

National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs 2019/20

1. Schools Consultation on Proposed Formula Changes for 2019/20

1.1. A total of 34 responses were received out of 266 schools, representing a 13% response rate to consultation 1. The results of each proposal is summarised below.

1.2. Q1(a): Do you wish to submit an application for exceptional circumstances?

Local authorities may request the inclusion of additional factors in their formula for exceptional circumstances. Additional factors may be approved in cases where the nature of the school premises gives rise to a significant additional cost, greater than 1% of a school's total budget and where such costs affect fewer than 5% of the schools (including academies) in the authority's area.

Two requests were submitted and neither of these meet the criteria.

1.3. Q1(b): Do you support the proposal to change the methodology used to calculate allocations in respect of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts? The proposal is to cap the formula calculation for the individual school's contribution at the newly revised pupil number capacity.

28 out of 31 responses (90%) supported this proposal

1.4. Q2(a): Do you support the proposal to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee per pupil at -1.0% for year on year changes in pupil characteristics, e.g. reducing levels of deprivation or low prior attainment?

25 out of 33 (76%) supported this proposal.

1.5. Q2(b): Do you support the proposal for an alternative gains cap for schools who gain more than 15% through the NFF compared to 2017/18?

20 out of 30 responses (67%) supported this proposal.

1.6. Q3: Please indicate whether you wish to see budgets for schools in financial difficulty, FSM eligibility checking, insurances, licences and subscription, care first, maternity cover and trade union facilities time de-delegated.

A response is required for each service to enable Schools Forum representatives to make a decision on behalf of mainstream maintained schools.

This applies to LA maintained mainstream schools only and the outcome to this question is provided in the table below:

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	Primary			Middle/Secondary		Totals	
	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Schools in financial difficulty	7	1		2	2	9	3
FSM Eligibility checking service	8	0		3	1	11	1
Insurance	8	0		4	0	12	0
Licences & subscriptions	8	0		3	1	11	1
Staff costs: Care First	8	0		2	2	10	2
Staff costs: Maternity	8	0		4	0	12	0
Staff costs: TU Facilities time	6	2		4	0	10	2

- 1.7.** Q4(a): Please indicate whether you wish to contribute to responsibilities the LA hold for maintained schools previously funded by the Education Services Grant (ESG) general rate. A response is required to enable Schools Forum representatives to make a decision on behalf of maintained schools.

This applies to LA maintained mainstream schools only, 11 schools responded with 9 supportive (82%) and 2 against.

- 1.8.** Q4(b): Please state whether you agree that maintained schools should contribute towards the costs of school redundancies previously funded by the ESG general rate? A response is required to enable Schools Forum representatives at the to make a decision on behalf of maintained schools.

This applies to LA maintained mainstream schools only. There were 12 responses to this proposal, 4 were in support (33%) and 8 were against (67%).

2. Consultation on changes for 2019/20 for Schools and Academies

- 2.1.** A total of 75 responses were received out of 267 schools, representing a 28% response rate to consultation 2. The results are summarised below.
- 2.2.** Q1(a) Do you support the proposal for a transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2019/20?

The results were 24% in favour and 76% against. There were 75 responses split 18:57, representing 28% of schools. The analysis is as follows:

School Phase	No of schools	% response	Responses		% Response	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
Primary	215	20.47%	11	33	25.00%	75.00%
Middle/Secondary / All through	39	64.10%	1	24	4.00%	96.00%
Special/PRUs	13	46.15%	6	0	100.00%	0.00%
Totals	267	28.01%	18	57	24.00%	76.00%

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The majority of responses were from academies, 43 out of 96 academies (44.79%), whereas 32 responses were received from 171 maintained (18.71%).

The LA organised a number of briefings to ensure schools and academies were informed of the pressures on High Needs and had an opportunity to ask questions. There were 43 attendees across the 3 events representing 29 schools. Of those schools represented, 20 completed the consultation response form, 7 in favour and 13 against (35%:65%). The low level of responses from primary schools was evident, only 11 primary schools attended the consultation, overall 14% of maintained primary schools (21 out of 150) completed a response, compared with 35% of academy primaries (23 out of 65).

2.3. Q1(b): Do you support the proposal to increase the High Needs top up values by 2% from April 2019 to reflect the minimum increases in school per pupil funding and the unfunded costs of the non-teaching staff pay award above the 1% pay cap?

77% of schools and academies responding to this proposal were supportive of an increase in the value of the High Needs top up funding.

2.4. Q2: Please identify from the services listed on the response form, which you would prefer the authority to spend less on (reduce) or to cease funding to enable a transfer to support pressures in high needs in 2019/20.

The views of schools and academies to this question is provided in the table below:

Service	Primary			Middle/Secondary/ Special/PRUs			Totals		
	Continue	Reduce	Cease	Continue	Reduce	Cease	Continue	Reduce	Cease
Education Welfare Service (EWS)	22	14	1	15	9	7	37	23	8
Head teacher support:									
Contribution to phase organisations	10	23	4	10	13	8	20	36	12
Area Heads meetings	14	21	2	4	13	13	18	34	15
Head teacher support services	24	9	4	3	11	17	27	20	21
Contribution to Safeguarding Advisor	35	1	1	21	5	5	56	6	6
Raising Achievement	15	18	4	8	10	11	23	28	15
14-19 Partnership	8	15	10	9	8	14	17	23	24
Core ICT and Education Technology	22	14	1	9	14	8	31	28	9
Parent Family Support advisors	36	2	0	29	0	0	65	2	0
Virtual School CLA team	18	18	1	17	9	5	35	27	6
EMA team	17	17	2	8	14	9	25	31	11
Traveller Education Service	14	19	3	10	13	8	24	32	11

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- 2.5.** Q3: Please identify from the SEND services listed on the response form, which you would prefer the authority spend less on, to be able to support other pressures in high needs

The views of schools and academies to this question is provided in the table below:

Service	Primary		Middle/Secondary		Totals	
	Continue	Reduce	Continue	Reduce	Continue	Reduce
Learning Support service	33	1	17	0	50	1
Education Psychology service	35	1	22	14	57	15
Portage service	22	13	7	9	29	22
Physical Impairment & Medical Support	34	2	20	24	54	26
Hearing impairment service	32	3	22	11	54	14
Visual Impairment Service	33	2	20	9	53	11
Autism service	31	5	20	9	51	14
Somerset Total Communication	18	17	7	11	25	28
Time Together	12	22	3	23	15	45
TEAM Teach	9	25	10	28	19	53
Early Years Area SENCOs	31	5	16	21	47	26
Alternative Provision and Outreach	33	4	22	15	55	19
Special school Outreach and Learning Support Centres	23	13	18	9	41	22