

Derby City Council Schools Forum Induction

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Derby City Council

Agenda



Welcome and introductions



The Role of schools forum.



The DSG

Schools Forum

- Schools Forum act as a consultative group on resource allocation issues and contractual arrangements in which schools have an interest
- Schools Forum also have some decision making powers
- There is a heavy emphasis on the annual DSG budget setting process and the formula for allocating budgets to schools

Members

- 16 members in total with a balance of representation between the maintained and academy sectors
- School Reps must equal at least two thirds and be proportionate to pupil numbers

Full Representation of the types of school			
NOR			
74%	Academies	Special	1
		Primary	3
		Secondary	2
26%	Maintained	Primary	1
		Secondary	1
		Special/AP	1
		Nursery	1

PVI	1
16-19	
Free school	1
Union	1
Business manager	1
Governor	2



Communication with groups

- Representatives should ensure that they communicate with the groups they represent.
- Representatives need to be confident in their methods of consultation before debating major issues at meetings of the Schools Forum and communication afterwards.
- For Governor Representatives feedback on Schools Forum?
- For reasons of transparency all meetings of the Schools Forum must be held in public
- There is a link to the Schools Forum pages on the Derby City Website
<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/schools-forum>

Points of Reference

- City Council website for all meeting agenda and reports
 - <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/schools-forum/>
- DFE website for operational and good practice guides
 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6058931a8fa8f545d995f141/Schools_forum_operational_and_good_practice_guide_amended_March_2021.pdf



Decision Making

Under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations the Schools Forum can make decisions as follows:

- The budget and criteria for the allocation of the Growth Fund;
- The de-delegation of funding for maintained schools (maintained school phase representatives only);
- Central Schools , Early Years Block and Central Block Expenditure
- Amendments to the Scheme for Funding Schools
- Transfers between blocks within the DSG (within certain parameters)

Such decisions are based on the outcome of consultation and discussions which will be set out in reports.

Decision reports will request Schools Forum to approve recommendations.

Consultative Role

All reports contain a recommendation. In their consultative role, Schools Forum members will be asked to:

- Comment – when the LA is consulting on proposals e.g. an initial consultation influencing the direction of development
- Agree – where there are specific proposals before the LA decision; e.g. formula changes
- Note – purely for interest that may have a bearing on future issues or developments e.g. Government legislation



Schools Forum Operation



- Meetings are usually held 4 times a year (Jan/Feb, June/July, Oct & Dec)
- Papers are published on the Website.
- Quorum = 40% (excludes vacancies)
- Only schools' members, academies members + PVI Rep allowed to vote on the funding formulae
- Should a formal vote be required, this is on the basis of one member one vote
- Named substitutes are allowed to attend and vote in the absence of a substantive member



- The Chair and Vice Chair are elected for a two-year term of office
- The agenda is agreed in advance with the Chair
- The Chair has no executive decision-making powers



- Business at each meeting is shaped by:
 - The budget cycle including consultation on arrangements for Schools and Early Years funding blocks, as well as consideration of arrangements for the High Needs block (SEN and Alternative Provision) and agreement of the Central Block
 - Government announcements and consultations on changes to funding arrangements for schools and early years;
 - Issues emerging from Governor and Headteacher groups



Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2024-2025 Funding Blocks

£338.291m

SCHOOLS BLOCK	EARLY YEARS BLOCK	HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	CENTRAL BLOCK
£245.966m	£31.173m	£58.596m	£2.556m

