

# Notice of Meeting

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## Schools Forum

**Monday 19 January 2026 at 5.00pm**  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Date of despatch of Agenda: Tuesday 13 January 2026

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Jessica Bailiss on (01635) 503124  
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## Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday 19 January 2026 (continued)

**Forum Members:** Kavash Bamfield, Reverend Mark Bennet, Catherine Bernie, Nicolle Browning, Heather Codling, Iain Cottingham, Jacquie Davies, David Fitter, Mel Godliman, Richard Hand, Michelle Harrison, Rebecca Hartley, Keith Harvey, Jon Hewitt, Jo Lagares, Steve Lewis, Julie Lewry, Jo MacArthur, Gary Norman, Chris Prosser, David Ramsden, Graham Spellman (Chair), Phil Spray, Chloe Summerville, Edwin Towill and Charlotte Wilson

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# Agenda

## Part I

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Sarah Clarke  
Executive Director - Resources

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Jessica Bailiss on telephone (01635) 503124.



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## Schools Funding Formula 2026/27

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<b>Report being considered by:</b>	Schools' Forum		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026		
<b>Report Author:</b>	Edith Cheng/Lisa Potts		
<b>Item for:</b>	Discussion/Comment	<b>By</b>	All Forum Members

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### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out the final school funding formula allocations for 2026/27.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the final formula rates and allocations to schools, subject to political ratification and allocation to schools by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The allocations have been made according to the principles agreed by Schools Forum in December and in relation to the total funding available from the Schools Block DSG allocation.

### 3. Introduction and background

- 3.1 2026/27 is the fourth year of transition to the direct schools National Funding Formula (NFF). Each Local Authority (LA) will continue to have some discretion over their schools funding formulae, in consultation with local schools. The LA is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula.
- 3.2 Political ratification is required for the LA to be able to issue budgets to maintained schools. Allocations must be distributed to schools by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- 3.3 A consultation was held between late October and early November 2025. The responses were considered by the Schools Forum in December 2025, and the following agreed:
- (a) To mirror the Department for Education's (DfE) 2026/27 NFF to calculate the funding allocations.
  - (b) To address any surplus or shortfall in funding by adjusting the AWPU values.
  - (c) To apply a 0% top slice to schools' funding.
  - (d) To approve the criteria to be used to allocate additional funds.
  - (e) To use the full sparsity factor.
  - (f) To approve the proposed services to be de-delegated.
- 3.4 Primary and secondary schools are notified each year of a clearly identified, but notional, SEN budget within their overall budget allocation. Local authorities are

responsible for calculating the amount of this notional budget with reference to the funding formula factors.

The notional SEN budget is intended as a guide for a school's spending decisions and should not be seen as a target or a constraint on the schools duty to use its 'best endeavours' to secure special provision for pupils with SEN.

Schools are expected to contribute towards the costs of special education needs provision up to a threshold of £6,000 per pupil per annum. The notional SEN budget is not intended to provide £6,000 for every pupil with SEN, as most support for such pupils will cost less than this.

There is currently no national approach to the calculation of a school's notional SEN budget. According to "The notional SEN budget for mainstream schools: operational guidance 2026 to 2027" released, DfE states that they would expect the notional SEN budget to include:

- a small part of the basic entitlement funding
- a larger part of deprivation funding, reflecting the higher prevalence of lower-level SEN amongst disadvantaged pupils
- 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

The following percentage weightings are applied:

- 4.0% of basic entitlement funding
- 30.0% of deprivation (excluding current FSM)
- 100.0% of low prior attainment

3.5 The DfE funding from the Schools Block DSG allocation for 2026/27 is £149.06m including growth funding (2025/26 £143.57m).

