

ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date and Time:- Thursday 30 January 2025 at 8.30 a.m.

Venue:- Rockingham Professional Development Centre,
Roughwood Road, Rotherham. S61 4HY

The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome by the Chair and introductions by all Forum Members present.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies from any Forum Member who are unable to attend the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To invite Forum Members to declare any interests they may have on agenda items to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)

To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, 13th December 2024.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

To consider and report on any matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. Membership and Constitution of the Rotherham Schools Forum (Standing Item)

To consider any updates or amendments to the membership of the Schools Forum.

Based on the School Sector Breakdown to include:-

- Sacha Schofield, Special School Governor representative (filling a vacancy).

Recommendation:

To consider and approve the amendments/updates to the membership of the Rotherham Schools Forum.

7. Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and Schools Budgets 2024-25 Update (Pages 15 - 18)

Head of Finance (CYPS) and Principal Finance Officer (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum note the latest published DSG funding for schools for the 2024/25 financial year.
2. That Schools Forum note the financial positions of Rotherham's maintained schools and the identified financial risks against the schools DSG budgets for the year.

8. Schools Funding Settlement 2025/26 (Pages 19 - 23)

Head of Finance (CYPS) and Principal Finance Officer (CYPS) to report.

Recommendation:

That Members of Schools Forum note the contents of this report.

9. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block Funding 2025/26 (Pages 25 - 30)

Head of Finance (CYPS) and Principal Finance Officer (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

FOR INFORMATION

1. That Schools Forum note the Schools Block DSG allocation for 2025/26 and the implemented changes to the local schools funding formula as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 18 of this report;
2. That Schools Forum note that the proposed 2025/26 schools funding formula incorporates a funding transfer of 0.5% to the high needs block (as approved by the Forum on 13th December 2024).

FOR APPROVAL

3. That Schools Forum approve that the funding for maintained primary & secondary schools outlined in paragraph 22 to be de-delegated and retained by the Council to fund schools related expenditure.

10. Early Years Block Budget Report 2025/26 (Pages 31 - 36)

Head of Finance (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum note the provisional DSG funding settlement for the early years block for 2025/26;
2. That Schools Forum note the proposed arrangements for allocating the early years funding to providers for 3 & 4 year olds, 2 year olds and under 2's, via Rotherham's funding formula.
3. That Schools Forum note the proposed Inclusion Support Grant funding and provider allocation methodology.

11. Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) Budget Report 2025/26 (Pages 37 - 41)

Head of Finance (CYPS) and Principal Finance Officer (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

1. That the Schools Forum approve the proposed 2025/26 budget allocation as outlined in the table in paragraph 18.
2. That the Schools Forum note the actions to address the net funding gap identified in paragraph 24.

12. Appointment of Vice-Chair

To appoint a new Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Schools Forum.

13. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Pages 43 - 45)

To consider the attached Forward Plan of agenda items and receive any updates.

14. Any Other Business

To receive any other items of urgent business.

15. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Recommendations:

1. To consider and agree the date and time of the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum on 28th March 2024 at 8.30 a.m. at Rockingham Professional Development Centre.
2. To consider and amend where necessary the dates/times proposed for future meetings scheduled:-

Friday, 27th June, 2025

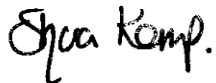
Friday, 12th September, 2025

Friday, 14th November, 2025

Friday, 16th January, 2026

Friday 27th March, 2026

**The next meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum will
be held on Friday 28 March 2025
commencing at 8.30 a.m.
in Rockingham Professional Development Centre.**



SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.