Schools Block

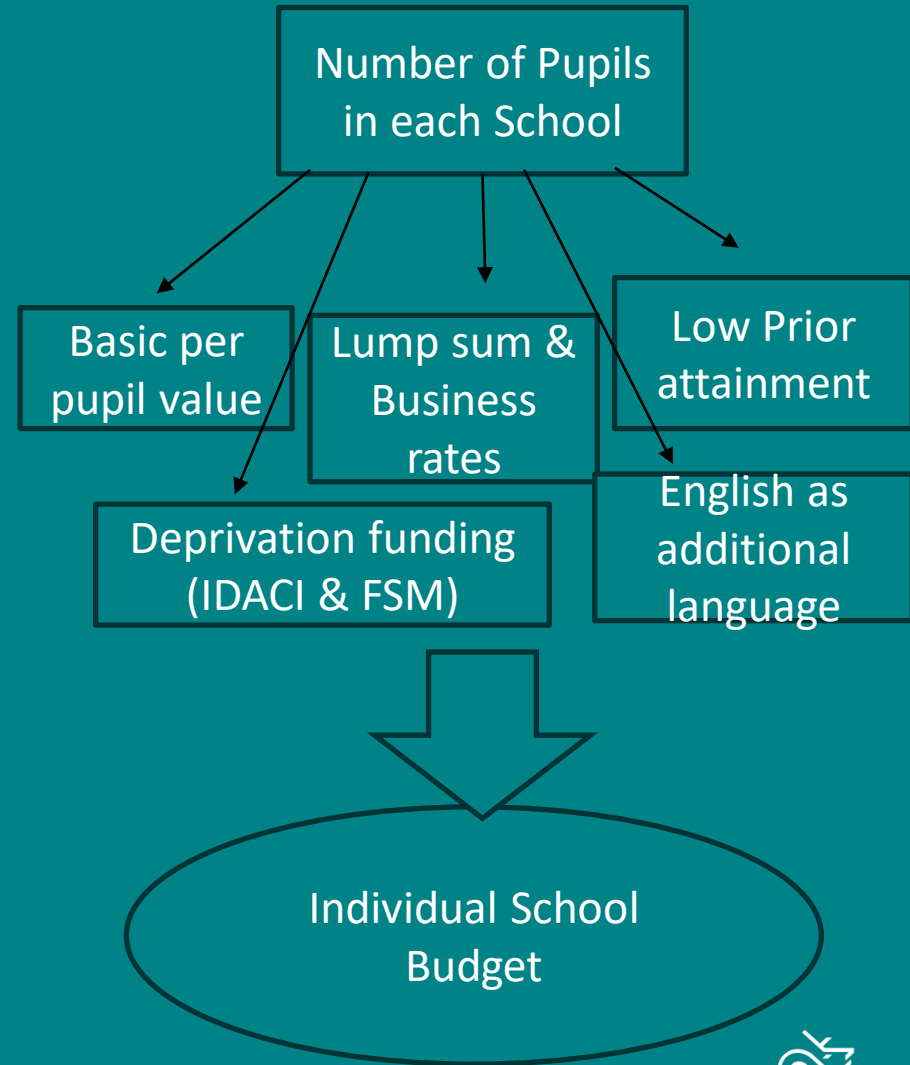
- Ringfenced Individual Schools Budget (ISB)
- Funding for Pre-16 Schools
- Delegated based on the National Funding Formula (NFF)
- Funds maintained schools and academies

- Main driver for funding is pupils – Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPU)

- Additional factors include, mobility, deprivation, LAC, EAL, Lump Sums, PFI, Rates, Prior Attainment

- October census count

- Funding Formula Methodology



High Needs Block

- Funding is based on actual commissioned pupil placement combined with a base level of funding to offer stability.
- Place led.
- Pupil led element of funding is to be met by the commissioning organisation and will be based on the individual needs of each pupil

- **Place Plus Methodology**
- **Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs)**
- **Funds:**
 - **SEND (0-25)**
 - **Alternative Provision including PRUs**
 - **Pre and Post 16**
 - **Inclusion Service**
 - **Independent and Maintained Special schools**



Place Plus Methodology

Type of Provision	Place funding (Element 1&2) (Equivalent to £10k)	Top up Funding (Element 3)
Maintained Schools & Academies	Included within the per pupil funding and Notional SEN (Budget Share – Schools Block)	Agreed top up funding (Banding) to meet the actual needs
Special Schools	£10k place funding based on number of commissioned places	Top up funding (Banding) to meet the actual needs
ERS units in Mainstream Schools & Academies	Occupied place at school census – funded via budget share. Unoccupied places on census day – High needs block. Remainder of £10k funded via high needs block	Agreed top up funding based on banding
FE institutions	Based on 16 – 19 national funding formula – paid directly by ESFA. £6k per student funded based on number of agreed places (place change return each November recouped from DSG via ESFA)	Agreed top up funding – paid from Local Authority

Early Years Block

- Funding for
 - 3/4 year olds and
 - eligible 2 year olds
 - 9month from
- calculated on 15 hrs or 30hrs (criteria) per week
- Paid on actual participation, three counts a year (budget adjusted in year)

Part of Individual Schools Budget (maintained and PVI).

