

**Education Resources Group
Schools Forum**

**Meeting Date 29 November 2022
Meeting Date 7 December 2022**

Subject: School Funding Arrangements – 2023/24: Responses to Consultation

Cabinet Member: Cllr Abdullahi

Report Number: 20

Item: 5b

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides a summary of responses received to the proposals contained in the consultation document on the transfer and use of the 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block for 2023/24;

Recommendations

2. The Schools Forum are asked to:
 - Consider the responses and confirm their agreement to the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block to support schools with above the calculated average number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs);
 - Note the possibility of a consultation on early years funding arrangements being carried out during the Spring term.

Relevance to the Council's Corporate Plan

3. The Council has an oversight of the DSG and is responsible for the management and allocation of the funding to all schools in their area. The Council has to ensure the local arrangements are in line with the regulations governing school funding and aim to meet the needs of Enfield's children and young people (CYP).

Main Consideration for the Schools Forum

4. BACKGROUND

At the last meeting, the Forum was asked to confirm their support for consulting on the 0.5% transfer from the Schools to the High Needs block to support schools with high number of pupils with EHCPs.

This report provides a summary of responses received and seeks the Forum's views and agreement on the proposed transfer for 2023/24.

5. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

- 5.1 The consultation document was published on 24 October 2022. The deadline for submitting responses was Wednesday 16th November and by this date 18 responses had been received.

5.3 Funding for Pupils with SEND in Mainstream Schools

Schools were asked to respond on the proposal to transfer 0.5% funding from the Schools to the High Needs Block to support schools with an above calculated average of pupils with ECHP. The proposal sought no changes to the current methodology for calculating and allocating the funding.

Tables 1 summarise responses received to the proposal to continue with the 0.5% transfer from the Schools block to high needs and maintain the current methodology for calculating and allocating the funding. Table 2 details the additional comments received with these responses.

Table 1: Responses to the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block

2023/24	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	8	2	-
Secondary	3	2	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	7	1	-
PVIs	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	5	-

Table 2: Additional comments received:

Comments	Responses
Feel this area should continue as it is vital.	
Not clear on what above calculated average is. 2. Not clear on rationale	The methodology used is to calculate a borough average and the number of pupils the money transferred will fund. This information is then used to calculate an average for each school. If a school has pupil(s) with EHCP above this number, then funding is allocated It is most likely that the calculation will need to be adjusted to reflect any change in number of pupils with EHCPs.
We agree but would like to know what the per-pupil funding will be for EHCPs. Will the rate be the same or will schools be expected to fund a greater number of the first £6000? Can the formula for this be shared again? Can an updated list of EHCPs across Enfield schools be shared? We appreciate that this top up has been made available and hope this will continue as we have such high level of need at our school.	
Every time we have another pupil who needs 1-1 support throughout the whole day, the lack of full funding to employ a member of staff means that redeployment chips funds away from our ability to provide support in classroom, interventions and pupils who are less physically demanding needs. This is having considerable impact on our funding. Is this factored in as a consideration when asking schools to review spending?	Noted. The proposal aims to redistribute funding to partly address this issue as the current national funding formula or the funding framework appears not to adequate support mainstream schools to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

6. Recently, officers have been advised outcomes from the Early Years consultations carried out earlier this year will be published either just before the Christmas break or early Spring 2023. The recommendations will confirm the arrangements on the data to inform the NFF and also for moving the early years teachers' pay grant paid received by mainstream schools into the national funding formula and inclusion of a possible factor to enable schools to continue receive this funding. The is options is available then a local consultation will be required during the Spring term.

Main Considerations for the Schools Forum and Council

7. The local arrangements for delegating funding to schools are in line with statutory, national and local requirements.

Financial Implications

8. The recommendations in this report will be subject to the resources available. The final position will not be available until the DfE have published the budget settlement for 2023/24.

Conclusions and Recommendations

9. The Forum are asked to note and confirm their support to the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block. The Forum are also asked to note the possibility of a consultation on early years funding arrangements being carried out during the Spring term.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers:

School funding regulations and DfE operational and guidance documents

School funding consultation document and responses

Schools Forum and Education Resources Group reports from previous meetings