

Gloucestershire Schools Forum

14th September 2023

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Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Public Questions
4. Minutes and matters arising
5. School Funding Grant 2024/25
6. High Needs
7. Capital
8. F40 update



Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

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Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24

Indicative DSG Allocation

2024/25 Indicative DSG Block Summary					
	Schools	High Needs	Central School Services	Early Years	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
23/24 Gross DSG (as at 01/08/2023)	455.425	93.232	3.077	37.829	589.563
23/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	15.296				15.296
23/24 DSG & MSAG	470.721	93.232	3.077	37.829	604.859
24/25 Indicative DSG Block Funding	483.684	96.401	3.198	37.829	621.112
Change	12.963	3.169	0.121	0.000	16.253
% Change	2.8%	3.4%	3.9%	0.0%	2.7%

NB: Final allocation will be shared at the January 2024 Forum and will be subject to changes in the October census

Changes to the National Funding Formula

- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant rolled into the NFF
- NFF Core factors (such as basic per-pupil funding, and the lump sum that all schools attract) will increase by 2.4%
- National formula for split-site funding implemented for 2024/25 and will increase funding.
- Funding floor set at 0.5% to mirror the NFF
- Minimum Per Pupil Level (MPPL) increased to £4,655 for primary and £6,050 for secondary schools



Impact of NFF changes

Changes to the NFF are broadly comparable to the same point last year, except for deprivation factors which have attracted smaller increases for 2024/25.

Additional funding from the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant provided a boost ahead of final allocation in January last year

NFF and Mainstream Schools additional grant increase from 23/24 to 24/25	As per DfE Published tables Excludes Are Cost Adjustment (ACA)					
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	Overall	Overall
	DfE Rate	Mainstream Schools	DSG & MSAG	NFF	increase	percent
	Via DSG	additional grant	overall	Rates	amount	increase
Pupil Led Factors	£	£	£	£	£	
Basic per-pupil rate of £97 for primary pupils	3,394	119	3,513	3,597	84	2.4%
Basic per-pupil rate of £137 for key stage 3 pupils	4,785	168	4,953	5,072	119	2.4%
Basic per-pupil rate of £155 for key stage 4 pupils	5,393	190	5,583	5,717	134	2.4%
Deprivation Primary (FSM ever 6)	705	104	809	830	21	2.6%
Deprivation Secondary (FSM ever 6)	1,030	152	1,182	1,210	28	2.4%
Deprivation Primary (FSM)	480		480	490	10	2.1%
Deprivation Secondary (FSM)	480		480	490	10	2.1%
IDACI F Primary	230		230	235	5	2.2%
IDACI F Secondary	335		335	345	10	3.0%
IDACI E Primary	280		280	285	5	1.8%
IDACI E Secondary	445		445	455	10	2.2%
IDACI D Primary	440		440	450	10	2.3%
IDACI D Secondary	620		620	635	15	2.4%
IDACI C Primary	480		480	490	10	2.1%
IDACI C Secondary	680		680	695	15	2.2%
IDACI B Primary	510		510	520	10	2.0%
IDACI B Secondary	730		730	750	20	2.7%
IDACI A Primary	670		670	685	15	2.2%
IDACI A Secondary	930		930	950	20	2.2%
Prior Attainment (Y1-6 Early Years Foundation Sta	1,155		1,155	1,185	30	2.6%
Prior Attainment (Y7 - Y11 LPA)	1,750		1,750	1,790	40	2.3%
English as Additional Language (3 year EAL)	580		580	595	15	2.6%
English as Additional Language (3 year EAL)	1,565		1,565	1,605	40	2.6%
Mobility Primary	945		945	970	25	2.6%
Mobility Secondary	1,360		1,360	1,395	35	2.6%

School Led Factors

Lump Sum Primary	128,000	4,510	132,510	135,700	3,190	2.4%
Lump Sum Secondary	128,000	4,510	132,510	135,700	3,190	2.4%
Sparsity Primary Maximum	56,300		56,300	57,700	1,400	2.5%
Sparsity Secondary Maximum	81,900		81,900	83,900	2,000	2.4%

Split sites

Prior to 24/25 Base local formula	£47,692		£47,692			
Prior to 24/25 Per pupil local formula	£63.64		£63.64			
New 24/25 NFF Split Site Formula Maximum before taper effect				£81,400	Better than GCC formula	

Minimum Per Pupil Level (MPPL) Uplift

	MSAG equivalent					
Primary	4,405	143	4,548	4,655	107	2.4%
Secondary	5,715	195	5,910	6,050	140	2.4%

Teachers pay additional grant

Mainstream Schools Allocation £4.6m and Special and AP allocation (0.4m)

The mainstream schools' base funding rates for 2023 to 2024 financial year are:

- a basic per-pupil rate of £36 for primary pupils, including pupils in reception
- a basic per-pupil rate of £50 for key stage 3 pupils
- a basic per-pupil rate of £57 for key stage 4 pupils
- a lump sum of £1,345
- an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £31 per eligible primary pupil
- an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £45 per eligible secondary pupil

Funding for Alternative Provision and special schools will be allocated based on £260 per place for 2023/24.



