

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

SUBJECT:	SFF Membership – Various Administration Matters
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates SFF members on the recent SFF Primary School and Academy elections, the continuing roll of sub-groups and the pending election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. It also seeks the views of SFF members representing schools as to whether the current representation, defined as a Headteacher or Principal should be broadened to include other senior members of staff in a school.

FOR:	Information and decision
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1. Recent SFF Elections Primary Schools and Academies

- 1.1 Since the last SFF on the 21 March, elections have taken place for two positions representing Primary Schools and three positions representing Academies. In all cases the SFF members whose positions were up for election have been successfully re-elected to office for the period May 2014 to May 2017. Congratulations to Ben Cooper and Lynda Downes representing Primary Schools and John Bird, John Dennis and Rosemary Joyce representing Academies.

2. Sub- Groups

- 2.1 Due to the general inactivity of the SFF sub-groups in recent months the chairperson of the SFF has requested that members are made aware that this has not gone unnoticed. Unless members of the SFF feel strongly that the sub- groups should be disbanded, they will for the time being remain in their current format and the requirement for their continuation will be reviewed annually each May. Currently there is good reason for retaining all of the sub-groups.

3. Election Chairperson and Vice Chairperson SFF

- 3.1 The annual election for Chairperson and Vice Person of the SFF will take place between this meeting and the next meeting of the Forum (on the 11 July) and will be facilitated by e-mail in compliance with SFF operational guidance.

4. Local Authority (LA) Schools Membership

- 4.1 The SFF regulations state that a schools representative is a Headteacher or a Headteachers representative and the DfE's Schools Forums: operational and good practice guide defines the representative as a Headteacher that can be represented by other senior members of staff within their school. LA schools membership includes the following groups; Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Schools, Pupil Referral Units and Nursery Schools.

- 4.2 The SFF regulations state that Academy membership on the SFF should represent the proprietor bodies of academies and are therefore, not restricted to principals, senior staff or governors.
- 4.3 Historically the SFF membership for schools has been confined to Headteacher/Principal membership only at the request of SFF members. In the Primary School elections that took place recently a nomination was received by a non-teaching member of a schools senior management team. The decision was taken to retain the criteria of only Headteacher/Principal representation for the duration of that election and for the criteria to be reviewed at the next SFF meeting, to determine if the criteria should be broadened to include senior members of staff from a school. As SFF regulations and operational good practice guide are not prescriptive in this matter it is at the discretion of the relevant SFF members to determine representation.
- 4.4 Each respective group named in paragraph 4.1 is requested to consider, should SFF membership be restricted to:
- a) Headteacher/Principal representation only?
 - b) Extended to include teaching representatives from a schools senior management team?
 - c) Extended to include both teaching and non-teaching representatives from a schools senior management team?

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members of the Forum are asked to:
- a) **note** the results of the recent SFF membership elections.
 - b) **agree** that sub groups continue as they are now, but will be reviewed annually each May.
 - c) **note** the forthcoming Election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
 - d) **decide** the future Forum representation for maintained settings. The options are:
 - Headteacher/Principal representation only?
 - Extended to include teaching representatives from a schools senior management team?
 - Extended to include both teaching and non-teaching representatives from a schools senior management team?

Background papers:

none