



Northumberland County Council

Schools Forum: 22 November 2023

2024/25 National Funding Formula & School Funding Consultation

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and associated 2024/25 Schools Funding information. This includes formal consultation with Schools Forum in relation to funding for 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Agree to a transfer of up to 0.5% (approximately £1.148 million) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25.
- b. Agree that the funding values for 2024/25 be set in line with the principles outlined in the report; and agree for these to be the basis for the wider consultation with schools.
- c. Support the disapplication request arising from the requirements of the Coquet schools in relation to their reorganisation with effect from September 2024.
- d. Note the delegation of final decisions on the values to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the lead member for Children's Services once final funding becomes known in December 2023, in order to enable the required Cabinet report to be prepared and submitted to the 16 January 2024 meeting, and the submission of the necessary return to the ESFA by 22 January 2024.
- e. Receive a further report to the Schools Forum meeting on 17 January 2024 on the outcome of the consultation with schools and final funding values to be used for 2024/25.

3. Background

Schools Forum has previously received reports outlining developments in relation to the National Funding Formula (NFF). The latest report to Schools Forum in September 2023 confirmed Northumberland's progress as a local authority "that mirrors the NFF in all factors".

It should also be noted that overall funding is not increasing by the same amounts, after the additional funding grants are taken into consideration in 2023/24 for both Schools and High Needs, with no indication of any further support at the time of writing this report. The Chancellors Autumn Statement is scheduled for the same day as Schools Forum (22 November 2023). Schools are advised to budget accordingly when preparing 2024/25 figures.

4. Latest Information

The provisional 2024/25 allocations based on October 2022 data are shown in the table below:

	2023-24 (as per Dec 21)	Provisional 2024/25 (based on Oct 22 Data)	Potential Change	
			£	%
Schools Block #	226,441,908	229,722,222	3,280,314	1.45%
High Needs Block	51,072,682	53,325,176	2,252,494	4.41%
Central School Services Block	2,268,989	2,167,198	- 101,791	-4.49%
TOTAL	279,783,579	285,214,596	5,431,017	1.94%
Early Years Block - not yet available for 24/25	19,157,114	n/a	-	-
# The 2024/25 figure does not include the LA Growth Fund element - which is not yet available - if in line with last year £896k this would add 0.39% to the % increase				

It should be noted that, subsequent to the last Schools Forum meeting held on 27 September 2023, the ESFA issued an apology, revised NFF figures and provisional allocations for 2024/25 again based on October 2022 data. The estimated reduction in funding to Northumberland is approximately £2 million (0.9%). The original and revised National Funding Formula values are provided at Appendix A.

As in previous years, it is stressed that these figures will be updated with reference to the October 2023 School Census data when the final figures are released in late December.

5. Minimum Per Pupil Funding (MPPF)

The MPPF Levels have also been reduced in line with the above ESFA announcement, and revised figures are provided in the table below :

Phase	2023/24 MPPF Level	Revised Increase	2024/25 Original MPPF Level	2024/25 Revised MPPF Level
Primary	£4,405	£143 (2.8%) MSAG + £62 (1.4%) inc	£4,665	£4,610
KS3	£5,503	£186 (2.9%) MSAG + £82 (1.5%) inc	£5,824	£5,771 #
KS4	£6,033	£208 (3.0%) MSAG + £90 (1.5%) inc	£6,389	£6,331 #

the secondary value of £5,995 is a weighted average of the KS3 (3/5) and KS4 (2/5) figures

6. Transfer from Schools Block

In November 2022, the local authority consulted with both the Schools Forum and wider schools and requested agreement to up to a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2023/24. Subsequently, after the final settlement was received in December 2022 it was decided that a 0.25% transfer would be taken, enabling the NFF values to be met in full for all schools for 2023/24. It should be noted however that the transfer was only possible through use of the growth element with the NFF which is allocated to the local authority and not individual schools.

element is intended. While the 4.5% increase is larger than last year's 2% increase for the ongoing responsibilities element, this still does not meet pay and price pressures arising from the NJC award.

	2023/24 (actual)	2024/25 (provisional)	Change	
			£	%
Ongoing Responsibilities	£1,433,789	£1,499,038	+£65,249	+4.5%
Historic Commitments	£835,200	£668,160	-£167,040	-20.0%
TOTAL CSSB	£ 2,268,989	£ 2,167,198	-£180,616	-7.4%

9. Early Years Block

No information for Northumberland is available yet in relation to Early Years funding, in line with previous years. Details of the 2024/25 EY funding will be received in December together with the rest of the DSG information for 2024/25.