Schools Block: Growth fund

Using current information and the 2024/25 NFF Basic Need AWPU rates, the forecast growth fund needed for 2024/25 is £0.934m, this is £0.066m less than 2023/24.

Recommendation 1: That a top-slice of the school's block for growth of £0.934m is agreed for 2024/25.



Schools Block: National Funding Formula

- Current estimates using the 2024/25 NFF rates and the 2023/24 census data forecast approximately £0.687m (0.14%) of the schools block remaining after funding for growth and delegated budgets at the 100% NFF level.
- At the same time last year, despite the larger reserve for growth funding, there was slightly more headroom (£780k). After updates from the census this dropped to £92k.

Recommendation 2

The Schools Forum agree the basis on which the formula will be allocated for 2024/25 is in line with their previous stated intention to match the NFF method as closely as possible and to utilise any surplus remaining in the schools block to support the 1 in 30 model. If there is any shortfall in the funding needed that will be covered by reducing all NFF factor rates (except the MPPL) by the same percentage.



Dedicated Schools Grant: High Needs and Central Services Blocks

- The indicative figures for the high needs block for 2024/25 show an increase of £3.169m (3.4%). This is lower than the previous 4 years, which have all seen final increases of over £6m.
- The central service block shows an indicative increase of £0.121m (3.9%) in the block total, however £0.072m of the increase relates to an increase in copyright licence fees leaving an increase of just £0.048m (1.6%) for education support and centrally retained duties.



Dedicated Schools Grant: Early years Block

- Current DSG allocation reflects the 2023/24 funding levels.
- Hourly rates have been adjusted following the increased funding allocated in 2023 spring budget and agreed by the local Early Years forum:

	Current rate per hour £	Increase £	Revised rate £
3 & 4 year olds	4.87	0.33	5.20
2 year olds	5.73	1.87	7.60
Pupil premium	0.62	0.04	0.66
Disability Access Fund (per pupil)	828	53	881

Early years: Expansion of the entitlement

The DfE also announced that the entitlement offer would be expanded to provide:

- 15 hours free entitlement for all 2 years of working parents from April 2024
- 15 hours free entitlement for all over 9 month-olds of working parents from September 2024.
- In April 2025 this would be raised to 30 hours for those above 9 months.

The illustrative rates that the LA will receive are £7.50 per hour for 2 years olds and £10.18 for under 2 year olds.

Awaiting details of funding to support planning and implementation.

The provisional early years DSG block funding for 2024/25 will be notified in December 2023 with updates in July 2024 and July 2025.



Funding Consultation

Three areas where we are seeking views from the system:

1. De-delegation for LA Maintained Schools
2. Notional SEND Funding
3. Targeted support funding for SEND

Consult with all schools: September/October 2023

Recommendations to Forum: November 2023 and January 2024
Schools Forum



Funding Consultation: De-delegation for LA maintained schools

1. Union facilities funding for primary schools at £3.05 per pupil.
2. In-year increases in pupil numbers for primary schools at £6.32 per pupil.
3. Local authority statutory services for primary and secondary schools at £5.00 per pupil.
4. Targeted intervention school improvement services for primary schools at £9.27 per pupil.



De-delegation for Union Facilities

The Union facilities time allows teaching unions to provide Gloucestershire primary schools access to effective statutory and collective consultation, bargaining and individual representation from trained and accredited local teaching union officials.

Consequently, school leaders and managers also have access to a valuable resource in the resolution of workplace issues and disputes. *This allows LA schools to meet all **statutory** and procedural entitlements to union representation.*



De-delegation for in-year pupil increases

Supports maintained primary schools with significant pupil increases above a threshold in their number on roll between October census dates.

Where the increase in October School Census numbers exceeds the higher of 5% or 10 pupils (the 5% threshold is subject to a ceiling of 15 pupils) then 7/12 (Sept-March) of the Basic Entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) pupil allocation will be triggered for each pupil above this threshold.

