

ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date and Time:- Friday 18 September 2026 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 outgoing Chair and introductions.

2. Appointment of Chair

To receive nominations and agree the Chair of Schools Forum for the academic years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

To receive nominations and agree the Vice Chair of the Schools Forum for the academic years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

4. Apologies for Absence

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

5. 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.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th June 2026.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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

8. Membership and Constitution of the Rotherham Schools Forum (Pages 11 - 15)

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

9. Schools Budgets 2026-27 - Latest Position (Pages 17 - 22)

Report from the Principal Finance Officer (Schools Finance).

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Note the latest DSG funding for schools for the 2026/27 financial year.
2. Note the forecast positions of Rotherham's maintained schools and the centrally retained DSG budgets for the year.
3. Note the government changes to Free School Meals from September 2026.

10. DfE Consultation on voluntary upfront funding for mainstream school SEND provision - Rotherham's position (Pages 23 - 27)

Report from the Head of Finance (CYPS).

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Note the content of the DfE consultation 'Upfront funding for mainstream schools: creating a 'local SEND inclusion formula'', which closes on 18 September 2026.
2. Note Rotherham's position not to submit an expression of interest to participate in the first phase of this approach for the 2027/28 financial year, for the reasons set out in section 6 of this report.

11. Local Area Reform SEND Plan Update (Pages 29 - 34)

Update from the Transformation Lead (CYPS)

Recommendation:

1. That Schools Forum receive and note the update.

12. Special School Placement & Capacity (Pages 35 - 40)

Report from the Head of Service - SEND.

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

1. Note the current sufficiency position.
2. Note the regional and national benchmarking information.
3. Support ongoing SEND Sufficiency planning to meet projected EHCP growth and future placement demand.

13. Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Annual Update (Pages 41 - 42)

Report from the EHCP – Team Manager

Recommendation:

1. That Schools Forum receive and note the update.

14. Part-time Timetables 2025 - 2026 (Pages 43 - 45)

Report from the Head of Service - Access to Education

Recommendation:

1. That Schools Forum receive and note the update.

15. Placements at Aspire (Pages 47 - 49)

Report from the Service Director – Education and Inclusion

Recommendation

1. That Schools Forum note Option 1 as the preferred option - a recharge of £50 per day will be made to the 'home' school by Aspire PRU for students accessing the provision.

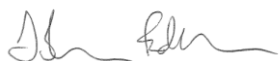
16. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Pages 51 - 52)

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

17. Any Other Business

To receive any other items of urgent business.

**The next meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum will
be held on Friday 4 December 2026
commencing at 8.30 a.m.
in Rockingham Professional Development Centre.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a stylized, cursive script.

**John Edwards,
Chief Executive.**