

Council – 16 January 2006

School Organisation Committee

Portfolio: Children's Services

Service Area: Education Walsall

Wards: All

Summary of report

This report advises Council of the appropriate proportional representation on the Schools Group of the School Organisation Committee and asks Council to appoint to the vacancies on the Schools Group.

Recommendations

That Council appoint Mr N Baddeley, Mrs J Cocken, Mr A Ditta and Mrs D Silvester as members of the Schools Group on the School Organisation Committee for Walsall for a three year term of office subject to their continued eligibility and annual review of the proportional representation requirements.

Resource and legal considerations

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 provided a framework for arrangements to allow decisions on school organisation to be taken at a local level instead of by the Secretary of State. The Act required all LEAs to set up a School Organisation Committee and prescribed the five Groups (the LEA, Schools, Church of England, Catholic Church and Learning & Skills Council) to be represented.

There are seven places on the Schools Group and regulations require that the governors appointed to the Group reflect the proportion of pupils attending the different categories of school in the Borough. There must be at least one representative from a nursery school, a primary school, a secondary school and a special school. Any category of school having more than 5% of pupils should have its own representative on the schools group. The Church of England and Catholic schools are not eligible for representation in this group as they are represented in the Church Groups detailed above. Previously there was no requirement for nursery schools to be represented.

The Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) which is completed in January each year is used to determine the proportional representation of the categories of school.

The most recent data available is for 2005; data for 2006 will not be available for some time yet, however, it is expected that this will affect the membership of the Group. Details of the appropriate proportional representation are provided in the table below.

Relevant Category	Pupil numbers PLASC* (Jan 2005)	% of Pupils in each Category	Number of Representatives
Community Primary	16,491	45%	2
Community Secondary	10,800	29%	2
Community Special	508	1%	1
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	27,799	75%	5
FOUNDATION SCHOOLS	7,182	19%	1
NURSERY SCHOOLS	695	2%	1
VOLUNTARY AIDED (Non denominational)**	1,373	4%	No representative as less than 5%
TOTAL	37,049		7
* Pupil numbers are taken from PLASC January 2005, excluding pupils in Nursery Schools and denominational Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools (represented by the diocesan groups).			
** The non-denominational Voluntary Aided Schools are Queen Mary's Grammar and High Schools.			

There are currently four vacancies on the Group as a result of resignations and changes in governing body membership. All eligible governors were invited to consider putting themselves forward for possible appointment to the Schools Group. Twelve applications have been received and a number of other governors expressed an interest. This is a much better level of response than in the past.

Governors' applications have been considered carefully in order to ensure the broadest possible representation of schools and areas in the Borough; account has also been taken of governing body experience. Council is recommended to appoint the following governors to the Schools Group.

Mrs D Silvester	Nursery School
Mrs J Cocken	Primary School
Mr A Ditta	Primary School
Mr N Baddeley	Secondary School

Citizen impact

These appointments will ensure that the community is appropriately represented on the Schools Group of the School Organisation Committee for Walsall.

Environmental impact

There are no implications.

Performance and risk management issues

These appointments will fill all vacancies on the Schools Group of the School Organisation Committee.

Equality implications

The recommended appointments will ensure that the various categories of school are appropriately represented on the Schools Group in line with legal requirements.

Consultation

Letters inviting nominations were sent to all governors eligible for to represent the various categories of school.

Background papers

Letters to school governors.

Signed:



Managing Director, Education Walsall
Date: January 6th 2006

Signed:



Executive Director
Date: January 6th 2006

Contact officer

Susan Lupton
Strategic Leader: School Organisation, Admissions, Capital and Asset Management
Tel 01922 686231
susan.lupton@we.serco.com