

# Notice of Schools Forum



Date: Monday, 22 June 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: Royal Hampshire Committee Room, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY / Via MS Teams

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## 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
Gemma Sutter	Academies – Primary
Mark Avoth	Academies – Secondary
Sian Phillips	Academies – Secondary
Michelle Dyer	Academies – Secondary
Phil Midworth	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
Damon Parker	Early Years
Vacancy	Catholic Diocese
Richard Wharton	C of E Diocese Representative

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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=6265>

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](mailto:democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

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

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk](http://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk)

AIDAN DUNN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

12 June 2026

**DEBATE**  
**NOT HATE**



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app

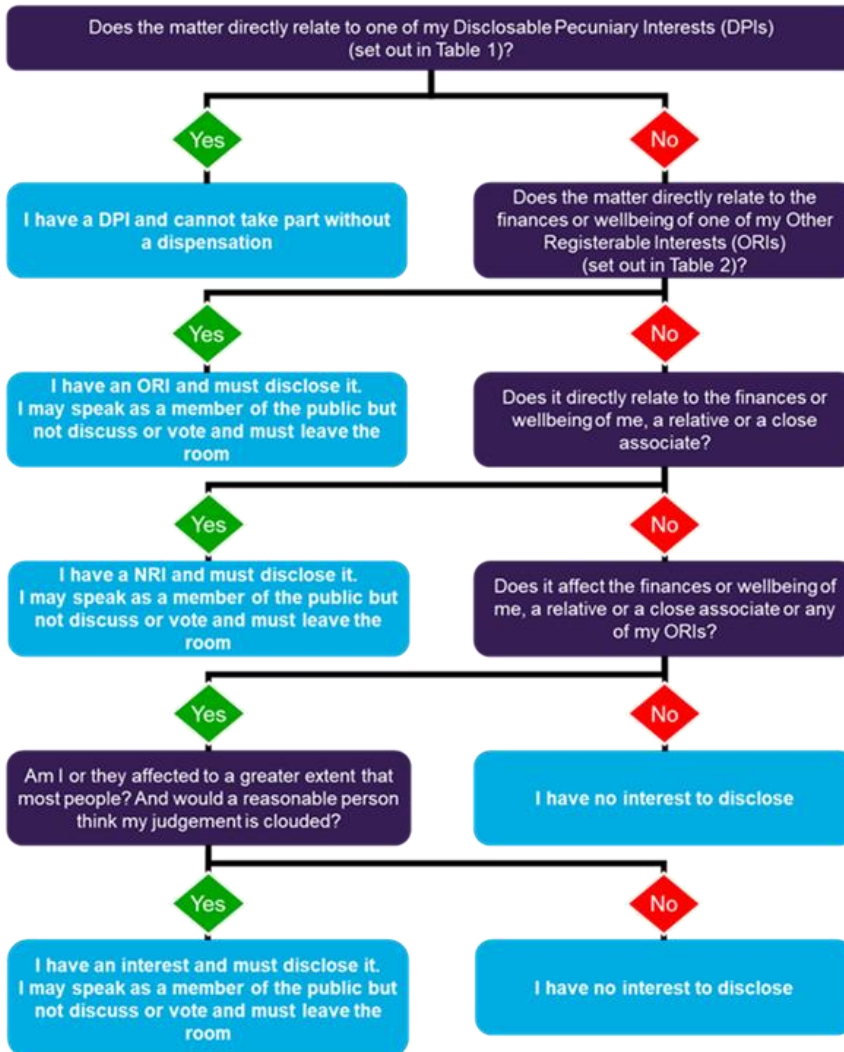


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### 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

### 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**

5 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 February 2026, as a correct record.

**4. Schools Forum Future Meeting Arrangements**

11 - 22

The Schools Forum is a statutory body established by the local authority in accordance with the School Forums (England) Regulations 2012. It advises the authority on matters relating to the funding of schools and must operate in line with statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

The Forum has, in recent years, operated successfully using virtual meeting arrangements in a hybrid environment.

To reflect this established practice and ensure clarity and compliance with governance requirements, it is proposed that the Terms of Reference are updated to formalise meetings as being held remotely. The revised Terms of Reference ensure that arrangements continue to meet statutory expectations, including openness, transparency and public access.

**5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Financial Outturn 2025/26**

23 - 32

The report considers the end of year position for the DSG budget 2025-26. The outturn is an in-year funding gap of £66.6m. This is £9.1m more than the budget, but an improvement compared with the quarter three forecast. The budget was set with the expectation that the innovation fund would start to have impact in reducing the demand for education health and care plans (EHCPs) alongside the creation of new SEND places in mainstream schools through capital investment to limit the use of higher cost independent provision. There is delay in both initiatives and the SEND reforms announced by government during the year have further fuelled demand. The result has been greater use than budgeted of high-cost independent school places, alternative provision and bespoke arrangements for children and young people unable to attend any school setting.

The trajectory of the accumulated deficit has therefore continued a significant upward path from £113.3m for March 2025, to almost £180m for March 2026. This deficit is carried forward by the council in a specific negative reserve by a statutory override that suspends the normal

accounting practice.

**6. Local SEND Reform Plan**

Verbal  
Report

To receive a verbal update on the Local SEND Reform Plan.

**7. BCP Experts at Hand Model**

33 - 64

This report provides Schools Forum with an overview of the proposed BCP Experts at Hand partnership model, developed to strengthen early, inclusive and needs-led support for children and young people with SEND across schools and settings. The model is rooted in co-production with children, young people, families, practitioners and partners, and is designed to build confidence and capability within mainstream settings through timely access to specialist expertise, coaching, training, consultation and practical support. It aligns with the Graduated Approach to Inclusion and the emerging cluster-based targeted funding model, creating a coherent locality-based system focused on prevention, early intervention, reduced escalation and improved outcomes.

**8. SEND Service – Exceptional Funding**

65 - 72

This report provides an update on Exceptional Circumstances Funding arrangements for mainstream schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole for 2026/27. It reviews the 2025/26 funding model, sets out the financial and strategic context, and presents revised model options intended to ensure funding is transparent, sustainable and targeted to schools with the highest proportion of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans. Schools Forum is asked to note the revised models, select the preferred option for 2026/27, and support ongoing review to ensure the approach remains fair, affordable and aligned with SEND reform priorities.

**9. Any Other Business**

To consider any other business, which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

**10. Forward Plan**

73 - 74

To consider and note the Forward Plan

**11. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Forum is asked to note the previously agreed dates:

- 21 September 2026
- 16 November 2026
- 11 January 2027
- 21 June 2027

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.