



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**  
Infrastructure and Funding Directorate  
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High and Upper School Headteachers  
c/o Charlotte Gaines  
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Our ref: 2018/0040609

31 October 2018

Dear High and Upper School Headteachers,

Thank you for your letter of 10th October to Minister Gibb, regarding the minimum per pupil funding level in the national funding formula. As you will understand, Minister Gibb receives a large number of letters and is not able to respond to each of them individually. I have been asked to respond because I work in the department's funding policy unit.

As we have stated in our previous response, the minimum per pupil factor is not intended to reflect the minimum per pupil cost of any individual school. It was added to the formula to target resources towards the lowest funded schools, following feedback we received during our consultation process. It is, by design, a simple factor that does not reflect the wide range of differences between individual schools.

We do recognise the points that you have raised. We listened to the concerns stakeholders raised about the application of the minimum per pupil funding level for schools with non-standard year group structures. That is why we made the changes in 2019-20 relating to the minimum for key stage 3 only schools, key stage 4 only schools and middle schools.

We recognise that there is remaining concern about the application of the factor to high schools. Unlike middle schools, high schools are not categorised within the NFF as a distinct type of school. They are categorised as secondary schools. For 2019-20, in order to balance addressing concerns raised by stakeholders with maintaining simplicity and technical deliverability, we restricted changes to those school types that were already distinctly categorised within the NFF.

We are continuing to review and develop the national funding formula, and we will take these concerns into account as we consider changes to the formula for 2020-21. We

are considering the application of the minimum per pupil factor to high schools as part of this.

Your correspondence has been allocated reference number 2018-0040609. If you need to respond to us, please visit: <https://www.education.gov.uk/contactus> and quote your reference number.

Thank you for writing on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Kate Eccles

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