

Sheffield Education Funding Forum: Membership Review/Update

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note:

- the revised constitution document for 2024/25 (Appendix 1), specifically the proposed changes to section 4.2 of the Constitution regarding attendance; and
- the membership updates as set out below.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. The Constitution and Membership document of the Sheffield Education Funding Forum has undergone an annual review for 2024/25 and the majority of the document remains unchanged.
- 1.2. Further to discussion with the Forum Chairs/Vice-chairs, consideration has been given to Forum attendance and the following paragraph has been included in the draft Constitution document at section 4.2:

‘Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings, without valid reason or prior agreement, will be considered to have stepped down from their role as Forum representative and a replacement will be sought via the nominations process.’

2. Proportionate representation

- 2.1. The number of school representatives from academies, primary schools and secondary schools has been reviewed based on the October 2023 Census and is as follows:

	Pupil Numbers	Proportion	Current no. of Representatives
Primary maintained	19,274	26%	4
Secondary maintained	1,145	1%	1
Academies (including special)	54,807	73%	7
Sub-total	75,226	100%	12
Special (maintained)	1,444	-	2
Pupil Referral Unit	208	-	1
Total	76,878		15

- 2.2. To ensure proportionate representation, the Forum would need to consider reducing primary places to three and increasing academy places to eight. It is proposed that this be reviewed when the next primary place becomes vacant (in March 2025).

3. Membership Update

3.1. Special School Representatives

One special schools seat remains vacant, and members are encouraged to promote this vacancy as appropriate to colleagues within the maintained special sector.

3.2. Academy Representatives

David Dennis and Chris French will be retiring at the end of the academic year and therefore standing down from their roles on the Forum. We thank them both for their invaluable input into the Forum over a period of many years and wish them well for the future.

A process is currently underway to seek nominations from the academy sector to fill these roles in preparation for the new academic year.

3.3. Vice-chair Vacancy

Upon David Dennis' resignation, the role of Vice-chair will become vacant and Forum members are invited to nominate themselves to this role. (There are currently two Vice-chairs, with Nigel Brooke-Smith holding the other position.)

3.4. **Early Years Representative**

Karen Simpkin's term is due to expire in September 2024 and nominations will be sought from the early years sector. Karen will be expressing an interest to represent the sector for a further term.

3.5. **Special Academy Representative**

Joel Hardwick's term is due to expire in September 2024. However, given that Nexus is currently the only special academy in Sheffield, Joel will remain on the Forum for a further term as their representative.

3.6. **Faith Schools Representative**

The Forum welcomes Andy Krabbendam, Head Teacher Clifford All Saints CofE Primary School as the new faith sector representative, replacing Mo Andrews.

4. **Role of Forum and its Members**

Forum members are asked to remind themselves of the purpose/role of the Education Forum and its members as set out in the Constitution and Membership document (Appendix 1).

5. **Recommendations**

Forum members are asked to:

- **Note** the updates to membership as detailed above and to thank David Dennis and Chris French for their contributions and commitment over the years.
- **Note** the updated constitution document as per Appendix 1.
- **Approve** the proposed revisions at 4.2 of the Constitution document.
- **Note and respond** to the call for nominations to fill the vacancy of Forum Vice-chair.