



SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS FORUM SELF ASSESSMENT

12 SEPTEMBER 2013

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	X	Pre School	X
Academies	X	Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings	X	Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies	X	Secondary	X
Local Authority	X	Post 16	X
		High Needs	X

Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting	X	Maintained Primary School Members	
Decision	X	Maintained Secondary School Members	
		Maintained Special School Members	
		Academy Members	
		All Schools Forum	X

1. This report sets out the Schools Forum self-assessment completed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and the response to it from the Local Authority and seeks direction on the format of future meetings.

Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum consider the self-assessment making further comment as appropriate
3. That Schools Forum note the response of the Local Authority and the proposed actions.
4. That Schools Forum determine approach for holding future meetings.

Background

5. The operation of Schools Forums' is set out within Primary Legislation [here](#).
The Department for Education (DfE) provide several documents with practical guidance to ensure they operate effectively and efficiently. This can be found at [Gov.uk | Schools' Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide](#).
6. As a result of operational issues in meetings on 29 September 2022 and 16 February 2023, namely difficulties in electing Chair and Vice-Chair and some comments on how Forum operates, the self-assessment toolkit was presented at the meeting of Schools Forum on 13 June 2023. The toolkit has been completed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and is now presented to Forum to gather further views. The document is shown at Appendix 1 together with the initial response of the Local Authority which identifies a number of actions.
7. A representative of the DfE attended the meetings in both February and again in June. Following the June meeting they have now noted the election of a permanent Chair and Vice-chair and the completion of the self-assessment and are comfortable with the actions that have been taken to raise the profile of the Forum through the headteacher and governor briefings. They also noted the concerns raised in the with respect of the high needs funding legislation which is subject to a further report on today's agenda.
8. Regulations were laid in 2020 to allow meetings to be conducted virtually, these regulations have now been laid permanently which allow for all meetings to be held virtually. In response to some views that meetings should be held in person an induction session was arranged to be in person, however most attendees wished the session to be held virtually. Schools Forum is asked to denote how meetings should be held in future – virtually, in person or hybrid – or a combination.

Resource Implications

9. Holding meetings in person or as hybrid has cost implications through room hire and potential expenses for members and local authority staff that are not incurred when holding meetings virtually.

Equal Opportunity Issues

10. None arising directly from this report. However, there may be limitations for individual members dependent upon the future nature of meetings.

Officers to Contact

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