10. De-delegation

De-delegation is the process by which the relevant maintained school members of Schools Forum can agree to have funding deducted at source from maintained schools for certain services as specified by the DfE. For academies to access these services, they will need to agree to buy in, either on an individual or a multi academy trust level.

For 2023/24, de-delegation was agreed in respect of the following services:

- Contingency for costs arising from reorganisation or restructuring;
- Free School Meal eligibility checking;
- Trade union facility time; and
- Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners;

It is anticipated that de-delegation will again be sought in respect of these services.

11. Disapplication Request in respect of Coquet Partnership Reorganisation

As you are all aware, in September 2024, James Calvert Spence College will not have a Year 5 intake, but the 5 feeder First Schools will retain their Year 4 students into Year 5 as part of the 2 year transition to becoming Primary Schools. This process will be repeated in September 2026, when the Year 5 students will continue into Year 6 in the Primary School, Year 4 retained into Year 5 in the Primary Schools, at which point James Calvert Spence College will operate in line with a more traditional secondary Year 7 to Year 13 model.

To reflect this, rather than the standard funding formula lagged model, James Calvert Spence College will be funded for April to August 2024 (5/12 of the year) in respect of the Year 6

students for 2024/25, and from September 2024 to March 2025 (7/12 of the year), the First Schools will receive further funding in 2024/25 for their current Year 4 students, as measured at the October 2023 school census, to reflect the fact they will be retained those students from September 2024. It is estimated that £232,172 will be redistributed from James Calvert Spence College to the Feeder Primary schools in respect of this adjustment.

This required a disapplication request to be made to the ESFA, and the deadline for the submission of these requests was Friday 17 November. A disapplication request has been made on that basis (copy attached at Appendix B), on the understanding that we will subsequently report the Schools Forum position to the ESFA.

Schools Forum's support of the Disapplication Request is requested on that basis.

12. Other Information

In November 2022, Schools Forum was briefed as to the proposed introduction of a standardised formulaic report for the **split site factor**, affecting 4 Northumberland Schools. Schools receive a £53,700 lump sum payment for each of their additional eligible sites – up to a maximum of three additional sites. On top of that, schools whose sites are separated by more than 100 meters receive distance funding. The distance funding varies depending on how far apart the sites are, up to a maximum of £26,900 for sites which are at least 500 metres away from the main site. This approach is mandatory for 2024/25

Capping and Scaling continues to be an option for 2024/25, but we should seek to limit its impact where possible, thereby allowing Schools to retain as much “funding formula” gains as possible. However, given the uncertainty it is proposed that we continue to consider this as a potential option. This is also consistent with the response to the School Consultation exercise last December where 7 of the 8 responses were in favour of retaining the potential use of capping and scaling as part of the 2023/24 School Budget setting process.

13. Next Steps:

Following any comments received today, the intention is also to consult with schools ahead of the final budget setting report to Cabinet. The consultation is proposed to run from Thursday 23 November to 12.00 noon on Monday 12 December. A copy of the draft consultation paper is attached for your consideration in Appendix C. The results of the consultation and final recommendations to Cabinet will be reported back to the January 2023 Schools Forum meeting.

Because of the short timescales between receiving the final 2024/25 DSG settlement in December, the preparation of a report to the Cabinet meeting on 16 January 2024 and the submission of the final figures to the ESFA by 22 January 2024, delegated powers are sought for the Executive Director for Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services to set the final figures, in line with the principles and illustrative figures outlined in this report.

As reflected in the recommendations the Cabinet report will seek delegated powers to agree the final values, there will be reported to the Schools Forum meeting on 17 January 2024 prior to submission to the ESFA by 22 January 2024.

14. Summary and Conclusions:

The support of Schools Forum in relation to 2024/25 School Funding is requested in line with the recommendations in section 2 of this report, with regard to the principles to be adopted for the setting of the DSG for 2024/25. Further information will be provided to the January and February 2024 meetings once the final 2023/24 DSG settlement has been received in December 2023, but the views of School Forum are required at this stage to enable the appropriate report seeking approval to go to Cabinet in January 2024, as has been the case in previous years.

