

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Schools Forum meets 6 times per year. Its representation consists of :

- nursery, primary, secondary and special school heads
- primary, secondary and special school governors
- parent governors
- A Southwark Diocesan Board of Education representative
- An Archdiocese of Southwark Schools' Commission representative
- A 14-19 Consortium representative
- An Early Years representative
- An Academies representative (*shortly to be appointed*)

The Forum is responsible for considering

- any proposed changes to the schools funding formulas factors or criteria that were adopted in their formula made in accordance with regulations made under section 47 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- the financial effect of any such change

Statutory Duties

The forum must be consulted and agree if the proposed percentage increase to the centrally managed share of the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) is greater than the overall DSG settlement.

Other responsibilities

- monitor and track schools with deficits
- to advise and support schools to gain the expertise with which to manage their finances effectively.

The Schools Forum is also consulted on:

- arrangements to be made for the education of pupils with special educational needs
- arrangement for early years education, the use of pupil referral units, the education of children otherwise than at school
- insurance of school premises and professional indemnities
- prospective revisions to the relevant authority's scheme of financing of schools
- administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools
- arrangements for free school meals
- proposed contract for supplies or services paid out of the schools budget, e.g. catering