

Minutes of schools forum HELD ON 18 JUNE 2026 – held via MS Teams

Notes were produced using AI via copilot as agreed by forum at the beginning of the meeting

Schools Forum – Minutes

Date: 18 June 2026

Chair: Bill Dowell

Clerk/Officer Support: John Rowe, Jo Morris

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Apologies received from David O'Toole, 3-18 Trust and James Staniforth, Shrewsbury College.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- SEND Reform on track for submission (19 June).
- DSG Management Plan
- SEND dashboard in development; not yet ready.
- Placement cost data delayed due to DSG priorities.
- Premises lease risks reviewed; no increased costs expected.

3. Early Years Inclusion Fund

- Total funding approx. £196,000.
- Minimum allocation set at £750.
- Distribution widened to ~78% of settings.
- Proposal approved unanimously.

4. Schools Forum Work Programme

- Governance and DFE Forum self assessment check list review to be completed ahead of September meeting.
- Upcoming reports include DSG grant, school balances, and growth fund.

5. Administration

- Attendance to be recorded via chat in future meetings.

6. Acknowledgements

- Thanks extended to Mark for long-standing service; best wishes on retirement.



7. Follow up tasks

- Share SEND governance structure and terms of reference for quality assurance group and SEND and AP partnership board with the next set of meeting papers (John)
- Review forum terms of reference, constitution, and membership using DFE tools and bring updated documents to the September meeting (John, Jo)
- Distribute papers on school balances, growth fund allocations, and early years block monitoring next Monday (John)

7. Close

- Meeting closed. Next meeting scheduled for 10 September 2026.

8. Attendance recorded in chat

9. Future meeting dates

Thursday 10 September 2026	08.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 12 November 2026	09.00 – 11.00 if face to face. 08.30 - 10.30 if online	Face to Face TBC
Thursday 10 December 2026	08.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 21 January 2027	08.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 18 March 2027	08.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 17 June 2027	08.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams