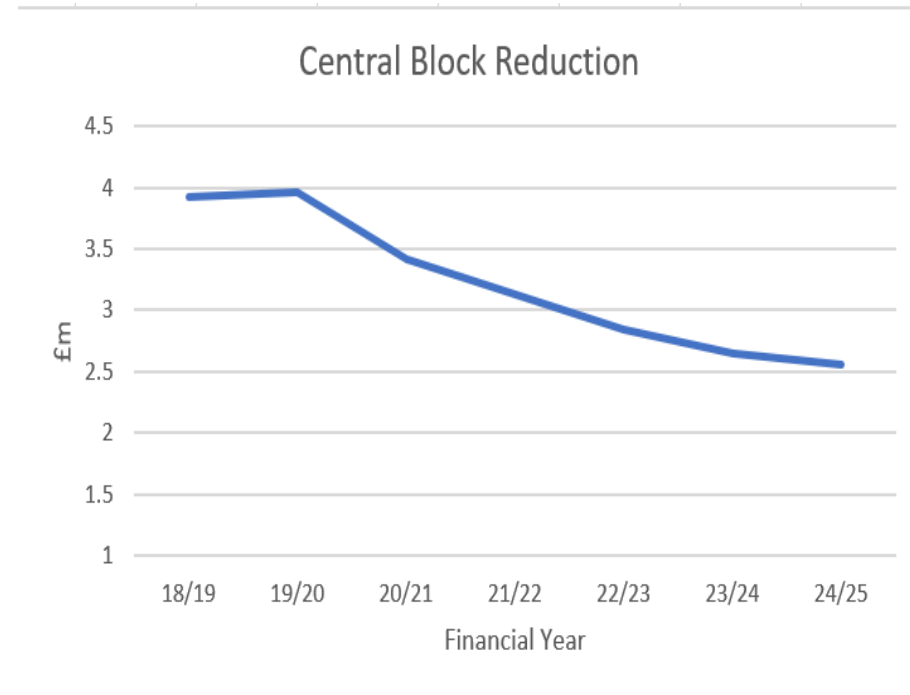
Formula allocation from for 2 year old funding from 2024/25

- Extended Entitlement
- Inclusion Fund
- Central Early Years Expenditure
- Changes in funding approach



Central services

- Historic commitments
- Admissions
- School Forum
- Prudential Borrowing
- Copyright Subscriptions
- Previously Education Support Grant



Government Policy changes

- The National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools in England is expected to be fully implemented by the 2027-28 academic year.
- This shift will mean that funding allocations for schools will be determined centrally, eliminating the current system where local authorities adjust funding formulas
- Key reforms, such as a national formulaic approach to funding schools with multiple sites and ensuring consistent funding for schools experiencing significant changes in pupil numbers, will begin in the 2024-25 financial year
- The NFF aims to ensure that all schools receive funding based on the same criteria, regardless of their location. This is intended to address historical funding disparities between different regions and local authorities
- The formula takes into account various factors such as the number of pupils, deprivation levels, and additional needs, which are crucial for distributing funds equitably to schools serving diverse populations



Considerations

- Pressures on High Needs Block
- Disapplication to top slice Schools Block
- CSSB reduction
- Statutory override
- NFF - Schools and local authorities may face challenges during the transition period, including adjustments to new funding levels and the need to re-evaluate budget allocations



DSG management Plan

Any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG must present a plan to the DFE

The plan should include

- evidence of co-production between finance and SEND
- evidence of engagement with a range of stakeholders and the desired/actual impact
- data:
 - forecasting of financial position, both mitigated and unmitigated, including assumptions
 - forecasting of education, health and care plan (EHC plan) numbers
 - benchmarking
- details of key pressures
- plans to mitigate against pressures and/or create savings
- demand management of EHC plans
- any risks to the implementation of plans and mitigations against those risks, or alternative actions that could be taken
- use of block movements - details around what the money will be used for and desired impact
- actual impact of previous block movements
- details of any other income within the high needs block, health contributions, and council contributions



De delegation

- Schools Forum makes an annual decision on de-delegation for maintained schools. A more sustainable model is required though.
- De-delegation safeguards specific services for maintained schools where expenditure is difficult to predict, or is targeted to specific need, or there are benefits of economy of scale/risk management in pooling funding.
- Services are discretionary and owing to their nature may not be sustainable through a service level agreement buy back
- Academies have the option to buy back as per the regulations on specific areas.





Thank you



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