

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 18 September 2025 (via Teams)
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum
Type of report: Delete as required	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Education Partnership are presented for approval.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
Voting requirements:	N/A
Appendices: To be attached	N/A
Report originator and contact details:	Andrea Mansfield- Clerk to The Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532609 E-mail: andrea.mansfield@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

**Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 18 September
2025**

PRESENT:

Chair:	Alison Kaye
Primary Headteachers:	Helen Thomson, Claire Barber, Ian Mottram
Secondary Headteachers:	
Nursery headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Ann-Marie Ellis
Pupil Referral Service:	Gareth Morton
Academies:	David Barber, Claire Hurworth, Kelly Nugent Sub for Samantha Williams, Simon Smith, Jon Watson, Kerry Young, Rebecca Broadbent
Governors:	Ray Wells
Early Years Providers PVI:	Emily Freeman
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift
Observers:	
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Amanda Fielding, Sally Dunn, Andrea Mansfield (LSO Minute Taker)
Apologies:	Ian Yapp – YLT CEO Julia Polley – Wensleydale School Beki Bulmer – Risedale Helen Williams – MLT Martin Macaulay - RC Diocese Mel Hutchinson -AD Children and Families Cllr Annabel Wilkinson

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2025****1270: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1271: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current 7 vacancies were outlined:

Primary GOV LA (1), Secondary LA (Head) (1), PRS Academy (1), Academy (4).

Quorum is 40% of members (12).

1272: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2025 be agreed as an accurate record

1273: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1274: NOTIFICATION OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no notifications of other urgent business for consideration.

1275: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SUMMARY- Item 2.1

CONSIDERED: A report highlighting the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block in 2025/26 and subsequent years, and the specific challenges facing the local authority and North Yorkshire schools and academies. The report provides information on SEND trends particularly around Education, Health and Care Plans and exclusions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Schools Forum members are asked to note the contents of the report and notes the financial implications

NOTED:

(Q) Holy Family closure- will pupils be transferred from Harrogate special provisions to Selby special provisions?

(A) Where children in the Selby area can be served locally for example through TMP's they will be, if they do need to travel further to have their needs met then LA will seek ensure they get to their nearest suitable provision and will continue to do that.

AGREED:

- To note and approve the content of this report and note the financial implications.

1276: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE 2026-2027-Item 2.2

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on school funding and describes the detail of recent announcements on central government education funding policy and

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high-level implications for 2026-27. The paper describes the intention to consult schools and academies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Schools Forum is asked:

- a) To note the update on school funding.
- b) To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the use, if required, of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2026-27.
- c) To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the continued use in the 2026-27 financial year of the exceptional circumstance funding formula factor to provide funding for those schools where property rental is essential for the delivery of statutory educational provision and where the rental cost is greater than 1% of the school's delegated budget.
- d) To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2026-27 related to:
 - The level of the MFG for 2026-27 (DfE minimum or maximum threshold)
 - The methodology to be used to deal with any under or overspend on the 2026-27 schools' block DSG - after any agreed block transfer - and after the application of the NFF factor values and MFG funding protection in the North Yorkshire funding formula.
 - The proposed transfer of either 0.5% or 1% funding from the Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block budget for the 2026-27 financial year

The consultation results will be reported back to the Schools Forum at the November meeting.

- e) To approve the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF Growth Funding, if required, to fund any shortfall in the 2026-27 Schools Block DSG (adjusted for any agreed block transfer) after the calculation of 2026-27 schools budget based on National Funding Formula (NFF) values and providing a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).
- f) To approve the request to utilise:
 - up to £500k of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any remaining funding shortfall on the Schools Block (if no agreed block transfer), after the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF Pupil Growth funding.
 - up to £1.5m of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any remaining funding shortfall on the Schools Block (after any agreed Block transfer), after the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF

NOTED:

(Q) For the Schools Budget Support Grant what funding calculation is being used to award the funding to special and AP schools?

(A) The proposal is to allocate at the same rate basis the DfE provides to the LA, it is an amount per place and information can be circulated to Special and PRS Provisions.

AGREED:

- a) To note the update on school funding.

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- b) To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the use, if required, of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2026-27.

Vote: For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

- c) To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the continued use in the 2026-27 financial year of the exceptional circumstance funding formula factor to provide funding for those schools where property rental is essential for the delivery of statutory educational provision and where the rental cost is greater than 1% of the school's delegated budget.

Vote: For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

- d) To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2026-27 related to:

- The level of the MFG for 2026-27 (DfE minimum or maximum threshold)
- The methodology to be used to deal with any under or overspend on the 2026-27 schools' block DSG - after any agreed block transfer - and after the application of the NFF factor values and MFG funding protection in the North Yorkshire funding formula.
- The proposed transfer of either 0.5% or 1% funding from the Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block budget for the 2026-27 financial year

The consultation results will be reported back to the Schools Forum at the November meeting.

