



**SCHOOLS FORUM
2024**

ITEM XX

Report sponsor: Sharon Buckby, Service Director – Learning Skills and Inclusion.

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Allocation of the 2024/25 Core School Budget Grant for Special Schools and Alternative Provision

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The ESFA have announced almost £1.1 billion through the CSBG to support schools with overall costs in 2024/25 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award Derby's allocation is £0.632m.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider the methodology for allocating the Core School Budget Grant for Maintained special schools, special academies, and special free schools.

Previous allocations have allocated funding on a per place amount based on the place numbers as triggered by the Department of Education published SEND and AP place numbers. It is recommended that the 24-25 allocation continues to replicate such methodology as to remain consistent with previous years.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Classification: OFFICIAL

3.1 The ESFA have announced almost £1.1 billion through the CSBG to support schools with overall costs in 2024/25 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award.

In 2024/2025 the LA will receive funding through the Core School Budget Grant to cover the 7-month period from September 2024 to March 2025.

The impact of the teacher pay award spans across financial years 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026 and the grant funding we have announced for the 2024 to 2025 financial year therefore only covers the first seven twelfths of the full year cost of the award.

The CSBG will provide additional funding for the following special schools and AP schools:

- maintained special schools
- special academies and free schools
- pupil referral units
- alternative provision academies and free schools
- hospital schools and other maintained schools, and academies and free schools providing hospital education

3.2 The allocation for Derby is £0.632m

Derby City Council must pass on 100% of the CSBG funding allocated in respect of those schools, to those schools, ensure that all those schools receive a funding allocation from the CSBG in 2024 to 2025.

Options for allocation to be devolved to schools remains at LA discretion. DfE guidance states the following

Local authorities must:

- *pass on 100% of the CSBG funding that is allocated, in total, in respect of the eligible school types to eligible schools.*
- *ensure that all eligible schools receive a funding allocation of CSBG in the period September 2024 to March 2025*
- *have transparent criteria to distribute funding to individual schools, treating academies and mainstream schools the same. This includes using the same 2024 to 2025 academic year place numbers as the basis for the allocations, even though those numbers for maintained schools will not be used until the updated allocations to local authorities in March 2025*
- *consult with eligible schools before deciding the methodology for allocating CSBG funding.*

Derby has always chosen a defensible and robust methodology as in published place numbers, this ensures the allocations are objective and transparent and easy for schools to understand.

Special schools and AP schools funding rate for the 2024 to 2025 financial year would be £610 per place based on the allocation awarded to the LA.

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Name e-mail Janice.Hadfield@derby.gov.uk
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