

ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date and Time:- Friday 16 January 2026 at 8.30 a.m.

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

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 5th December 2025.

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.

7. Dedicated Schools Grant / Schools Budget Update 2025/26 (Pages 15 - 19)

Report from the Principal Finance Officer (CYPS).

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Notes the latest DSG funding for schools for the 2025/26 financial year.
2. Notes the forecast positions of Rotherham's maintained schools and the centrally retained DSG budgets for the year.

8. Schools Funding Settlement (2026/27) (Pages 21 - 25)

Report from the Head of Finance (CYPS).

Recommendation:

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

9. Schools Block DSG Budget (2026/27) (Pages 27 - 36)

Principal Finance Officer (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Notes the Schools Block DSG allocation for 2026/27 and the implemented changes to the local schools funding formula as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 19 of this report;
2. Notes that the proposed 2026/27 schools funding formula incorporates a funding transfer of 0.5% to the high needs block (as approved by the Forum on 5th December 2025).
3. For maintained schools reps only – Approves 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 DSG Budget (2026/27) (Pages 37 - 53)

Head of Finance (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Notes the provisional DSG funding settlement for the early years block for Rotherham for 2026/27;
2. Notes the proposed arrangements for allocating the early years funding to providers for 3 & 4 year olds, 2 year olds and under 2's.

3. Endorses the proposed early years funding rates to providers for the 2026/27 financial year.

11. Central School Services Block DSG Budget (2026/27) (Pages 55 - 59)

Head of Finance (CYPS) to report.

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Notes the DSG allocation for Central Schools Services Block for 2026-27.
2. Approves the proposed 2026-27 budget allocation as outlined in the table in paragraph 16.

12. SEND Sufficiency Strategy Mid Year Update (Pages 61 - 72)

Transformation Lead (CYPS) to report.

Recommendation:

That Members of Schools Forum receive and note the update.

13. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Page 73)

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.

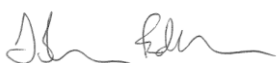
15. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Recommendations:

To consider and amend where necessary the dates/times proposed for future meetings scheduled:-

Friday, 12th June, 2026
Friday, 18th September, 2026
Friday, 4th December, 2026
Friday, 22nd January, 2027
Friday 19th March, 2027

The next meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum will be held on Friday 27 March 2026 commencing at 8.30 a.m. in Rockingham Professional Development Centre.



John Edwards, Chief Executive.