constitution, which will operate from this date.

7. The academy pupil numbers are split, 43.1% primary and 56.9% secondary, which breaks down as 5 primary academy representatives and 7 secondary academy representatives across the 12 places available. However, it is noted that the majority of academies are in mixed phase multi-academy trusts (MATs) and so the phase representation is not particularly relevant, though consideration might be given to drawing increased membership from MATs operating mainly in the primary phase.



8. The ESFA guidelines stipulate that the academy representation can be drawn from free schools in the local authority area. Equally consideration will need to be given to the balance of headteacher and governor representation in each of the constituent groups. The current membership indicates there are 4 vacancies for academy representatives from April 2025.