Bruce Parvin

Education and Skills Funding Manager

16 November 2023

Factor values and total spend in 2024-25

Original July 2023

	Unit Values	Total Funding (incl. ACA)	Proportion of core total
Basic per pupil Funding		£33,696m	75.7%
Basic entitlement		£33,505m	75.3%
Primary basic entitlement	£3,597	£16,419m	36.9%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,072	£9,904m	22.2%
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,717	£7,183m	16.1%
Minimum per pupil		£191m	0.4%
Primary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£4,655	£150m	0.3%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£6,050	£40m	0.1%
Additional Needs Funding		£7,917m	17.8%
Deprivation		£4,511m	10.1%
Primary FSM	£490	£540m	1.2%
Secondary FSM	£490	£376m	0.8%
Primary FSM6	£830	£951m	2.1%
Secondary FSM6	£1,210	£1,067m	2.4%
Primary IDACI A	£685	£104m	0.2%
Primary IDACI B	£520	£152m	0.3%
Primary IDACI C	£490	£140m	0.3%
Primary IDACI D	£450	£124m	0.3%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£147m	0.3%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£115m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI A	£950	£97m	0.2%
Secondary IDACI B	£750	£151m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI C	£695	£140m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI D	£635	£122m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI E	£455	£165m	0.4%
Secondary IDACI F	£345	£117m	0.3%
Low Prior Attainment		£2,857m	6.4%
Primary LPA	£1,185	£1,617m	3.6%
Secondary LPA	£1,790	£1,240m	2.8%
English as an Additional Language		£488m	1.1%
Primary EAL	£595	£346m	0.8%
Secondary EAL	£1,605	£142m	0.3%
Mobility		£61m	0.1%
Primary Mobility	£970	£48m	0.1%
Secondary Mobility	£1,395	£13m	0.0%
School-Led Funding		£2,900m	6.5%
Lump Sum		£2,801m	6.3%
Primary lump sum	£135,700	£2,339m	5.3%
Secondary lump sum	£135,700	£462m	1.0%
Sparsity		£99m	0.2%
Primary sparsity	£57,700	£94m	0.2%
Secondary sparsity	£83,900	£5m	0.0%
Area Cost Adjustment: Multiplier applied to basic entitlement, additional needs and school-led funding (It is included in the factor subtotals)		£1,123m	
Core total (excl. funding floor and premises)		£44,513m	
Floor		£223m	
Primary floor funding		£109m	
Secondary floor funding		£114m	
Premises		£595m	
Split sites	£81,400	£33m	
Total		£45,331m.	

Factor values and total spend in 2024-25

(revised Oct 2023)

	Unit Values	Total Funding (incl. ACA)	Proportion of core total
Basic per pupil Funding		£33,368m	75.7%
Basic entitlement		£33,177m	75.3%
Primary basic entitlement	£3,562	£16,259m	36.9%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,022	£9,806m	22.2%
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,661	£7,112m	16.1%
Minimum per pupil		£190m	0.4%
Primary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£4,610	£149m	0.3%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£5,995	£41m	0.1%
Additional Needs Funding		£7,848m	17.8%
Deprivation		£4,477m	10.2%
Primary FSM	£490	£541m	1.2%
Secondary FSM	£490	£376m	0.9%
Primary FSM6	£820	£940m	2.1%
Secondary FSM6	£1,200	£1,058m	2.4%
Primary IDACI A	£680	£104m	0.2%
Primary IDACI B	£515	£151m	0.3%
Primary IDACI C	£485	£139m	0.3%
Primary IDACI D	£445	£122m	0.3%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£147m	0.3%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£115m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI A	£945	£97m	0.2%
Secondary IDACI B	£740	£150m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI C	£690	£139m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI D	£630	£121m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI E	£450	£163m	0.4%
Secondary IDACI F	£340	£115m	0.3%
Low Prior Attainment		£2,826m	6.4%
Primary LPA	£1,170	£1,596m	3.6%
Secondary LPA	£1,775	£1,230m	2.8%
English as an Additional Language		£484m	1.1%
Primary EAL	£590	£343m	0.8%
Secondary EAL	£1,585	£141m	0.3%
Mobility		£61m	0.1%
Primary Mobility	£960	£47m	0.1%
Secondary Mobility	£1,380	£13m	0.0%
School-Led Funding		£2,872m	6.5%
Lump Sum		£2,774m	6.3%
Primary lump sum	£134,400	£2,316m	5.3%
Secondary lump sum	£134,400	£458m	1.0%
Sparsity		£98m	0.2%
Primary sparsity	£57,100	£93m	0.2%
Secondary sparsity	£83,000	£5m	0.0%
Area Cost Adjustment: Multiplier applied to basic entitlement, additional needs and school-led funding (It is included in the factor subtotals)		£1,112m	
Core total (excl. funding floor and premises)		£44,088m	
Floor		£277m	
Primary floor funding		£138m	
Secondary floor funding		£138m	
Premises		£597m	
Split sites	£80,600	£33m	
Total		£44,961m.	