

# 2024/25 Schools Budgets and Dedicated Schools Grant Funding

Schools Forum – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# Introduction

The purpose of today's presentation is to share with Schools Forum the latest position on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding in relation to the 2024/25 budget setting round:

1. 2024/25 DSG Funding Arrangements – Autumn Statement
2. Feedback
3. Retained Funding and De-Delegations (Maintained Primary only)
4. Pupil Numbers
5. Growth Funding / Falling Rolls / New Schools
6. Exceptional Premises Factor
7. Next Steps

# Autumn Statement 2023

- Nothing new in the Autumn statement.
- [Record funding for schools in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
  - “Schools in England are set to receive their highest ever funding in real terms, totalling almost £60 billion for 2024-25.”
  - “Mainstream schools in England will receive an average of around £6,000 for each pupil from next year through the NFF, with additional funding for teacher pay coming on top of that.”
  - “Overall, funding will be at its highest ever level in real terms per pupil in 2024-25, as measured by the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) – underlining the government’s commitment to education.”

# Feedback

- The schools funding formula continues to be an LA decision in 2024-25.
- As in prior years, schools must be consulted on:
  - a) Any changes to the formula being proposed; and
  - b) Any transfer proposed from the Schools Block.
- As noted previously for 24/25 there are no major changes being proposed to the local funding formula, other than the required alignment with the NFF.
- Following the vote at the November meeting of Schools Forum a disapplication was submitted in respect of the proposed 1% block transfer. A response is expected later this month, early January.

# Feedback

- 100+ people attended the virtual budget briefing which was held on 14th November.
- However, **only 1** email submission providing feedback on the proposals was received by the Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December deadline
- The response detailed the concerns previously discussed at Schools Forum in respect of the impact of the block transfer and continued underfunding for High Needs.

# Retained Duties Funding

- For 2024/25 it is proposed to:
  - Continue to apply the retained duties funding received as per of the CSSB to support ongoing functions.
  - Continue to retain £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.

Retained Duties Estimates	Estimated 2024/25 £000
Estimated Education Functions - £10 per pupil - Maintained Only*	£271

\*Final amount will be dependent on pupil numbers applied in the final budgets.

# De-delegation Amounts

- Apply to maintained primary schools only:

	<b>Agreed 2023/24 Basis</b>	<b>Proposed 2024/25 Basis</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	£2.10 per pupil	£2.10 per pupil
<b>Free School Meals Eligibility</b>	£4.65 per FSM child	£4.65 per FSM child
<b>Maternity</b>	£5.00 per pupil	£5.00 per pupil
<b>Trade Union Facilities Time</b>	£1.10 per pupil	£1.10 per pupil

# Required Actions

- ***Education Functions and De-delegations:***
  - a) Maintained Primary School representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve:
    - i. The continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
    - ii. The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Contingency.
    - iii. The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Free School Meals Eligibility.
    - iv. The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Maternity and Paternity Cover.
    - v. The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Trade Union Facilities Time.



# Pupil Numbers

- **Appendix 2** shows a comparison of the latest October census numbers to the October 2022 position. (Please note: The October 2023 census is still unvalidated and so final numbers may differ.)
- The overall numbers show the following:
  - Reception to Year 6 net decrease of -360 pupils (-0.7%)
  - Year 7 to Year 11 net increase of +916 pupils (+2.7%)
  - Overall net increase of +556 (+0.7%)

# Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

- Based on the unvalidated October 2023 census information aggregated to Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) level we have estimated that Cambridgeshire will receive in the region of £3.246m growth funding.
- As noted at the previous meeting the falling rolls allocation for each local authority will be £140,000 per MSOA which sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the two census years. This allocation will be subject to an ACA.
- Based on the aggregated MSOA level data we estimate that despite a number of schools experiencing falling rolls Cambridgeshire will only receive a maximum of £141k for falling rolls funding.
- This only relates to 1 MSOA containing 2 schools. No other MSOA's generate any falling rolls funding.
- Total illustrative growth and falling rolls allocation = £3.388m (compared to £4.5m in 23/24).

# Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

- Based on analysis of the current pupil data and forecasts there are a number of schools where the SCAP 2022 and SCAP 2023 show increases in pupils by 2026/27 which are not reflected in Catchment Forecasts.
- As a result, there are concerns about the use of the 2022 SCAP to identify qualifying schools (which is a mandatory requirement).
- Likewise, on the basis that minimal additional funding is estimated to be received for falling rolls any costs associated with a falling rolls fund would further increase the required retained funding (i.e. the topslice from schools).
- Further work to be undertaken to review the forecast data and keep the numbers under review.
- Other LA's to be contacted to understand their approach based on the new mandatory criteria.

# Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

- The proposed revised Growth Fund policy to be applied for 2024/25 can be seen at **Appendix 3**.
  - Where the growth is permanent to meet basic need (such as new schools filling to capacity or planned expansions etc) and there is certainty about the forecast numbers there is the option to fund via 'variation to pupil numbers' which adjusts the funded numbers within the main funding formula.
  - In instances where the growth is less certain and the level of increases to meet basic need not yet known this is an appropriate reason to hold money in the growth fund and to use as and when the basic need occurs.

# Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

- As noted previously where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment) local authorities will have to provide growth funding to a minimum level which is compliant with the following formula:
  - primary growth factor value (£1,550) × number of pupils × ACA
- Funding for an additional class will therefore be calculated on the basis of 30 pupils:
  - $£1,550 \times 30 \times 1.01333 =$

Phase	Current 7/12th	Current 12/12th	New 7/12th	New 12/12th
Primary	£31,500 +£4,000	£54,000 +£4,000	£47,120	£80,777
Secondary	£37,917 +£4,000	£65,000 +£4,000	£47,120	£80,777

# Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

- Based on analysis by the Place Planning team **Appendix 4** shows those schools identified to potentially be funded via variation to pupil numbers and those to be considered for funding from the centrally retained growth fund.
- Based on this analysis (alongside requirement for diseconomies funding), and the increase in required funding rates it is proposed that the retained growth fund be set at £2m for 2024-25 (compared to the current £1.7m).

# Required Actions

- ***Growth / Falling Rolls Funding – Schools Forum are asked to:***
  - b) Comment on the proposed approach for Growth and Falling rolls funding.
  - c) Approve the proposed Growth Funding policy (Appendix 3) and the retained Growth Fund budget of £2m to apply to 2024/25 only.
  - d) Note the proposed variations to pupil numbers (Appendix 4).

# Exceptional Premises

- Required to submit a disapplication for the continuation of the exceptional premises factor which has been in place since 2015-16:

School Name	2024-25
Cherry Hinton Church of England Primary School	£ 17,500
Fowlmere Primary School	£ 6,197
Foxton Primary School	£ 27,695
Shirley Community Primary School	£ 48,762
	£ 100,154

- Total cost of £100k supporting 4 schools – historical arrangements for playing field or alternative hall rental.
- e) Schools Forum are asked to vote on the continuation of the historic exceptional premises factor arrangements.*



# Next Steps



- Mid-December 2023 – DfE to publish final DSG allocations
- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Schools Forum to review final proposals
- 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024– Children and Young People Committee to approve final budget proposals
- 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024– submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
- End of January/Early February 2024 – Primary and Secondary School Budgets to be published (illustrative for academies).
- February/March 2024 – Initial Nursery and Special budgets to be published