

Hampshire Schools Forum

Date 14 October 2026
Time 14:00pm
Location MS Teams

Present

Primary	Amanda Greenwood, John Littlewood (Chair – start of meeting)), Kishor Patel, Peter Bassett, Stacey Parsons, Ian Waine, Claire Hope Sefton Lucas,
Secondary	Chris Anders (Chair), Paul German
Special	Marijke Miles
Academy	Kathryn Marshall, Pete Main,
Education Centre	Vicky Essex
Nursery	Joan Kerr
Diocese	David Woolley
TLP	Susan Kent
HCC	Cllr Chadd, Cllr Henderson, Natalie Smith, Andrew Minall, Catherine Edgecombe, Rebcca Baker, Jean Thrope, Richard Vaugh, Natalie Jerams, Paul Morgan, Anita Blackwell (clerk),

Apologies/ Absent

Primary	<i>Jason Anderson, June Kershaw Richard Austin</i>
Secondary	Chris Sermon <i>Keith Atton</i>
Special	Justin Innes
Academy	Keith Norman, Mark Maranda Hilary Manton, <i>Susan Hamilton</i>
Early Years	<i>Nicci Atkinson Simon Evans</i>
Post 16	Sara Russell
TLP	Jo Ayres

1	Welcome and apologies.	
	Apologies received and recorded as above	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	No change since previous meeting	
3	Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 July 2026	
	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
4	Actions Arising	
	There were no outstanding actions.	

5	Schools Audit Finding – Natalie Jerams	
	Natalie presented the audit findings. Q- How is the sample size for audits determined and is it representative? Natalie explained that when audits are included in the annual plan, a number of days is allocated to each thematic review. The available audit days then determine the number of schools that can be included in the sample. In response to a question about whether audits are capacity-led rather than needs-led, Natalie advised that the audit plan remains flexible and is continually reviewed in response to emerging risks and audit findings. Where significant concerns are identified, additional audit work can be commissioned. Equally, where findings are consistent across schools, the level of audit activity may be reduced. Chris noted that audit work is based on sampling and is intended to provide assurance rather than establish a complete picture across all schools.	
6	Procurement/ County Supplies Forthcoming Framework Agreements Affecting School – Paul Morgan	
	• Presentation shared – to be circulated with minutes	
7	Capital Programme – Richard Vaughan	
	Presentation shared Q – Is there is a point at which a school becomes financially unviable? Richard explained that this is assessed through a combination of factors, including the school's financial position, ability to recover from any deficit, educational standards, ability to deliver the curriculum, and future pupil number projections. There is no single threshold or "bottom line". Decisions often require balancing educational and financial considerations and are made in partnership with schools. Q – Can we have an update on the capital investment at Cranbourne Secondary School? Richard advised that the project forms part of the Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme and is being funded directly by the DfE. Work commenced on site recently and is progressing as planned, with Hampshire County Council supporting the programme.	

8	Schools Budget Update - including DfE funding consultation responses– Andrew Minall	
	Slides were shared with members. Members noted the recommendations within the report as follows • It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the update on the 2026/27 budget. • It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the update on the 2027/28 funding for schools. • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposal to disapply the regulations in relation to exceptional premises costs for a small number of schools as outlined in 4.7. • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposal to apply for second year of lump sum protection for one school as outlined in 4.8. • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposal to disapply the regulations in relation to MFG for two special schools as part of a transition contract agreed between the local authority and multi academy trust to support the schools recovery plan when they transition across to standard funding arrangements in academic year 2027/28 Q - A query was raised about the government not clawing back regarding local government pension scheme and the theory that this covered pay rises. Andrew confirmed that the reduction in employer pension contributions took affect from April 2026 and no indication of potential clawback was provided by government at that time. This change is therefore already incorporated into schools' budgets and as such, the original expectation from government that some efficiency savings will be required to help fund the pay award remain.	
9	F40 Update	
	• Members received an update on F40 matters.	
10	LGR update	
	Nothing to report	
10	AOB	
	• Vacancies among Headteacher and Governor representatives were discussed. • It was agreed that a list of current vacancies would be circulated to members. Care would be taken to avoid duplication and to ensure balanced representation across geographical areas.	AB

	David Woolley would contact the Diocese to establish the current position and provide an update. – it was agreed that representative should have a connection to a Hampshire school. Members thanked Andrew for his valuable contribution to the Schools Forum and for the leadership and guidance he had provided to the group. Members noted that his updates, including those relating to F40, had been particularly helpful. The Chair thanked Andrew for his commitment and wished him well for the future.	DW
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