

DRAFT SCHOOLS FORUM REGULATIONS 2012

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Purpose:

To raise awareness of changes to the Schools Forum regulations and to gain agreement to hold a simple ballot to ensure compliance.

Background:

As part of the national school funding reform programme, the Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on changes to the regulations governing School Forums. As a result it is likely we will have to implement some changes to our constitution by 1 October 2012.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the current membership structure and constitution is simplified, with fewer categories of membership but with the overall number of representatives not reduced.
- 1.2 That a ballot is held for seats – with existing primary and secondary school and academy members of the schools forum invited to stand for election. Similarly, others who might be interested in standing for election are invited to participate.
- 1.3 That the identifiable 'gap' in primary academy representation is addressed through a letter to all primary academy schools encouraging them engage in the process through the standing for election.

2. Background

- 2.1 The constitution of the Milton Keynes Schools Forum meets many of the expectations set out by the DfE in the draft of the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2010. However there are some areas where we will be required to implement changes to remain compliant with regulation. These are:
 - (a) The introduction of more prescribed representation. Maintained primary schools, maintained secondary schools and academies representation must be broadly proportionate and have regard to the total number of pupils registered at them. Membership **must** include:
 - At least one nursery school representative
 - At least one maintained primary school representative
 - At least one maintained secondary school representative
 - At least one academy representative

- At least one maintained special school representative
- At least one pupil referral unit representative

The LA does not have to determine the balance between Headteacher and Governor representation. Non school members, including a representative of early years providers, the local Diocesan Board of Education and the Bishop of any Roman Catholic Diocese can continue to be members of the Schools Forum. The LA is also entitled to non-voting seats on the Schools Forum, limited to the Director of Children's Services (or representative), elected member of the authority who has primary responsibility for children's services, the Director of Finance (or representative), technical officer(s) and the clerk.

- b) The introduction of a more prescribed nomination process. Representatives of maintained schools can be elected by members of the 'relevant group, or sub group, in the authority's area' but academy representatives are required to be elected to the Schools Forum by the Governing Bodies of the academies in the LA area.

2.2 Going forward it is suggested that as seats become vacant further ballots are held (preferably on an annual basis) but that they are targeted at the appropriate category of membership.