

Birmingham City Council

Schools Forum

Date – 26th October 2023



Subject: Academy Representation on Schools Forum
Report of: Fiona Chamberlain, Strategic Lead for School Improvement Delivery
Report author: Fiona Chamberlain, Strategic Lead for School Improvement Delivery
Decision to be made by: All members of Schools Forum

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide information to the Schools Forum about proportionality between maintained and academy schools in Birmingham. This will help them consider whether they wish to align the proportions of representatives in the school forum in line with all schools in Birmingham.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 For Schools Forum members to discuss whether they wish to change the membership of the Schools Forum in light of 1.1 and the information below.
- 2.2 To consider the possible revised proportions suggested below and vote on whether to adopt these or to suggest an alternative model.
- 2.3 If these are adopted, to discuss whether to specify by age for academy representatives in the same way as maintained schools are specified i.e. with a certain number of primary, secondary and all through representatives within the mainstream academy category.

3 Background

- 3.1 The proportions of maintained and academy schools' representatives on Schools Forum were historically agreed based on the proportions of those types of schools in Birmingham at that time.
- 3.2 This paper is to review whether the current proportions of maintained and academy schools' representatives on Schools Forum is approximately aligned to the proportions of those types of schools in Birmingham currently. The number of academies within the city has risen over time.
- 3.3 The *Schools Forum Operational and good practice guide* states that 'Schools and academies members together must number at least two-thirds of the total

membership of the schools forum and the balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category, so the structure of Forum should be regularly reviewed'.

3.4 Current proportions of maintained and academy school representatives on schools forum are shown in the following table:

Type of School	Number - out of 20 schools reps on forum	Proportion
Maintained (total) , comprising of:	14	70.00%
- Nursery school HT rep	- 1	
- Primary school HT rep	- 3	
- Secondary school HT rep	- 1	
- Special school HT rep	- 1	
- Nursery school gov rep	- 1	
- Primary school gov rep	- 3	
- Secondary school gov rep	- 2	
- Special school gov rep	- 1	
- Pupil referral unit (PRU) rep	- 1	
Academy (total) , comprising of:	6	30.00%
- Mainstream	- 4	
- Special	- 1	
- Alternative provision	- 1	

3.5 Current proportions of maintained and academy schools in Birmingham are shown in the following table:

Type of School	Number - out of 444	Proportion
Maintained (total) , comprising of:	212	47.75%
- Nursery Schools	- 27	
- Primary age	- 151	
- Secondary age	- 16	
- Special Schools	- 17	
Academy (total) , comprising of:	232	52.25%
- Mainstream Schools	- 216	
- Special Schools	- 10	
- Alternative provision	- 6	

3.6 It would seem appropriate, in light of changes to proportions between maintained and academy schools in Birmingham, for schools forum to consider

aligning the proportions on schools forum more closely with those of schools in Birmingham.

3.7 If this was calculated, purely numerically:

Maintained schools: 47.75% of 20 is 9.55 so this rounds to 10 representatives

Academy schools: 52.25% of 20 is 10.45 so this rounds to 10 representatives

3.8 However, the PRU sits within maintained so, as this needs representation on Schools Forum, it could be suggested that maintained have 11 (10 plus one for the PRU)

3.9 Current and possible representations for discussion:

<p>Maintained (total), comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nursery school HT rep - Primary school HT rep - Secondary school HT rep - Special school HT rep - Nursery school gov rep - Primary school gov rep - Secondary school gov rep - Special school gov rep - Pupil referral unit (PRU) rep 	<p>14 - current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 3 - 2 - 1 - 1 	<p>11 - possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 1 	<p>Rationale for suggestion: It is important that all phases/types are represented within schools forum. Each should therefore have at least one representative HT and governor. Primary schools make up the majority of maintained schools so they would have higher representation.</p>
<p>Academy (total), comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstream - Special - Alternative provision 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 - 1 - 1 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7** - 1 - 1 	<p>It is important that all phases/types are represented within schools forum. Each should therefore have at least one representative. Mainstream academies make up 93% of academies so should have the highest proportion.</p>

** Within this category, schools forum may wish to consider specifying by age for academy representatives in the same way as maintained schools are specified.

The *Schools Forum Operational and good practice guide* states that 'There is no requirement for academies members to represent specific primary and secondary phases, but it may be encouraged to ensure representation remains broadly proportionate to pupil numbers.'

If Schools Forum wishes to specify this, the following may be of use:

Numbers of mainstream academies, by age:

- All through – 7
- Primary – 142
- Secondary – 67

Possible split of representatives could therefore be:

- All through – 1
- Primary – 4
- Secondary – 2

4 Any Finance Implications

4.1 No financial implications

5 Any Legal Implications

5.1 The proposed changes comply with requirements of The Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012.

6 Any Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no implications relating to the Equalities Act 2010.

6.2 There are implications around representation on the forum of different types of schools. As stated above, over time, the proportion of academies compared to the total number of schools in Birmingham has increased but the proportion of academy representatives on Schools Forum has remained the same.

7 Appendices

7.1 No appendices