

Consultation response from The Downs

Dear Wendy, thanks for the chat this morning.

Please see our responses below (myself and the head teacher)

1. Do you agree that West Berkshire should apply the national funding formula rates for every factor, applying a minimum funding guarantee of 0% and funding cap on gains of 2% (as shown in Annex C)? If not, please let us know with your reasons why.
2. Or do you agree that West Berkshire should apply the national funding formula rates for every factor, applying a minimum funding guarantee of -0.5% and funding cap on gains of 3% (as shown in Annex D)?

Yes, absolutely agree that the NF rates should be applied for every factor, and the we think #2 (-0.5% and +3%) because then fewer schools lose out.

3. Do you agree that if there is additional funding available the minimum funding guarantee should be set between 0% and 0.5% with the increase in the cap on gains at 3% according to affordability. If not please let us know the reasons why?

Yes

4. Do you agree that any shortfall or surplus in funding is addressed by scaling all formula factors downwards or upwards? If not, please let us know with your reasons why.

Yes

5. Do you agree that a top slice should be applied to all schools to support the High Needs Block? If not please let us know the reasons why.

No. Schools must be able to decide how to support their own students, so the full amount of funding that ought to be given to them must handed over. It is then for schools to choose what support to put in place and this could mean they buy back services from High Needs, of course.

When the transition to the NFF is complete there will be no option to top-slice schools' funding in this way, so this adjustment will have to happen sooner or later.

6. If your answer to question 5 is yes – do you agree with the amount as set ie £490k, which is the maximum allowable percentage without application to the Secretary of State? Or do you think the amount should be higher or lower – please let us know your reasons why.

7. If your answer to question 5 is yes – do you think the funding allocated per school should be in proportion to the school's funding as a proportion to total funding or the school's pupil numbers as a proportion to total pupil numbers? Please let us know the reasons why.

I have also had a chance this morning to meet with our chair of Finance, Craig Norford, and he is in agreement with the head and myself. I have copied Craig above.

1. If you have any comments/suggestions on this proposal or the criteria set to access the other additional funds please provide details.

No comment

2. If you do not agree with any of the above services being de-delegated, please let us know with your reasons why.

In principal we agree with the de-delegation for Statutory and Regulatory Duties, but the increase in the H&S amount is very concerning. We would therefore say our agreement to continue with the de-delegations is contingent on having a satisfactory arrangement and de-delegation amount for H&S.

Many thanks,

Lisa Hill

Mrs L Hill

School Business Manager



THE DOWNS SCHOOL

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