

Notice of Schools Forum

Date: Monday, 23 February 2026 at 10.00 am

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



Membership:

Chairman:

Geoff Cherrill

Vice Chairman:

Patrick Earnshaw

Kate Carter	Midworth	Phillip Gavin
Sean Preston	M Dyer	Parker
Esther Curry	Phillips	Vicky Peters
Sutter	Woodville	Richard Wharton
Heather Spring	Ben Doyle	Vacancy
Chris Moody	Russell Arnold	VACANCY
Jackson	McCurrie	
Mark Avoth	Chris Barnett	

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.bcp council.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6663>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sinead O'Callaghan on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcp council.gov.uk

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

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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 February 2026

DEBATE
NOT HATE



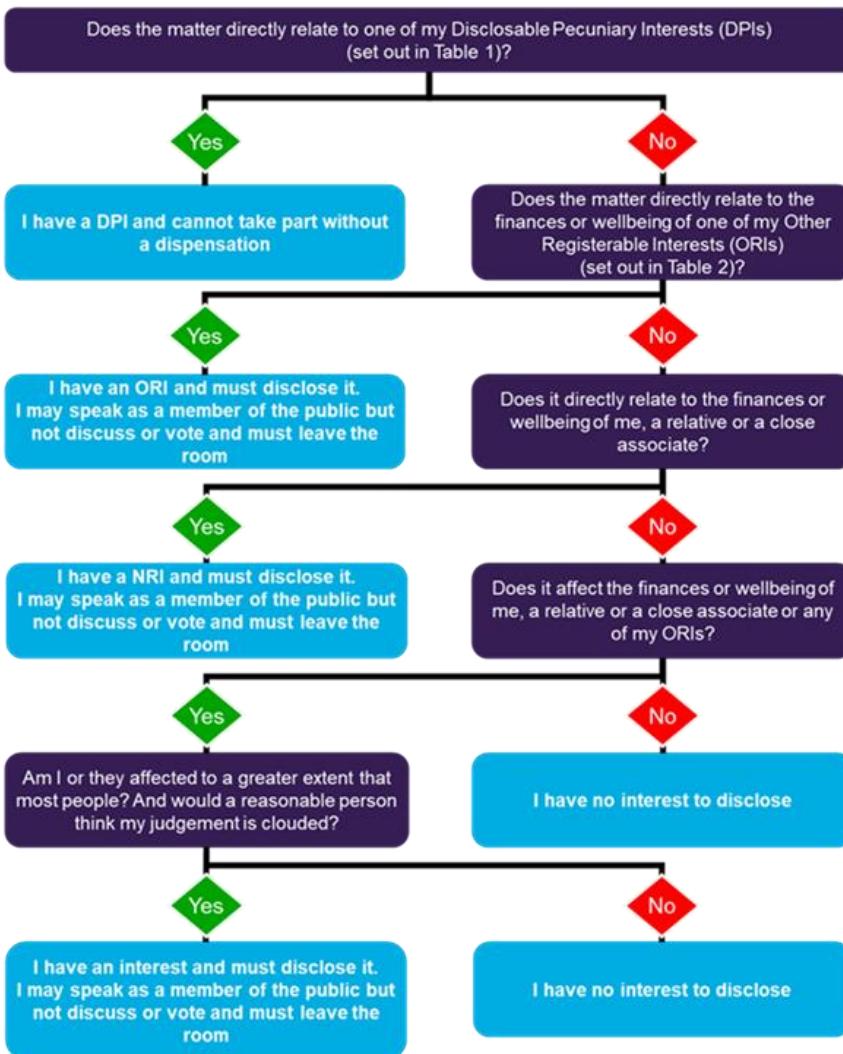
Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

Four icons representing different platforms: a smartphone, a laptop, an Apple logo, and an Android logo, all associated with the 'Mod.gov' app.

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 19 January 2026, as a correct record.

4. Early Years Single Funding Formula 2026/27

11 - 16

This report sets out the outcome of the 2026/27 Early Years Funding consultations, and proposals for decision as outlined below. This is to ensure the Council meet its statutory requirements as per the Schools Forum regulations and Early Years Financial Regulations.

The Early Years Sub-Group, comprising representatives from a range of local provider types, has engaged constructively with the proposal and provided valuable input throughout its development. A key preference expressed by members was for the local consultation to be timed to follow the DfE's announcement of national funding rates, while avoiding the Christmas period. This would ensure that providers are able to consider the local approach with full sight of confirmed funding levels. The DfE confirmed the national funding formulae and hourly rates for local authorities for the 2026/27 financial year on 15 December 2025, alongside the expectation that local authorities will pass through a minimum of 97% of this funding to providers.

For 2026–27, the Council proposes to maintain stability in the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) by keeping the current structure unchanged. This includes retaining the existing universal base rate and deprivation supplement, with no alterations to eligibility criteria or rates.

Any additional funding received from the Department for Education will be fully passed on to providers through increases in the universal base hourly rates.

The Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) will also remain unchanged, with no amendments to existing rates or processes.

In line with national regulations, the Council will retain the maximum 3% of the EYSFF to fund central services necessary to administer and support the delivery of the early year's entitlements.

On 12 January 2026, the Early Years Single Funding Formula consultation paper and online link for responses was emailed to 270 childcare providers registered for early education funding within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP). The deadline for responses was on 25 January

2026. 20% of providers engaged with the consultation. Overall, providers were supportive of the proposal for 2026/27 EYSFF. The consultation response is summarised at Appendix A.

5. Central Retention and De-delegation Consultation

17 - 32

This report provides proposals for maintained schools only:

- The central retention of services where the LA retains a statutory duty to undertake activity to support maintained schools only (both mainstream and specialist).
- De-delegation of services applicable only to mainstream schools. These are services where schools retain the statutory duties, but better efficiency could be achieved through central delivery by the LA.

6. Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools 2026/27

33 - 34

The BCP Scheme has been updated to reflect the latest statutory guidance and proposed local financial arrangements. A short consultation has been undertaken with maintained schools.

7. Forward Plan

35 - 36

To consider and note the Forward Plan

8. Dates of Future Meetings

- 22 June 2026

9. 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.