

Schools' Forum

Date: Friday, 16 January 2026
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Online (MS Teams)

All members and named observers of the Dorset Schools Forum are requested to attend this meeting of the Forum. A full list of the current membership and any vacancies can be found [here](#).

A full list of the Schools Forum's powers and responsibilities can be found [here](#)

For more information about this agenda please contact Tom Easterbrook, Schools Forum Officer on 10305 224567 or by email to tom.easterbrook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as a silent observer by giving 5 working days' notice to the Schools Forum Officer using the information above.

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Agenda

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence, noting current vacancies.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

3 - 12

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2025, raise any matters arising and review the Action Log,

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Chairs Letter to the Secretary of State

13 - 14

b) F40 Briefing Paper

15 - 16

c) Letter from Cheselbourne Village School 17 - 20

Items for approval

5. **DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT BUDGET SETTING FOR 2026-27** 21 - 32

To consider a report from:

Lee House, Service Manager (Finance) – Children's Services,
Finance & Commercial, Corporate Development Directorate,
For Approval and Consultation

6. **EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2026-27: PROPOSED CHANGES AND CENTRAL RETENTION** 33 - 80

To consider a report from:

Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager, School Finance and Support,
Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
For Approval

Items for Consultation

7. **MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2026-27** 81 - 106

To consider a report from:

Donna Horlock, Accountant, School Finance and Support Team,
Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager, School Finance and Support,
Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
For Consultation

Items for Information

8. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY YEARS PROVISION** 107 - 114

To consider a report from Liz Curtis-Jones, Principal Lead for Best
Start in Life, Family Help and Young & Thriving, People – Children
Directorate

For information

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**