

---

# Proposed banding system for funding children with EHCPs attending PRUs

---

**Report being considered by:** Schools Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Report Author:** Jane Seymour

**Item for:** Information **By:** All Forum Members

---

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the implementation of the banding system for funding children with EHCPs who attend PRUs.

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report be noted.

<b>Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	------------------------------

## 3. Introduction/Background

3.1 In November 2018, the Schools Forum agreed a banding system for funding children with EHCPs attending PRUs.

3.2 Previously, where children with EHCPs were attending PRUs, any top up funding required was agreed on a case by case basis by the SEN Manager and the Headteacher of the PRU Service. There was no formal banding system for children with EHCPs in PRUs. It was agreed that there was a need to formalise funding arrangements through a banding system to ensure that funding was fair and consistent and to give a clear framework for decision making. The banding system was designed with input from the PRUs, the SEN Team, the Educational Psychology Service and Finance.

## 4. Supporting Information

4.1 The banding system does not assume that children with EHCPs in PRUs will automatically need a higher level of funding than pupils without EHCPs. The base level of funding in PRUs (£109 per day, equivalent to an annual top up cost of **£20,710**) provides staff to pupil ratios of 1 to 6. Some children with EHCPs will be able to have their needs met through these ratios. This is band **SEMH 1**. The full cost of pupils at SEMH1 including place funding of £10K is £30,710.

4.2 SEMH 1 corresponds to Range 5 level of needs from the West Berkshire Social Emotional and Mental Health Guidance. (See Appendix 1).

4.3 Two additional bands were agreed for children who have EHCPs who require a higher level of staffing because of the severity of their SEMH needs and / or because of other additional needs. These bands are based notionally on an additional 50% TA funding (SEMH 2) and an additional 100% TA funding (SEMH 3). This has been used as a means

of calculating additional funding, but it is acknowledged that funding may not be used in this way and might be used to fund other types of additional support. The band values have been based on mid point of Band C.

4.4 **SEMH 2** corresponds to Range 6 level of needs from the West Berkshire Social Emotional and Mental Health Guidance. SEMH 2 equates to an annual top up cost of **£27,550**. The full cost of pupils at SEMH2 including place funding of £10K is £37,550.

4.5 **SEMH 3** corresponds to Range 7 level of needs from the West Berkshire Social Emotional and Mental Health Guidance. SEMH 3 equates to an annual top up cost of **£34,200**. The full cost of pupils at SEMH3 including place funding of £10K is £44,200.

4.6 It is expected that the vast majority of students with EHCPs who attend PRUs will be able to have their needs met through Bands SEMH 1, 2 and 3. There may very occasionally be students with such exceptional needs that they require funding over and above Band SEMH 3. These cases would be agreed on a case by case basis by the SEN Panel, but should be very rare.

4.7 This banding system has been applied to children with EHCPs attending the PRUs and will cost approximately £502,760 in the 2019-20 financial year. It is estimated that the costs will be approximately £578,230 in the 2020-21 financial year due to increasing numbers of children with EHCPs in PRUs. This represents a pressure of £246,830. However, PRU placements for children with EHCPs are more cost effective than non maintained and independent special school placements.

4.8 Decisions on bandings are made by the SEN Panel.

4.9 When the banding system was agreed in 2018, the Heads Funding Group requested a review of how the system is being applied including a breakdown of PRU pupils by funding band.

4.10 The banding system was applied retrospectively to pupils who had attended the PRUs from April 2018. Since that time, 34 pupils with EHCPs have been placed at I-College (some on a temporary basis). Of these, 17 were at SEMH 1, 15 were at SEMH 2 and 2 were at SEMH 3.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 The banding system for children with EHCPs attending PRUs has provided a clear and transparent means of allocating additional funding to children with EHCPs in PRUs who need additional support over and above the basic staffing ratios of the PRU. There is no evidence of excessive use of the higher bandings.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

6.1 The banding system was designed with input from the PRUs, the SEN Team, the Educational Psychology Service and Finance. The Head of the I-College has been consulted on the contents of this report.

## **7. Appendices**

7.1 Appendix 1: West Berkshire Social, Emotional and Mental Health Guidance

7.2 Appendix 2: PRU Top Up rates 2019-20