



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough Charter granted in 1166



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive: P. J. Simpkins

Ms Bettina Zietman

By Email to:

request-672116-b8e43a91@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: JP/SL

Contact: Sue Lyons

Direct Dial: 01234 276527

Email: sue.lyons@bedford.gov.uk

Dear Ms Bettina Zietman

Request pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request No. 15909

I refer to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council.

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the authority must state whether the information exists and I confirm that we do hold the information you requested.

Please find the information you requested below:

Bedford Borough Council has the following Committees, Councils and Forums that relate to education:

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CS OSC) has responsibility for all services provided by the Children's Services Directorate, this of course includes education. In response to the questions raised in the request, in relation to the CS OSC:

1) Does Bedford Borough Council education committee include any co-opted (non-councillor) members?

There are currently two co-opted members on the CSOSC, in addition to the 7 Councillor Members.

Additionally, the CS OSC currently has 2 vacancies for co-opted parent governor rep. Last municipal year we were unfortunately unable to recruit any co-opted parent governor members, however we are currently in the process of requesting nominations to fill these vacancies.

2) If yes to Q1, do co-opted members have full privileges of councillor members on the committee, i.e. do they have voting rights?

Not full privileges, but some. The constitution states that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall include co-opted Members. These co-opted members shall be entitled to vote on all education matters coming before that Committee.

3) If yes to Q1, Please provide information on the co-opted members:

Sue Lyons – Chief Officer (Legal & Democratic Services) (Solicitor)
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

Phone (01234) 276527
Minicom (01234) 221827

DX 117105 Bedford 4
Web www.bedford.gov.uk

a) Is there a process for their being co-opted?

Yes, at the beginning of each four-year term nominations are sought for Parent Governor Reps. Letters are sent to schools and Parent Governors asking for Nominations for Parent Gov Reps. If no more than 2 nominations are received, both are appointed as PGRs. If more than 2 are received an election must be held. Note: diocesan representatives are also co-opted members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, although they are not elected. The successful candidates will be informed and their appointment declared. The successful candidates will need to sign declarations that, as co-opted members of the Borough Council, they agree to observe the Council's Code of Conduct before they can take up membership on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

b) are they co-opted to represent a specific group or organisation?

Representation as follows: 2 Parent Governor Members (vacant) representing Bedford Borough maintained schools i.e. not academies, 1 Representative of the Diocese of St Albans, 1 Representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

c) do they have specific titles associated with their position?

See above.

2. Bedford Schools Forum consist of 22 Members made up of eight Schools' Members, nine Academy Members and five non-Schools' Members. All Members of the Forum are entitled to vote on all matters that are put to a vote. The forum is comprised of the following:

School Members (8)

- 1 Nursery School Head teacher
- 2 Primary School Head teachers
- 2 Primary School Governors
- 2 Secondary School Head teachers
- 1 Special School Head teacher

Academy Members (9)

Non School Members (5)

- 1 Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
- 1 Church of England Diocese Representative
- 1 PVI Provider Representative
- 1 16-19 Provider Representative
- 1 Trades Union Representative



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Observers (non-voting): Bedford Borough Council's Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management

3. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) are responsible for advising the Authority on such matters concerned with school worship and with Religious Education according to an Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to it or as SACRE sees fit.

The membership is as follows:

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations (9 members), Group B: The Church of England (3 Members), Group C: Teachers' Associations (5 Members), Group D: The Authority (4 Elected Members).

SACRE may also include co-opted members, who are appointed by SACRE members. Co-opted members may not vote on any matter.

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If after viewing the information, you are for whatever reason unhappy with our response to your application you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through the Council's Internal Review Procedure. Pursuant to Section 17 (7) of the Act, the procedure provided by the Council for dealing with complaints about the determination of this request for information is the Council's FOI Complaints Procedure, a copy of which can be obtained on request or is set out at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/data-protection-foi-eir/freedom-of-information/>

Yours sincerely

**Sue Lyons, Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services
Solicitor, Monitoring Officer.
Bedford Borough Council.**

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