

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 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 Schools Forum 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 21 May 26
PRESENT:

Chair:	Alison Kaye
Primary Headteachers :	Ian Mottram
Secondary Headteachers:	Ian Chapman Gareth Whittaker
Nursery headteacher:	Jonelle Yeoman
Special Headteacher:	Ann-Marie Ellis Michelle Hockham
Pupil Referral Service:	Gareth Morton
Academies:	Melissa Boyes Becca Broadbent Sam Bradley Kate Davison Rachel Donahue Rosie Hawkins Mark McCandless Louise Sagar Helen Williams Ian Yapp
Governors:	Becki Bulmer
Early Years Providers PVI:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Not in attendance
Trade Unions:	Michelle Jones Stephen Jennings
Observers:	None
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett El Mayhew Amanda Fielding Jo Heaney

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	Jon Holden Sally Dunn Karen Russell & Gill Wilkinson (LSO Minute Taker)
Apologies:	Helen Thomson, Martin Macaulay, Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Melissa Adderley, Claire Hurworth, Mari Palmer, Lucie Mitchell, Cllr Sanderson, Sam Williams, Mari Palmer, Dave Barber, Cllr Sanderson, Jon Watson

1316: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Julia Polley – resignation to note.

1317: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current 4 vacancies were outlined:

Primary LA (Head) (2) Primary LA (Gov) (2),

Quorum is 40% of members (13).

NOTED:

The current Vice chair is vacant. The process to nominate a current Schools Forum member as the new Chair will begin at the end of this meeting. All current Forum members will receive information about the nomination process, which will be carried out in line with the Schools Forum constitution and guidelines. The process will be completed in time for the September meeting.

1318: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026 be agreed as an accurate record.

1319: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1320: Item 2.1 North Yorkshire Scheme for Financing Schools

CONSIDERED: A report providing confirmation of the DfE notification that there are no updates to the Scheme for Financing Schools for the 2026-27 financial year. In this

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respect no amendments are proposed to the North Yorkshire Council Scheme for Financing Schools for 2026-27.

AGREED: The North Yorkshire Schools Forum noted the confirmation from the DfE that there are no changes to the statutory guidance on Schemes for Financing local authority-maintained schools for the 2026-27 financial year.

1321: Item 2.2 Inclusive Mainstream Fund 2026-27

CONSIDERED: A report providing Schools Forum with an overview of the DfE 2026-27 Inclusive Mainstream Fund and the proposed distribution in respect of the distribution of the Department for Education (DfE) inclusive early years fund for the 2026-27 financial year to early years providers.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The North Yorkshire Schools Forum was asked:

- i. To note the DfE announcement of the Inclusive Mainstream Fund for the 2026-27 financial year.
- ii. To note the local authority proposed distribution methodology for the Early Years Inclusion Fund 2026-27, in accordance with DfE recommendations, to be considered by CYPS Executive Members on 19 May 2026.

(Q) Aware of the mainstream fund, but is there an equivalent post-16 fund? Do we know the start and end dates for the Fund?

(A) There is an Inclusive Mainstream Fund for 16 -19 providers for the 2026-27 financial year.

The Inclusive Mainstream Fund covers the 2026-27 financial year (April 2026 to March 2027). The DfE are considering opportunities to roll the grant into the schools national funding formula in future years.

AGREED: The above recommendations were noted.

1322: Item 2.3 Capital Programme

CONSIDERED: A report presented by Jon Holden seeking the views of the Schools' Forum for the Schools Capital Programme 2026-27.

RECOMMENDATION: The Schools Forum was asked to note and comment upon the proposals for the components of the Schools Capital Programme 2026-27.

NOTED:

A question was raised regarding the parameters for prioritising projects when a school is considering conversion to academy status. JH clarified that generally, no new projects are included if a school is expected to convert. If a project has commenced and a conversion decision is then made, the work will usually be completed.

It was agreed that this clarification would be made clearer in future written reports.

AGREED: The above recommendation was agreed.

1323: Item 2.4 High Needs - Consultation response - Local Reform Plan - High Needs Stability Grant

CONSIDERED:

AF presented an update on DfE reforms aimed at creating a more inclusive, less adversarial, sustainable, and consistent system, reducing dependency on high-cost placements.

The complexity of the school system in North Yorkshire was highlighted.

SEND Reform Plan - The local authority acts as the convener, gathering wide input from system leaders and stakeholders. This plan will become the primary vehicle for DfE discussions on high needs and SEND performance, running alongside the existing SEND Strategy. A first draft was submitted this week, with the full plan due by 19 June. The DfE's review of the plan will determine eligibility for the High Need Stability Grant. The reforms are currently directional but not yet enforceable legislation. There are three parts of the plan: Experts at Hand, Sufficiency in Place Planning for High Need Specialist Places, and Strengthening Partnerships and Practice. The Plan requires approval from senior council colleagues and both Humber and North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire ICBs.

Proposed three goals for North Yorkshire: Improved outcomes for children; Confidence of parents, carers and young people, and; Sustainability and value for money.

AF shared some of the concerns raised and opportunities identified that were coming out of the engagement events that she had attended.

AF shared the timeline of the LRSP and the High Needs Support Grant timeline.

(Q) There was a question about how successful locality board projects (e.g., autism project) would influence the wider plan.

(A) Evidence of successful projects will be fed back to the partnership for potential larger-scale commissioning.

(Q) There was a question about whether the LA had sense of what the DfE are looking for.

(A) The DfE recently provided a detailed "expedition of requirements" document outlining essential and good practice elements for the plan. Guidance on "experts at hand" is still awaited.

(Q) A concern was raised about the impact on classroom teachers, questioning whether reforms would lead to increased workload without additional resources (e.g., TAs, smaller classes).

(A) Response: Positive aspects include a national training programme for improved teacher skills, better-resourced mainstream schools (via inclusion support funding for

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adaptive teaching), improved parent relationships, and a cultural shift towards evidence-based approaches becoming part of daily practise.

AGREED: Noted.

1324: NOTIFICATION OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no notifications of other urgent business for consideration.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future Meetings - A suggestion was made to reinstate face-to-face meetings, at least once a year.

Attendees expressed a preference for a face-to-face meeting for one of the "meatier" agendas, specifically suggesting the November meeting where voting and feedback consideration often occur.

Decision: To explore holding the November Schools Forum meeting face-to-face. The possibility of retaining the current format for the May meeting in future years will also be considered.