- e) To approve the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF Growth Funding, if required, to fund any shortfall in the 2026-27 Schools Block DSG (adjusted for any agreed block transfer) after the calculation of 2026-27 schools budget based on National Funding Formula (NFF) values and providing a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Vote: For 15 Against 0 Abstain 0

- e) To approve the request to utilise:

- up to £500k of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any remaining funding shortfall on the Schools Block (if no agreed block transfer), after the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF Pupil Growth funding.

- up to £1.5m of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any remaining funding shortfall on the Schools Block (after any agreed Block transfer), after the utilisation of the 2026-27 NFF

Vote: For 15 Against 0 Abstain 0

**1277: REVIEW OF PUPIL GROWTH & FALLING ROLLS CONTINGENCY FUNDS-Item
2.3**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an overview of the usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the 2024-25 financial year and the likely funding requirements for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years. The report details the forecast level of reserves on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Fund forecast for 31 March 2026.

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2025****RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The School's Forum is asked:

- a) To note the usage and forecast usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the financial years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27, as detailed in this report.
- b) To note the reserves position on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Fund as at 31 March 2025 and the forecast reserves position for 31 March 2026 as detailed in section 5 of this report.
- c) To provide approval for the proposed release of the £500k that is annually requested for the Pupil Growth & Falling Rolls Contingency Fund to be allocated, if required, to support school budgets for the 2026-27 financial year; any funding requirement for basic need Pupil Growth in 2026-27 to be met from the Core Pupil Growth & Falling Roll Reserve.
- d) To approve for the use of the DfE Growth Funding, if required, to support school budgets in the 2026/27 financial year (also covered in Item 2.2 – School Funding 2026-27)

NOTED:

(Q) RE Holy Family School Closure for those pupils placed in NYc schools and out of area schools, is the funding to be given to only NYC schools or all schools?

(A) It is distributed to all schools' receiving pupils for the 2025-26 financial year.

AGREED:

- To note the usage and forecast usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the financial years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27, as detailed in this report.
- To note the reserves position on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Fund as at 31 March 2025 and the forecast reserves position for 31 March 2026 as detailed in section 5 of this report.
- To provide approval for the proposed release of the £500k that is annually requested for the Pupil Growth & Falling Rolls Contingency Fund to be allocated, if required, to support school budgets for the 2026-27 financial year; any funding requirement for basic need Pupil Growth in 2026-27 to be met from the Core Pupil Growth & Falling Roll Reserve.
- To approve for the use of the DfE Growth Funding, if required, to support school budgets in the 2026/27 financial year (also covered in Item 2.2 – School Funding 2026-27)

1278: SCHOOL BALANCES 2024-25-Item 2.4

CONSIDERED: A paper summarising the position of school balances as at 31st March 2025. The paper compares school balances as at 31st March 2025 with the previous year and summarises the movement in revenue balances between years and between types of school.

The position of those schools which had a negative revenue balance as at 31st March 2025 is also identified.

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RECOMMENDATIONS: The Schools Forum is asked to note the position of school balances as at 31st March 2025.

AGREED:

- To note and approve the content of this report.

1279: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE-Item 2.5

CONSIDERED: As report considering the following areas:

- Details of early years funding developments to be implemented by the Government for the 2026-27 financial year.
- Notification of a principle-based consultation to be undertaken on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, the working parent entitlement for under 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds, and 3 & 4-year-olds and the universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds for the 2026/27 financial year.
- The Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves position.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The North Yorkshire Schools Forum is asked:

- To note early years funding developments to be implemented by the Government for the 2026-27 financial year.
- To note the principle-based funding consultation to be undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire. on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, the working parent entitlement for under 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds, and 3 & 4-year-olds and the universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds for the 2026/27 financial year.
- To note the Early Years DSG reserves position.

AGREED:

- To note early years funding developments to be implemented by the Government for the 2026-27 financial year.
- To note the principle-based funding consultation to be undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire. on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, the working parent entitlement for under 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds, and 3 & 4-year-olds and the universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds for the 2026/27 financial year.
- To note the Early Years DSG reserves position.

1280: AOB

CONSIDERED: None received

1281: MEETINGS:

Thursday 20 November 2025

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Thursday 11 December 2025 (provisional)
Thursday 22 January 2026
Thursday 19 March 2026
Thursday 21 May 2026
Thursday 24 September 2026
Thursday 19 November 2026
Thursday 10 December 2026 (provisional)