Funded 22/23 Number on roll	Funded 23/24 Number on roll	Diff in Pupils	Diff in %	Threshold Pupils @ 5%	Pupils Funded 5% Threshold	Funded Pupils above threshc	Growth Fund Pupils	To be funded from de- delegation	Allocation £
79	93	14	18%	89	10	4	0	4	7,554
128	142	14	11%	138	10	4	0	4	7,554
296	317	21	7%	311	15	6	15	6	11,330
390	411	21	5%	405	15	6	0	6	11,330
147	161	14	10%	157	10	4	0	4	7,554
174	186	12	7%	184	10	2	0	2	3,777
164	193	29	18%	174	10	19	0	19	35,879
317	345	28	9%	332	15	13	0	13	24,549
103	125	22	21%	113	10	12	0	12	22,661
604	629	25	4%	619	15	10	0	10	18,884
344	360	16	5%	359	15	1	0	1	1,888
138	166	28	20%	148	10	18	0	18	33,991
									186,951

De-delegation local authority statutory services

Since 2016/17 de-delegation to support statutory LA services for all LA maintained primary and secondary schools have been in place at £5.00 per pupil.

Consultation is proposing a transition of this funding to support the delivery of statutory school improvement services.



De-delegation local authority statutory services

- Since 2013/14 the maintained primary schools have de-delegated £9.27 to support targeted intervention school improvement services.
- This additional funding provided by all primary schools ensures that funding is not a limiting factor for schools 'at risk', which can often be the case.
- The loss of the SIMBG has created significant financial pressure on school improvement services, which has been mitigated in the short-term.
- We now face two challenges:
 - Short term-mitigations are not sustainable
 - Increasing distance between the LA some maintained schools



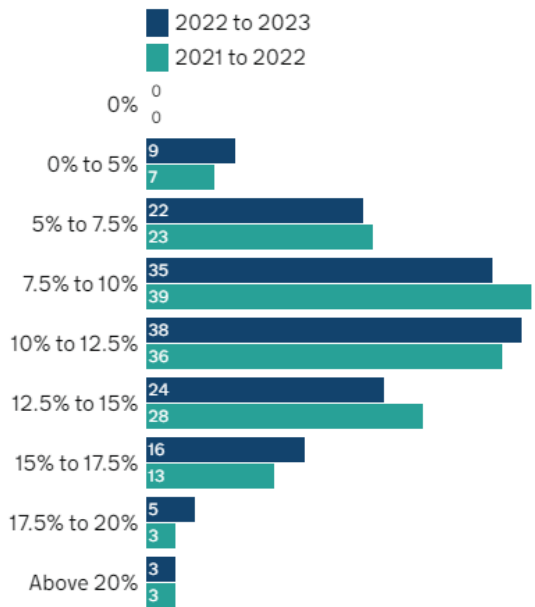
De-delegation local authority statutory services

- To redress the current financial pressure, we are proposing to transition the de-delegation for LA statutory service to support school improvement.
- This will stabilise the existing model of support and will allow the continuation of a blended model of funding – De-delegation and traded service offer.
- In addition, we are seeking views from maintained schools on the sustainability of this blended approach and the autonomy and variation of support that it enables.
- The consultation response will be considered alongside the need to delivery statutory duties and maintain oversight of maintained school performance.



Notional SEND Funding

Percentage of funding allocated to notional SEN



DFE view of the Formula - “we would expect the calculation of the notional SEN budget to include:

- a small part of the basic entitlement funding; **(2.5%)**
- a larger part of deprivation funding, reflecting the higher prevalence of lower-level SEN amongst disadvantaged pupils, and **(Not used)**
- the majority or whole of the low prior attainment factor funding, as this is the best proxy we currently have for pupils with low-cost, high-incidence SEN” **(all)**

*highlighted sections show local formula

- Local allocation equates to 8.3% of 2023/24 schools block funding compared to 10.8% national median.

