

Schools Forum Meeting

Room 10

Thursday, 19th September, 2019 at 4.30 pm

Agenda

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1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>		
2.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2019</u>		3 - 6
3.	<u>Matters arising from the minutes</u>		
4.	<u>School balances 2018/19 – Report</u>	Information only	7 - 8
5.	<u>Spending review – Verbal</u>	Information only	
6.	<u>Consultations – Verbal</u>	Information only	
7.	<u>Any other business</u>		
8.	<u>Date and time of next meeting</u>		

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**ST. HELENS COUNCIL
SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Draft minutes of the Meeting of the Schools Forum
Held on Thursday 11th July 2019 at 4.30 p.m. at the Town Hall**

Members:

Primary School Head Teachers

- *Mrs C Cropper, St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary
- Mrs C Gowan, Eccleston Lane Ends Primary
- Mrs J Sweeney, Rectory CE Primary
- Vacant
- *Mrs A Richardson, Rainford CE Primary

Secondary School Head Teachers and Representatives

- *Mr A Rannard, De La Salle
- *Mrs C Twist, St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

Special School Head Teacher

Mrs J Johnson, Penkford School

Primary School Governors

- *Mr W Leatherbarrow, Birchley St Mary's Catholic Primary
- Ms L Cunliffe, The District CE Primary
- *Mr F Taylor, Eccleston Lane Ends Primary
- *Ms L Moore, Broad Oak, Bleak Hill Primary
- Ms D Bate, Rainford CE Primary

Secondary School Governors

Mr S Neal, St Cuthbert's Catholic High School
Ms N Winstanley, Haydock High School

Special School Governor

- *Mr W Bradbury, Mill Green School

Nursery School Head Teacher/Governor

Ms E Nicholson, Rainhill Nursery

14-19 Partnership

Ms M Williams, Carmel College

Union Representative

- *Mr B McConnell

PVI Early Years Provider Representative

Mrs N Politis, Portico Day Nursery

Diocesan and Archdiocesan Representative

Mr T Warren

Academy Representatives

- Mr S Hughes, Hope Academy
- *Ms K Sawe, The Three Saints Academy Trust
- *Mr R Owens, Rainhill Learning Village Multi Academy Trust
- Mrs J Tallant, The Sutton Academy

PRU Representative

Mrs D Clayton

Elected Member Observer

Councillor S Murphy

*Denotes Members Present

Also Present: Mr S Webb, Business Support Manager
Mrs D Gilchrist, Principal Accountant for Schools.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr Leatherbarrow was elected Chairperson and Mr Bradbury was elected Vice Chairperson for the year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ms M Williams, Ms N Winstanley, Cllr S Murphy, Prof S O'Brien, Ms D Bate, Mrs K Hall, Ms N Politis, Mrs J Tallant and Mr W Brookes.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2019

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Terms of Reference

Mr Webb explained that the Terms of Reference requires an annual review, though the content this year remains unchanged.

The Forum approved the Terms of Reference

6. School balances 2018/19

Mr Webb informed the Forum that this item was to be deferred.

At a meeting of the Schools Forum last year there had been discussion and debate around school balances, and the Forum requested that the Strategic Director of People's Services attended a Forum meeting when school balances were to be discussed again. As the Strategic Director was unable to attend this meeting, the item has been deferred until the next meeting.

Mr Taylor asked if the Strategic Director had visited some schools to see why some balances are as high as they are, and if she had a plan regarding how to move things around.

Mr Webb informed the Forum that the Strategic Director had formed a view and would explain this at the next meeting.

Mr Bradbury raised his concerns that some school balances were very low.

Mr Leatherbarrow stated that as a Forum we would like any explanation to have substance rather than retrospective action.

The Forum acknowledged that the Strategic Director was unavailable for this meeting but would welcome her attendance at the next meeting.

7. DSG outturn 2018/19

Mr Webb reminded the Forum that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced grant which is provided to local authorities to fund schools and some central services. The grant is subject to external audit and grant returns.

He explained that section 3.1 of the report sets out the outturn position, and Appendix 1 sets out Section 251 data.

Although the 2018/19 underspend is £737k this is primarily attributable to Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). Mr Webb explained that the process to determine the final level of Early Years Block funding in respect of FEEE is quite complicated, and although the 2018/19 provisional grant had been made available, it would be adjusted in 2019/20 financial year to reflect the January 2019 census numbers.

The underspend on FEEE is £756k and the local authority expects a significant proportion of this to be recovered by the Department for Education (DfE) to reflect the decrease in January 2019 pupil numbers.

Although there is an overspend on the high needs block, Mr Webb explained that without the additional high needs funding from the DfE this would have been significantly higher. Mr Webb confirmed that high needs top ups and independent school fees were the most significant pressures on the high needs block.

He explained that the true underspend on the DSG would be considerably less than currently reported after the FEEE recoupmnt, and proposed that this is transferred to balances to offset the pressure on high needs funding in future years.

The Forum agreed to any remaining underspend being transferred to balances.

