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# West Berkshire Council Schools Falling Rolls Fund Criteria 2015/16

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Since 2014/15, local authorities have been able to top slice the DSG in order to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls. This is for where a population bulge is expected in the future but where a good and necessary school or academy currently has surplus places and faces an unmanageable funding shortfall in the short term.
- 1.2 The falling rolls fund is ring-fenced. Any funds remaining at the end of the financial year must be added to the following year's DSG and reallocated to maintained schools and Academies through the local formula.
- 1.3 It is mandatory that the falling rolls fund is restricted to population increases expected in 2-3 years in necessary schools which are classed by OFSTED as good or outstanding.
- 1.4 Local authorities are required to provide on a transparent and consistent basis the criteria on which any falling rolls funding is to be allocated. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid.
- 1.5 The Schools' Forum is required to agree the criteria and the total sum to be top sliced from each phase, and will receive reports on the use of the funding.
- 1.6 The criteria and funding as agreed by the Schools' Forum at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 is set out below.

## 2. Falling Rolls Criteria

- 2.1 School must have been judged good or outstanding at their last OFSTED inspection.

- 2.2 The total number of pupils on roll (4 – 16) has fallen by at least 10% or 30 pupils between October 2014 census and October 2015 census.
- 2.3 Local planning data shows a requirement for at least 50% of these places being refilled within the next 3 years.
- 2.4 According to the current pupil numbers on roll, the school needs to reduce the number of classes required now, but will need to increase the number again within the next 3 years (calculation based on classes of 30 pupils)
- 2.5 Where a school meets the above criteria, funding will be provided equivalent to the staffing cost of continuing to run the additional class(s) at a fixed sum of £40,000 per class pro rata to the number of pupils the roll has reduced by in each class (e.g. if year 3 has reduced by 10 compared to 30 in the previous year, payment will be  $\text{£}40,000 \times 10/30 = \text{£}13,333$  for this class). This will be pro rata for the remainder of the financial year, and will enable the school to continue with the current number of classes without incurring a redundancy.
- 3. **Funding to be Top sliced from DSG**
  - 3.1 The sum to be set aside in 2015/16 is £40,000
  - 3.2 Funding requests from schools are to be submitted to Schools' Finance who will make payment following approval by the Head of Education if he is satisfied that the criteria are met. All approvals will be reported to Schools' Forum.
  - 3.3 Any overspends in year will be met from a top slice of the following years DSG allocation. Any underspends will be carried forward and reallocated to all schools through the following years funding formula.