High Needs Report

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High Needs forecast for 2023/24

<u>High Needs Block</u>	Budget	Forecast	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Early Years	636.3	636.3	0.0
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Primary	13,040.1	13,040.1	0.0
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Secondary	6,765.2	6,930.2	165.0
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Secondary Post 16	435.0	435.0	0.0
Special Centres - Primary	777.2	777.2	0.0
Special Centres - Secondary	120.9	120.9	0.0
Special School Provision - Place funding (LA)	15,563.8	15,422.1	-141.7
Special School Provision - Place funding (ESFA)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special School Provision - Top-up funding	17,777.6	18,007.9	230.3
Independent Special Schools - Joint Funding	17,530.5	17,502.9	-27.6
Post 16 Independent School Placements	1,893.0	1,893.0	0.0
EHCP Costs - College and FE	12,438.1	12,473.9	35.8
Alternative provision - places & top ups & services	5,487.2	5,571.2	84.0
Alternative provision - Glos Hospital Education	2,442.0	2,537.1	95.1
Excluded pupils	-100.0	-100.0	0.0
LA Services and staffing	4,451.6	4,411.5	-40.1
Restorative Practice	200.0	200.0	0.0
Special School Teachers Pay and Pensions	971.3	971.3	0.0
Other additional packages of support	980.8	946.7	-34.1
Education other than at school (EOTAS)	1,366.8	1,566.8	200.0
Special School Bespoke Packages	1,000.0	1,290.0	290.0
Support Services	1,147.1	1,186.9	39.8
Therapies and other health related costs	263.3	263.3	0.0
Virtual School	654.9	664.8	9.9
	105,842.7	106,749.0	906.3

£165k rise in secondary due to rise in average cost of plans

£230k & £290k due to increase in complexity of need in special schools

£179k due to increased referrals and opening of new school

£200k due to increased demand

EHCP Growth Numbers

Snapshot as at:	Jan-19	Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23	Current - 01/08/2023	Trend (current compared to Jan. 22)
Number of children and young people for whom the LA maintains a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan (0-25)	3,658	3,922	4,332	4,854	5,289	5,626	↑
Year on year % change		7.22%	10.45%	12.05%	8.96%	6.37%	
Rate per 1,000 of 0 to 24 year olds with an EHCP - Gloucestershire	20.8	22.3	24.9	27.9	30.4	32.3	↑
Rate per 1,000 of 0 to 24 year olds with an EHCP - National	21.1	23.2	26.2	28.8	31.4		↑
Rate per 1,000 of 0 to 24 year olds with an EHCP - Statistical Neighbours	25.3	23.0	28.4	31.6	35.1		↑
Number of children and young people with a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan (0-25) not maintained by the LA	98	89	84	118	151	164	↑

Gloucestershire still has proportionally less EHCPs per 1000 than both comparators and the rate of growth has also been slower.

Locally the rate of growth between January 2022 and January 2023 was 2.5 per 1000, compared to 2.6 nationally and 3.5 per 1000 for statistical neighbours.

High Needs Development Work

Final stages of assurance for the **DBV** programme - Initial proposal agreed now going through assurance process against 5 areas of development:

- Increasing specialist capacity beyond existing plans
- Targeted mainstream SEND funding progressing through consultation
- LA agreed additional funding for EP service to reduce reliance on traded service
- Improvements to joint commissioning
- Improved Speech, Language and Communication offer.

Existing activity progressing:

- Specialist capacity increasing across the county. New 200 place special school approved.
- Altus School opened on the 1st Sept 2023
- Inclusion baseline co-produced and ready to pilot in the Autumn.
- Local Offer fully reviewed & updated relaunch in Sept 2023.
- Graduated pathway consultation complete, guidance materials being updated and relaunched.





A National System Underpinned by National Standards

Addressing inconsistency across the system by setting out: **what support** should be made available; **whose job** it is to provide it; and **which budgets** should pay for it.

Successful Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood

Enabling children and young people to fulfil their potential and be prepared for adulthood including: **transition guidance**; increased investment in **Support Internships**; and continuing the **Adjustment Passport Pilot** with DWP

A Skilled Workforce and Excellent Leadership

Improved workforce capacity and expertise to support more inclusive mainstream provision, including: **SENCo NPQ** for schools; **occupational standard** for teachers of Sensory Impairment; and joint **DfE/DHSC workforce planning**

Strengthened Accountabilities and Clear Routes of Redress

Tackling misaligned incentives and holding the system to account to give parents greater confidence in the system through: local **inclusion dashboards**; updated Ofsted/CQC **area inspections**; and creating a 'ladder of intervention'

A Financially Sustainable System Delivering Improved Outcomes

Delivering a financially sustainable system by: the **Delivering Better Value (DBV)** and **Safety Valve (SV)** programmes; developing a system of funding **bands and tariffs**; and delivering new approaches to **funding Alternative Provision**.

Three Delivery Priorities

1. Support and Stabilise (2023)

(e.g. DBV and SV Programmes)

2. Increase Supply (2024/25)

(e.g. New special and AP Free Schools)

3. Design and Test (2023+)

(£70m Change Programme)

Capital Report

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F40 Update

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