

APPENDIX A

SCHOOLS FORUM AND NEW METHODS OF FUNDING EDUCATION

Governors may be aware that education will be funded differently from April 2003. Up until now a sum of money has been made available to the Local Authority (the Local Schools Budget). The LEA has attempted to delegate as much of this sum as possible (currently 87.1%) directly to schools using an agreed formula. Our delegation figure is high, some other authorities have a lower figure, and National Government has concluded that this can result in unfairness because children in broadly similar areas have been funded at different rates. It, therefore, intends to apply a national formula and to allocate two distinct blocks of money – the LEA Block for all the support services, infrastructure, inspectorate etc and the Schools Block which supports all pupil-led activity.

This new method of funding appears very simple but, of course, we all know that this can't be true! In practice some of the Schools Block money will not be spent in schools eg all Special Educational Needs (SEN) money appears in this Block but some children may be catered for in special units or even in mainland placements; admission arrangements, because they relate directly to pupils, appear in this Block but are administered currently by the LEA.

This is where the Schools Forum comes in. It is a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 2002 that each LEA has a Schools Forum to advise on how the Schools Block should be distributed. Its job will be to help determine whether any changes need to be made to the formula that applies currently; to advise on how SEN funds should be distributed to school and central support; to review and advise on contracts for services to schools eg for catering, grounds maintenance, personnel and pay. There will be other issues – the list above is just to gain a 'flavour'.

It will be seen that this is an important forum and we are keen to have good governor representation to contribute to its work. The forum's constitution will include one governor from each of the Primary, Middle, High and Special sectors and I would like to invite you to put yourself forward for nomination if you have an interest in the future funding of the schools. We all know how vital funding is in securing the educational ambitions of the schools and I hope that many of you will be interested. If you are, the following steps need to be taken:

- 1) Complete the form, below, and secure the support of two governors who should countersign your nomination. These do not have to be governors from your governing body but they should be from your sector ie from Primary, Middle, High or Special school governing bodies. Any category of governor can apply.
- 2) Return the form to me at the address indicated on the form. If there is more than one nomination in each sector I will organise a ballot by sector.

The Schools Forum should be constituted by 15 January 2003 so **NOMINATIONS WILL NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 20 DECEMBER 2002.**

One of its first tasks will be to determine what expenses should be paid to its members. The regulations make clear that the overall Schools Budget can/should provide for the running costs of the Schools Forum.

Thank you for your continuing support of the schools whether or not you are interested in serving on the Schools Forum.

Kim Johnson
Assistant Director
Education and Community Development

GOVERNOR NOMINATION FOR THE SCHOOLS FORUM

I, _____ (Name) a _____
(Type of Governor eg parent; LEA, staff) of _____ (school)
agree to be nominated as _____ (Primary, Middle, High, Special School)
representative on the Schools Forum.

We, the undersigned, support the nomination of _____ (name
of nominee).

Person 1

Name _____(Please Print)

Governing Body _____

Signature _____

Person 2

Name _____(Please Print)

Governing Body _____

Signature _____

The term of office is for 4 years. Governors may be re-nominated at the end of this term if they wish. Some members of the forum will, of course, serve for less than this period due to personal circumstances.

Please return this nomination form to:

Kim Johnson
Assistant Director of Education and Community Development
Education Directorate - 3rd Floor
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

The School's Green Bag can be used for this purpose