## 4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – Table showing final formula rates

4.2 Appendix B – Table showing final school funding allocations for 2026/27

Table showing final formula rates

Factor	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC final rate (0% transfer & growth funding )	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC final rate (0% transfer & growth funding )	Total Funding after 0% transfer & growth funding	Total Funding after 0% transfer & growth funding
	2025/26			2026/27			2025/26	2026/27
<b>Basic per pupil funding</b>								
Primary AWPU	£3,847	£3,986	£3,967	£4,064	£4,211	£4,207	£49,120,548	£50,813,624
KS3 AWPU	£5,422	£5,618	£5,591	£5,686	£5,892	£5,886	£35,517,122	£36,807,917
KS4 AWPU	£6,113	£6,334	£6,304	£6,410	£6,642	£6,635	£25,783,714	£27,229,630
<b>Minimum per pupil</b>								
Primary	£4,955	£4,955		£5,115	£5,115			
Secondary	£6,465	£6,465		£6,640	£6,640			
<b>Additional needs funding</b>								
<b>Deprivation</b>								
Primary FSM	£495	£513		£505	£523		£8,046,636	£8,680,125
Secondary FSM	£495	£513		£505	£523			
Primary FSM6	£1,060	£1,098		£1,210	£1,254			
Secondary FSM6	£1,555	£1,611		£1,725	£1,787			
Primary IDACI A	£685	£710		£700	£725			
Primary IDACI B	£520	£539		£530	£549			
Primary IDACI C	£490	£508		£500	£518			
Primary IDACI D	£445	£461		£455	£471			
Primary IDACI E	£285	£295		£290	£300			
Primary IDACI F	£235	£244		£240	£249			
Secondary IDACI A	£950	£984		£970	£1,005			
Secondary IDACI B	£745	£772		£760	£788			
Secondary IDACI C	£695	£720		£710	£736			
Secondary IDACI D	£635	£658		£650	£674			
Secondary IDACI E	£450	£466		£460	£477			
Secondary IDACI F	£340	£352		£345	£357			
<b>Low Prior Attainment</b>								
Primary LPA	£1,175	£1,218		£1,200	£1,243		£4,702,932	£4,793,803
Secondary LPA	£1,785	£1,850		£1,825	£1,891		£4,425,098	£4,527,637
<b>English as an Additional Language</b>								
Primary EAL	£595	£617		£610	£632		£614,700	£589,922
Secondary EAL	£1,595	£1,653		£1,630	£1,689		£403,010	£242,026
<b>Mobility</b>								
Primary Mobility	£965	£1,000		£985	£1,021		£125,792	£142,611
Secondary Mobility	£1,385	£1,435		£1,415	£1,466			
<b>School led funding</b>								
<b>Lump Sum</b>								
Primary Lump Sum	£145,100	£150,356		£152,700	£158,228		£11,577,375	£12,183,536
Secondary Lump Sum	£145,100	£150,356		£152,700	£158,228			
<b>Sparsity</b>								
Primary Sparsity	£57,400	£59,479		£58,600	£60,721		£954,610	£1,027,063
Secondary Sparsity	£83,400	£86,421		£85,200	£88,284			
<b>Premises</b>								
Primary Premises							£1,929,400	£1,929,022
Secondary Premises								
<b>Total Allocation (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG funding total)</b>							<b>£143,200,937</b>	<b>£148,966,917</b>
- Additional funding to meet the minimum funding level							£148,959	£51,765
<b>Total Allocation including minimum funding adjustment</b>							<b>£143,349,896</b>	<b>£149,018,682</b>
- MFG adjustment							£102,386	£45,709
<b>Total funding for Schools Block Formula</b>							<b>£143,452,282</b>	<b>£149,064,391</b>
- NNDR allocation							-£1,929,400	-£1,929,022
<b>DSG Schools Block DfE allocation</b>							<b>£141,522,882</b>	<b>£147,135,369</b>