8. DfE Consultation 'Call for Evidence'

Mr Webb advised the Forum that the local authority had forwarded this consultation by email to all schools on 18th June. The government have acknowledged that schools across the country are experiencing difficulties with high needs. In response they have launched this consultation, not relating to the total amount of funding available which will be discussed at the next spending review, but about how the funding is distributed.

The local authority will be submitting a response to the DfE and urge schools to respond also. The deadline for responses is 31st July 2019.

Mr Leatherbarrow requested that the consultation is also circulated to all governors.

9. Any other business

Mr McConnell stated that the local authority is encouraging schools to off-roll pupils, but that Sutton Academy had been penalised for this by Ofsted. He explained that schools were struggling with alternative provision for students and that Mrs J Davies, Senior Assistant Director Education & Children's Health, had advised that the local authority would be looking at providing their own alternative provision. Mr McConnell asked where this was up to.

Mr Webb advised that it would be more appropriate for a colleague from this service area to respond to this.

Mr McConnell raised the issue of term time only employees who may have had their holiday pay calculated incorrectly, and referred to the recently reported case in Greenwich.

He asked that if support staff in schools were owed pay would this be funded by the local authority or school budgets.

Mr Webb confirmed that this would need to be looked into further and that he currently had no information on this topic to share with the Forum.

At the last meeting of the Schools Forum primary and secondary school representatives requested that discussions take place with headteacher colleagues before a decision could be made on de-delegation of services. Both primary and secondary representatives had subsequently indicated to the local authority that de-delegation would continue on the same basis as last year.

This decision was ratified by the relevant members of the Forum.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday, 19th September 2019

School Balances 2017/18 and 2018/19

School Name	Delegated Budget closing balance 2017/18	Delegated Budget closing balance 2018/19	2018/19 closing balance as a percentage of total budget share
	£	£	%
Rainhill Nursery	93,499	70,126	18.01
Allanson Street	170,075	136,123	5.71
Ashurst	69,414	58,044	5.85
Bleak Hill	124,050	55,821	3.29
Rainford Brook Lodge	61,274	62,473	6.95
Broad Oak	363,784	347,426	11.78
St Mary's Blackbrook	63,405	103,550	5.67
Carr Mill Primary	144,328	37,404	2.41
Chapel End	134,256	94,517	8.51
Corpus Christi	108,596	143,528	18.86
The District	204,366	230,495	13.77
Eaves	153,605	150,331	14.15
Eccleston Lane Ends	25,624	35,126	3.82
Eccleston Mere	50,764	37,950	2.30
Haydock English Martyrs	121,500	142,470	9.91
Garswood	112,982	136,857	15.74
Grange Valley	56,210	111,664	8.02
Holy Cross	118,068	120,962	11.94
Holy Spirit	127,484	115,234	10.50
Lekh Vale	305,030	308,844	13.89
Longton Lane	30,068	77,682	7.63
Lyme	49,169	18,095	1.73
Merton Bank	166,238	190,862	15.81
Newton le Willows Primary	171,684	206,269	8.71
Nutgrove	43,359	N/A	N/A
Oakdene	102,880	62,965	7.69
Queen's Park	265,403	187,083	9.65
Rectory	99,920	136,170	11.72
Rivington	226,637	226,467	20.78
Robins Lane	47,021	19,718	1.75
Rainford CE	63,079	82,837	7.67
St Aidan's	39,503	36,555	4.32
St Anne's	49,456	167,521	11.88
St Austin's	896	295	0.03
St Bartholomew's	103,923	118,363	10.55
St James'	110,052	N/A	N/A
St John Vianney	19,122	1,776	0.20
St Julie's	45,602	31,300	3.49
The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools - Infants	65,172	79,476	9.32
The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools - Juniors	33,180	27,256	2.83
St Mary's Birchley	93,727	96,979	11.95
St Peter's	169,709	151,342	16.57
St Peter & St Paul	51,364	31,741	3.62
St Teresa's	64,531	86,839	10.37
St Theresa's	119,823	88,747	8.15
Sherdley	84,482	92,022	5.16
Sutton Manor	95,527	107,695	9.68
Thatto Heath	170,876	57,190	1.93
Sutton Oak	171,248	206,788	12.65
Wargrave	100,493	111,720	6.33
Willow Tree	57,048	119,779	8.08
St Thomas of Canterbury	41,867	42,968	5.08
Total Primary Schools	5,561,373	5,363,444	
Cowley	1,001,843	896,856	10.23
Haydock	145,566	199,473	4.57
De La Salle	412,766	365,611	5.90
St Augustine of Canterbury	78,947	-30,740	-0.82
St Cuthbert's	230,611	183,170	3.77
Total Secondary Schools	1,869,733	1,614,370	
Penkford	113,728	117,181	7.78
Mill Green	278,625	398,009	18.61
Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College	521,679	342,080	7.81
Pupil Referral Unit	440,916	481,075	14.48
Total Special Schools	1,354,948	1,338,345	
Grand Total	8,786,054	8,316,158	

* Includes £13,227 Teaching School balance

** Includes £21,168 Schools Direct balance

*** Includes £42,233 ASD/MLD unit balances

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