

<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Date</b>	3 December 2024
<b>Time</b>	2pm to 4pm
<b>Venue</b>	Teams

**Attendees**

<b>Chair</b>	Jo Marsh
<b>Core Group</b>	Jo Marsh, Kevin Burnett, Louise Malik, Richard Morgan, Roz Lambert, Laura Donnelly, Alun Williams, Phillip Frankland, Ray Egbufoama, Julie-Anne Kellaway, Becky Biddlecombe (notes)
<b>Apologies received</b>	Andy Rothery Jo Stoling Mandy Bishop Mary Kearney-Knowles Tim Howes Hayley Trotman Kate Wilson Christopher Wilford Fiona Skinner Olwyn Donnelly

1.	Welcome and Apologies	ACTION
	Jo Marsh started the meeting by acknowledging apologies from several members listed above  RM introduced Ray Egbufoama as the new finance officer, replacing Wendy Jefferies.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members were reminded to complete the declaration of interest forms once per year and to declare anything pertaining to the papers being presented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KB declared he is a foundation governor at Farrington Gurney Primary.</li> </ul>	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	Members reviewed the minutes of the last meeting held on September 25 <sup>th</sup> . RL noting a correction regarding her initials. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.  Actions from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CW to confirm the nomination of Jo Stoling and Helen Mcdicken at North Star for the Schools Forum membership.</li> <li>Early years vacancy has been filled by Kate Wilson.</li> </ul>	

4.	<b>Schools Budget 25-26</b>	
	<p>RM discussed the school budget, highlighting the increases in the school's block and the rolling in of grants. RM emphasized the importance of setting the minimum funding guarantee at 0% per pupil.</p> <p>LM questioned the 2.39% increase per pupil mentioned in the paper, noting her calculations showed a 0.6% increase. RM explained the discrepancy, citing different DfE documents and the lack of data sets to confirm the exact figure, he also confirmed that he agreed with LM that the likely increase was approx. 0.6% per pupil.</p> <p><b>Budget Increases:</b> RM highlighted the increases in the school's high needs block, noting a 7.66% increase, which includes the rolling in of grants such as teacher's pensions, teachers' pay, and core schools budget grant allocations.</p> <p><b>Minimum Funding Guarantee:</b> RM emphasized the importance of setting the minimum funding guarantee at 0% per pupil, meaning schools will get roughly the same cash per pupil as they currently get, once grants are added to their baselines.</p> <p>LM - raised concerns about the impact of pay awards on the budget.</p> <p>RM mentioned that DfE officials were cautious about committing to a new grant for pay awards but confirmed a grant for the National Insurance increase would be detailed in early January.</p> <p>JM and other panel members discussed the challenges of coping with financial shocks due to late notice of decisions and the need for better planning and multi-year projections from the DfE.</p> <p>RM set out the specific questions in the paper.</p> <p>Forum was asked to comment on the proposed MFG rate of 0% per pupil. Forum agreed that this was the best course of action on the MFG.</p> <p>Forum was asked to comment on the disapplication request for 2 primary schools relating to rental costs as set out in the paper. Forum Supported the disapplication requests.</p> <p>AW and KB explained their possible conflicts for the voting decision.</p>	<p><b>Forum Supported the Proposals</b></p>
5.	<b>Schools funding consultation</b>	
	<p>RM discussed the schools funding consultation. Responses to the consultation is shown in the shared documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>High Needs Funding</b></li> <li>• LM - raised concerns about the increase in high needs funding, noting that the DfE's increase is intended to meet future pressures, not cover historic overspending.</li> <li>• RM and LD explained that the high needs working group would discuss the allocation of additional resources and bring proposals</li> </ul>	

	<p>back to the forum. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LD - added that the first session of the high needs working group would focus on discussing the next steps rather than making big decisions immediately.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation Results:</b> RM shared the results of the consultation on rolling grants into the NFF factors and transferring 0.5% of the school's block to the high needs block. The forum supported the proposals.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation Participation:</b> RM shared that 64 out of 78 schools responded to the consultation, with 100% supporting the approach of rolling grants into the NFF factors.</li> <li>• <b>Transfer to High Needs:</b> RM noted that 98% of the schools supported transferring 0.5% of the school's block to the high needs block, with only one secondary school opposing the transfer.</li> </ul> <p>KB – made a correction to the paper which stated of the school's block was 100% of the schools, but it should be 98%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formal Vote: School forum members formally voted to support the transfer of 0.5% of the school's block to the high needs block, with unanimous approval.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Forum Supported the proposal</b></p> <p><b>Forum Agreed</b></p>
6.	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
	<b>Meeting dates</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025</li> <li>• 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025</li> </ul>	
11.	<b>Date of next meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	