Table showing final school funding allocations for 2026/27

School Name	Phase	2025/26 FINAL ALLOCATION (after 0% HNB transfer)			2026/27 FINAL ALLOCATION (after 0% HNB transfer)			YEAR ON YEAR CHANGE				
		Pupil count Oct 2024	Formula allocated	Per pupil funding	Pupil count Oct 2025	Formula allocated	Per pupil funding	Change in pupils	Change in total cash	% change in cash	Change in per pupil total funding	% change per pupil
Beenham Primary School	Primary	45	£449,215	£9,983	53	£532,931	£10,055	8	£83,715	16%	£73	1%
Chieveley Primary School	Primary	171	£944,021	£5,521	164	£970,439	£5,917	-7	£26,419	3%	£397	7%
Curridge Primary School	Primary	96	£632,452	£6,588	109	£718,197	£6,589	13	£85,744	12%	£1	0%
The Ilsleys Primary School	Primary	49	£431,422	£8,805	55	£474,402	£8,625	6	£42,980	9%	-£179	-2%
Hermitage Primary School	Primary	172	£946,634	£5,504	188	£1,087,686	£5,786	16	£141,052	13%	£282	5%
Hungerford Primary School	Primary	328	£1,842,728	£5,618	316	£1,885,600	£5,967	-12	£42,872	2%	£349	6%
Inkpen Primary School	Primary	37	£396,940	£10,728	40	£424,469	£10,612	3	£27,528	6%	-£116	-1%
John Rankin Junior School	Primary	348	£1,780,008	£5,115	312	£1,737,809	£5,570	-36	-£42,199	-2%	£455	8%
John Rankin Infant and Nursery School	Primary	228	£1,286,743	£5,644	215	£1,284,094	£5,973	-13	-£2,650	0%	£329	6%
Birch Copse Primary School	Primary	417	£2,097,084	£5,029	420	£2,179,658	£5,190	3	£82,574	4%	£161	3%
Westwood Farm Junior School	Primary	239	£1,278,869	£5,351	232	£1,317,466	£5,679	-7	£38,596	3%	£328	6%
Long Lane Primary School	Primary	207	£1,139,376	£5,504	211	£1,218,519	£5,775	4	£79,143	6%	£271	5%
Garland Junior School	Primary	185	£1,080,262	£5,839	187	£1,164,015	£6,225	2	£83,753	7%	£385	6%
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	Primary	211	£1,214,878	£5,758	210	£1,266,206	£6,030	-1	£51,328	4%	£272	5%
Westwood Farm Infant School	Primary	178	£1,001,718	£5,628	167	£989,811	£5,927	-11	-£11,907	-1%	£299	5%
Springfield Primary School	Primary	300	£1,547,978	£5,160	301	£1,649,261	£5,479	1	£101,282	6%	£319	6%
Falkland Primary School	Primary	411	£2,066,262	£5,027	421	£2,183,663	£5,187	10	£117,401	5%	£159	3%
Parsons Down Infant School	Primary	90	£590,443	£6,560	88	£611,672	£6,951	-2	£21,229	3%	£390	6%
Mrs Bland's Infant School	Primary	126	£814,444	£6,464	120	£808,866	£6,741	-6	-£5,578	-1%	£277	4%
Downsway Primary School	Primary	212	£1,114,814	£5,259	211	£1,180,764	£5,596	-1	£65,950	6%	£337	6%
Kennet Valley Primary School	Primary	199	£1,140,146	£5,729	195	£1,194,399	£6,125	-4	£54,253	5%	£396	6%
Parsons Down Junior School	Primary	167	£983,144	£5,887	139	£884,597	£6,364	-28	-£98,547	-11%	£477	7%
Calcot Infant School and Nursery	Primary	170	£1,005,706	£5,916	158	£1,015,566	£6,428	-12	£9,859	1%	£512	8%
Calcot Junior School	Primary	261	£1,481,322	£5,676	267	£1,588,152	£5,948	6	£106,831	7%	£273	5%
Spurcroft Primary School	Primary	368	£1,933,071	£5,253	371	£2,061,282	£5,556	3	£128,211	6%	£303	5%
Pangbourne Primary School	Primary	136	£829,980	£6,103	111	£748,179	£6,740	-25	-£81,801	-11%	£638	9%
Aldermaston C.E. Primary School	Primary	116	£790,279	£6,813	91	£741,826	£8,152	-25	-£48,453	-7%	£1,339	16%
Basildon C.E. Primary School	Primary	156	£851,865	£5,461	150	£867,883	£5,786	-6	£16,017	2%	£325	6%
Beedon C.E. (Controlled) Primary School	Primary	22	£337,428	£15,338	19	£344,834	£18,149	-3	£7,405	2%	£2,811	15%
Brimpton C.E. Primary School	Primary	47	£442,179	£9,408	44	£456,706	£10,380	-3	£14,527	3%	£972	9%
Bucklebury C.E. Primary School	Primary	113	£708,718	£6,272	93	£646,229	£6,949	-20	-£62,489	-10%	£677	10%
Burghfield St Mary's C.E. Primary School	Primary	207	£1,135,759	£5,487	206	£1,184,813	£5,752	-1	£49,053	4%	£265	5%
Chaddleworth St Andrew's C.E. Primary School	Primary	26	£342,718	£13,181	31	£387,817	£12,510	5	£45,099	12%	-£671	-5%
Cold Ash St Mark's CE Primary School	Primary	203	£1,039,556	£5,121	194	£1,050,271	£5,414	-9	£10,715	1%	£293	5%
Compton C.E. Primary School	Primary	166	£956,487	£5,762	155	£941,508	£6,074	-11	-£14,978	-2%	£312	5%
Enborne C.E. Primary School	Primary	81	£551,956	£6,814	80	£581,304	£7,266	-1	£29,348	5%	£452	6%
Hampstead Norreys C.E. Primary School	Primary	49	£459,664	£9,381	47	£469,658	£9,993	-2	£9,994	2%	£612	6%
Kintbury St Mary's C.E. Primary School	Primary	122	£801,874	£6,573	112	£800,944	£7,151	-10	-£93,000	0%	£579	8%
