

Report to the Schools Forum

Meeting to be held on Friday 3rd July 2026

Item 5

Forum Membership

Contact for further information:
Schools Forum Clerk
schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report summarises the changes to the Forum membership since the last meeting.

Recommendation

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Thanks to Sarah Robson, Deanne Marsh and Louise Parrish
- c) Welcome Nicola Chester

This report provides information on Forum membership issues that have arisen since the last Forum meeting. Details are provided below.

Schools Forum Annual Membership Review for September 2026

Previous reports to the Forum in the current academic year have kept members updated on the annual membership review process ahead of the new academic year in September 2026.

Earlier reports noted that a change in membership numbers was recommended to the balance of maintained primary schools, maintained secondary schools and academy membership for 2026/27, following the latest analysis of pupil numbers. The revised balance increases academy representation while maintaining the current number of maintained primary and maintained secondary representatives, ensuring the Forum continues to reflect the evolving sector profile and a balanced range of views.

The review has sought responses from schools' representatives about whether members wished to continue on the Forum from September 2026 and slow reviewed member attendance in line with the Forum operational Arrangements. A number of members have indicated that they will not be continuing on the Forum in 2026/27, and this meeting will be their last.

Members leaving the Forum as part of this annual membership review include:



Sarah Robson	Primary Headteacher
Deanne Marsh	Primary Headteacher
Lousie Parrish	Special Academy Headteacher
Holly Clarke	Academy Alt Prov Headteacher
Matt Eastham	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Stephanie Carter	Academy Alt Prov
Melanie Furness	Academy Primary Headteacher
Richard Davis	Academy Primary Headteacher
Gillian Donohoe	Secondary Governor
Daniel Baron	Primary Governor
Helen Shaw	Primary Headteacher
Nigel Whittle	Primary Governor
Stuart Booth	Primary Headteacher

The LA is making arrangements to seek replacement representatives for September 2026.

A number of these colleagues who are leaving are active and longstanding members, and the Forum will want to express thanks for their contributions and wish them well for the future.

Since the last Schools Forum meeting a number of representatives have been elected due to mid-year changes.

Nicola Chester

Special Academy Headteacher

Schools Forum Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026/27 Academic Year

As part of the annual membership review, Schools forum annually review the forum chairs.

Daniel Ballard and Stephen Booth have confirmed that they will continue as Schools Forum Chair and Vice Chair from September 2026.

Working Group Chairs

High Needs Block Working Group Chair - Claire Thompson has expressed wishes to step down as the chair from September 2026 and nominations are sought. Members interested in the position should contact the Schools Forum Clerk.

Schools Block Working Group Chair – Oliver Handley has agreed to continue to chair this working group.

Early Years Block Working Group Chair – Phillipa Perks has agreed to continue to chair this working group.

The Schools forum would like to express their thanks to the Forum chairs for their time and dedication to the forum operations.

