

Notice of Schools Forum



Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Committee Room, First Floor, BCP Civic Centre Annex, St Stephen's Rd, Bournemouth BH2 6LL / Via MS Teams

Chairman:

Geoff Cherrill Maintained Special

Vice-Chairman:

Patrick Earnshaw Academies – Secondary

Kate Carter	Academies - Primary
Esther Curry	Academies - Primary
Chris Jackson	Academies - Primary
Chris Moody	Academies - Primary
Sean Preston	Academies - Primary
Heather Spring	Academies - Primary
Vacancy	Academies - Primary
Mark Avoth	Academies - Secondary
Paul Gray	Academies - Secondary
Michelle Dyer	Academies - Secondary
James Sankey	Academies - Secondary
Matthew Woodville	Academies - Secondary
Vacancy	Academies - Secondary
Sarah McCurrie	Special Academies
Ben Doyle	All Through Academies
Russell Arnold	Alternative Provision Academy
Chris Barnett	Maintained Secondary
Phillip Gavin	Mainstream PRU
Vicky Peters	Early Years
Linda Duly	Early Years
Vacancy	Catholic Diocese
Richard Wharton	C of E Diocese Representative

All Members of the Schools Forum are summoned to attend this remote meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to attend this remote meeting and should email any request to do so to the meeting contact below, and a meeting invite will be sent.

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5773>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

13 June 2025

DEBATE
NOT HATE



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

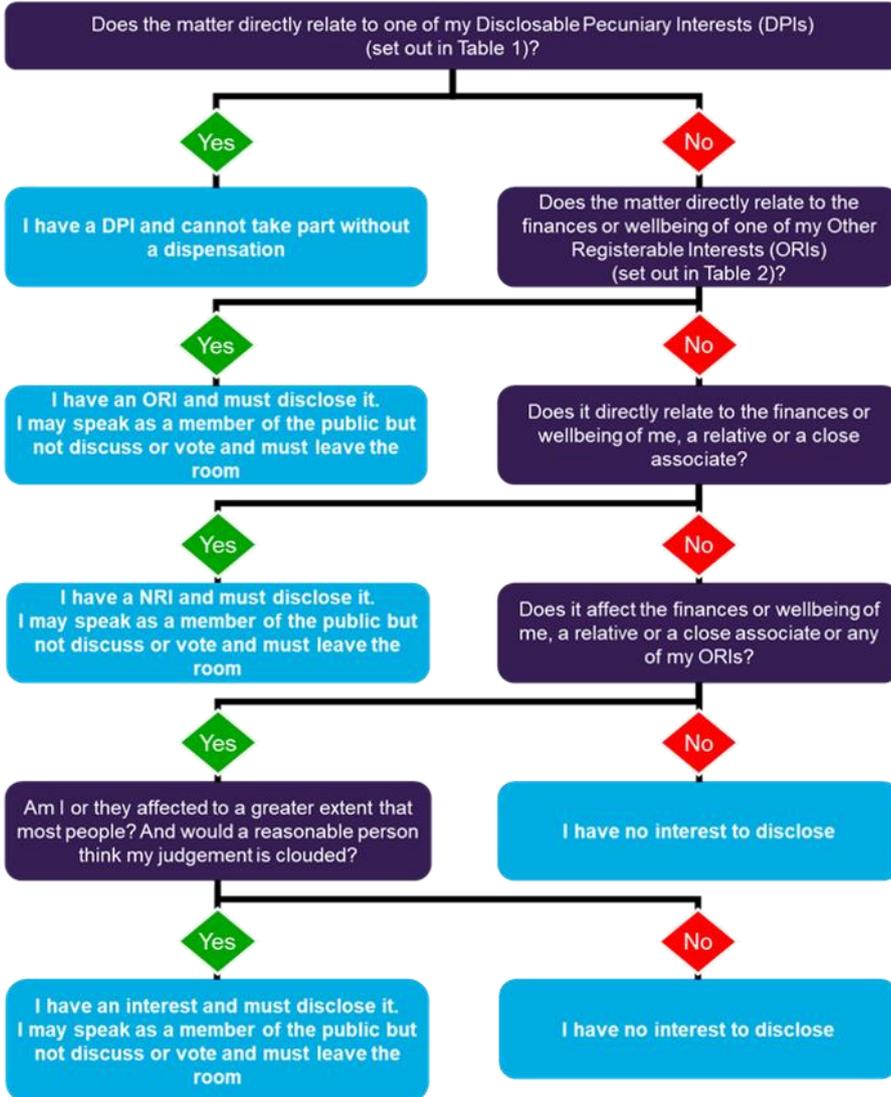


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13 January 2025, as a correct record.

7 - 12

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2024-25

The report considers the end of year position for the DSG budget 2024-25. The budget was set with a funding gap of £28m, a similar level compared with the previous year, with the expectation that the innovation fund and other initiatives would start to have impact in reducing the demand for education health and care plans (EHCPs). This was alongside the creation of new SEND places in mainstream schools through capital investment to limit the use of higher cost independent provision.

The outturn is a net in-year funding gap approaching £50m. This is £5m more than indicated at quarter three. There is an element of one-off additional high needs spending over the final quarter, but it is likely most previously unforeseen costs will be on-going.

More children are remaining in mainstream schools but the growth in demand for EHCPs overall has more than offset any potential savings. The demand has continued to grow for independent school places, alternative provision, and bespoke arrangements for those unable to attend any school setting.

The trajectory of the accumulated deficit has therefore continued a significant upward path from £65.5m for March 2024, to £113.3m for March 2025.

13 - 18

5. High Needs Update

The report provides a summary of the high needs budget for 2025-26 and includes details of new activities to support pupils with additional needs in mainstream schools – the inclusion fund and outreach plus.

The inclusion fund is funded by surplus school block funding as agreed by Schools Forum in January 2025. The report sets out the how the fund will be allocated in 2025-26 following further consultation with headteachers since February this year.

Outreach plus is a new service to support mainstream schools establish resourced provision with the aim of increasing specialist capacity for children with autism spectrum condition and social, emotional and mental health needs.

Once fully implemented these two activities should deliver savings to the high needs budget through future cost avoidance.

19 - 26

6. Schools Forum - Exceptional Circumstances Funding for 202526

27 - 30

The report provides an update on:

- The Exceptional Circumstances Funding for 2025/26.
- The resolution of previously unpaid funding from Autumn 2023 to Spring 2025.

A revised criteria and funding model is now in place for 2025-26 that will be reviewed after 2 months to determine future frequency of calculation moving forwards.

Previously unpaid funding amounts have now been paid to all eligible schools on 30.05.25.

Items for Information

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|---|---------|
| 7. Schools Forum Special School Banding Review | 31 - 44 |
| The report provides an update on progress made with the Special School Banding Review | |
| 8. Forward Plan | 45 - 46 |
| To consider and note the Forward Plan | |
| 9. Dates of Future Meetings | |
| To note the future meeting dates as follows: | |
| - 29 September 2025 | |
| - 24 November 2025 | |
| - 19 January 2026 | |
| - 22 June 2026 | |
| 10. Any Other Business | |
| To consider any other business, which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration. | |

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.