Purley CofE Primary School	Primary	81	£555,828	£6,862	75	£562,460	£7,499	-6	£6,632	1%	£637	8%
Shaw-cum-Donnington C.E. Primary School	Primary	91	£621,755	£6,832	84	£630,142	£7,502	-7	£8,386	1%	£669	9%
Shefford C.E. Primary School	Primary	52	£449,231	£8,639	53	£470,335	£8,874	1	£21,104	4%	£235	3%
Mortimer St Mary's C.E. Junior School	Primary	235	£1,192,140	£5,073	236	£1,258,693	£5,333	1	£66,553	5%	£261	5%
Mortimer St. John's C.E. Infant School	Primary	165	£900,616	£5,458	161	£922,906	£5,732	-4	£22,289	2%	£274	5%
Streately C.E. Voluntary Controlled School	Primary	98	£599,770	£6,120	99	£636,941	£6,434	1	£37,171	6%	£314	5%
Theale C.E. Primary School	Primary	308	£1,639,332	£5,323	302	£1,721,315	£5,700	-6	£81,983	5%	£377	7%
Welford and Wickham C.E. Primary School	Primary	62	£505,388	£8,151	52	£485,779	£9,342	-10	-£19,609	-4%	£1,190	13%
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Primary	296	£1,518,929	£5,132	276	£1,498,457	£5,429	-20	-£20,473	-1%	£298	5%
Bradfield C.E. Primary School	Primary	150	£835,536	£5,570	157	£899,328	£5,728	7	£63,792	7%	£158	3%
Brightwalton C.E. Aided Primary School	Primary	87	£585,341	£6,728	91	£640,557	£7,039	4	£55,216	9%	£311	4%
Englefield C.E. Primary School	Primary	110	£629,012	£5,718	109	£652,731	£5,988	-1	£23,718	4%	£270	5%
St Nicolas C.E. Junior School	Primary	255	£1,353,766	£5,309	244	£1,377,400	£5,645	-11	£23,633	2%	£336	6%
Stockcross C.E. School	Primary	80	£562,388	£7,030	85	£610,969	£7,188	5	£48,581	8%	£158	2%
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve School	Primary	99	£637,414	£6,439	98	£668,333	£6,820	-1	£30,919	5%	£381	6%
Woolhampton C.E. Primary School	Primary	102	£656,491	£6,436	97	£671,376	£6,921	-5	£14,885	2%	£485	7%
Yattendon C.E. Primary School	Primary	90	£592,730	£6,586	93	£639,170	£6,873	3	£46,440	7%	£287	4%
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	Primary	203	£1,049,659	£5,171	206	£1,123,165	£5,452	3	£73,507	7%	£282	5%
The Wincombe School	Primary	414	£2,199,213	£5,312	411	£2,342,885	£5,700	-3	£143,672	6%	£388	7%
Thatcham Park CofE Primary	Primary	318	£1,702,463	£5,354	329	£1,842,797	£5,601	11	£140,333	8%	£248	4%
The Willows Primary School	Primary	339	£2,003,738	£5,911	299	£1,875,283	£6,272	-40	-£128,455	-7%	£361	6%
St John the Evangelist CofE Infant and Nursery School	Primary	171	£970,015	£5,673	170	£995,154	£5,854	-1	£25,139	3%	£181	3%
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary	213	£1,179,688	£5,538	217	£1,262,736	£5,819	4	£83,048	7%	£281	5%
The Willink School	Secondary	1031	£7,183,271	£6,967	1017	£7,426,360	£7,302	-14	£243,089	3%	£335	5%
Little Heath School	Secondary	1313	£9,119,619	£6,946	1294	£9,462,590	£7,313	-19	£342,972	4%	£367	5%
The Downs School	Secondary	1045	£6,948,227	£6,649	1050	£7,353,180	£7,003	5	£404,953	6%	£354	5%
Fir Tree Primary School and Nursery	Primary	211	£1,264,759	£5,994	210	£1,316,440	£6,269	-1	£51,682	4%	£275	4%
Whitelands Park Primary School	Primary	396	£2,102,015	£5,308	380	£2,151,960	£5,663	-16	£49,946	2%	£355	6%
Highwood Copse Primary School	Primary	137.5	£792,004	£5,760	168.5	£942,405	£5,593	31	£150,400	16%	-£167	-3%
Lambourn CofE Primary School	Primary	136	£863,484	£6,349	112	£785,411	£7,013	-24	-£78,073	-10%	£663	9%
Speenhamland School	Primary	292	£1,647,268	£5,641	286	£1,704,202	£5,959	-6	£56,934	3%	£317	5%
Francis Bailly Primary School	Primary	531	£2,710,299	£5,104	496	£2,706,699	£5,457	-35	-£3,600	0%	£353	6%
John O'gaunt School	Secondary	448	£3,422,948	£7,641	439	£3,512,113	£8,000	-9	£89,165	3%	£360	4%
Theale Green School	Secondary	725	£5,234,392	£7,220	706	£5,370,313	£7,607	-19	£135,921	3%	£387	5%
Park House School	Secondary	892	£6,157,384	£6,903	844	£6,111,826	£7,241	-48	-£45,558	-1%	£339	5%
Kennet School	Secondary	1485	£10,370,359	£6,983	1467	£10,756,540	£7,332	-18	£386,181	4%	£349	5%
Trinity School	Secondary	1188	£8,489,226	£7,146	1184	£8,931,461	£7,543	-4	£442,235	5%	£398	5%
St Bartholomew's School	Secondary	1352	£9,180,778	£6,791	1386	£9,962,286	£7,188	34	£781,508	8%	£397	6%
Denefield School	Secondary	963	£6,691,660	£6,949	971	£7,130,201	£7,343	8	£438,540	6%	£394	5%
<b>Total allocation</b>			<b>£143,566,283</b>			<b>£149,064,391</b>			<b>£5,498,108</b>			
<b>Primary Total</b>			<b>£70,768,419</b>			<b>£73,047,521</b>			<b>£2,279,102</b>			
<b>Secondary Total</b>		<b>22824</b>	<b>£72,797,864</b>		<b>22438</b>	<b>£76,016,870</b>		<b>-386</b>	<b>£3,219,006</b>			

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## Growth Fund 2025/26 Payments

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<b>Report being considered by:</b>	Schools' Forum
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Edith Cheng/Lisa Potts
<b>Item for:</b>	Discussion/Comment <b>By</b> All School Representatives

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### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum members of payments recommended to be made to schools from the Growth Fund budget in 2025/26.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note no payment would be made.

### 3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Growth funding is allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) by formula and forms part of the Schools Block DSG allocation. The funding can either be used to form a growth fund, or it can be added into the school formula. The Schools Forum must be consulted on the total size of the growth fund and criteria for use.
- 3.2 The purpose of the growth fund is to support maintained schools and academies which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, and to meet the cost of new and reorganised schools including pre-opening and diseconomy costs. It can also fund schools where very limited pupil number growth requires an additional class as set out by infant class size regulations. It cannot be used for general growth in pupil numbers.
- 3.3 The growth fund is also to support new schools with pre-opening costs and diseconomies of scale.
- 3.4 Following the receipt of the final October 2025 Census data, all schools were invited to make a funding request if they felt that their circumstances met the growth fund criteria. To support their applications, schools were asked to submit information regarding increases in class and teacher numbers between the two academic years. Only growth in relation to basic need requirements in the area (and thus increases in PAN or bulge years approved by the local authority for this purpose) qualifies for this funding.

### 4. Applications made

- 4.1 With reference to the October 2025 Census data, no schools met the criteria for growth in relation to basic need requirements.

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