

Individual Decision



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The attached report will be taken as Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Thursday 23 January 2025

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Schools Funding Formula 2025/26

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	23 January 2025
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Iain Cottingham
Report Author:	Lisa Potts
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4645

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To approve the school funding formula distribution for 2025/26.

2 Recommendations

2.1 To approve the 2025/26 school funding formula to be distributed to schools. 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.

2.2 To note that the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) on 22 January 2025

2.3 To note that the final formula rates and allocations will be notified to schools by 28th February 2025.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	Distribution of £143.6m to schools
Human Resource:	n/a
Legal:	Need to notify budgets to schools by 28.2.25
Risk Management:	n/a
Property:	n/a

Policy:	n/a			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:		x		
ICT Impact:		x		
Digital Services Impact:		x		
Council Strategy Priorities:		x		
Core Business:		x		
Data Impact:		x		

Consultation and Engagement:	Consulted with all schools in October/November 2024. Consulted with Heads Funding Group and Schools Forum.
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4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 2025/26 is the third 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.
- 4.2 Political ratification is required for the LA to be able to issue budgets to maintained schools. Allocations must be distributed to schools by 28th February 2025.
- 4.3 A consultation was held between 16 October 2024 and 6 November 2024. The responses were considered by the Schools Forum in December 2024, and a methodology for distributing the funding was agreed.
- 4.4 The final DSG funding notification was received from the DfE in December 2024 totalling £143.6m, including a growth allocation of £0.3m. A decision will be made at the Schools Forum in January 2025 following the recommendation to add the DSG growth funding allocation for 2025/26 into the school formula and allocate to schools.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 A consultation was held between 16 October 2024 and 6 November 2024. The responses were considered by the Schools Forum in December 2024, and the following agreed:
 - (a) To mirror the Department for Education’s (DfE) 2025/26 National Funding Formula (NFF) to calculate the funding allocations.
 - (b) To address any surplus or shortfall in funding by adjusting the AWPU values.
 - (c) To use the full sparsity factor.
 - (d) To apply a 0% top slice to schools’ funding.
 - (e) To approve the criteria to be used to allocate additional funds.
 - (f) To approve the proposed services to be de-delegated.
- 5.2 A decision will be made at the Schools Forum in January 2025 following the recommendation to add the DSG growth funding allocation for 2025/26 into the school formula and allocate to schools. This paper assumes that is agreed.

Schools Funding Formula 2025/26

5.3 The final DSG funding notification was received from the DfE in December 2024 totalling £143.6m, including a growth allocation of £0.3m.

Growth Funding 2025/26

5.4 The main DSG funding for schools is lagged and based on pupil numbers from the previous October census. Since 2019/20, growth funding is allocated to the local authority by formula and forms part of the Schools Block DSG. The formula for allocating growth funding to each LA is based on actual growth in pupil numbers.

5.5 This funding can be put aside into a Growth Fund, where it can be awarded to schools under certain criteria. If not required for growth, it can be added into the school formula, but if there is a shortfall, this needs to be met from a top slice of the main schools' block allocation. As it is within the schools block, a movement of funding between the schools formula and the Growth Fund is not treated as a transfer between blocks.

5.6 The cumulative balance on our Growth Fund was £0.8m at 31.3.2024 and is forecast to be £0.69m by 31.3.2025. The DSG growth funding for 2025/26 is £307k. The projected balance of our Growth Fund is sufficient, so the Schools' Forum will make a decision in January 2025 following the recommendation to add the DSG growth funding allocated for 2025/26 into the school formula to distribute to schools.

Final School Funding:

	2024/25 Total funding	2025/26 Final		
		Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Total funding
Schools Block				
Primary	64,796,837	5,584.04	12,362	69,029,902
Secondary	66,686,955	6,929.72	10,438	72,332,417
Premises factor (NNDR)	2,032,396			1,896,510
2024/25 additional grants	7,675,682			-
DfE allocation	141,191,870			143,258,830
Growth	502,559			307,452
Total block funding	141,694,429			143,566,283
Block transfer (0.25% 24/25)	- 335,047			-
Total formula funding	141,359,382			143,566,283
NNDR direct allocation	- 376,239			- 1,929,400
Total schools block after deductions	140,983,143			141,636,883

Schools Funding Formula 2025/26

Formula Rates:

Factor	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC Rate with full sparsity and 0.25% transfer	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC final rate (0% transfer & growth funding)	Total Funding with full sparsity, 0.25% transfer & growth funding	Total Funding after 0% transfer & growth funding
	2024/25			2025/26			2024/25	2025/26
Basic per pupil funding								
Primary AWPU	£3,562	£3,690	£3,671	£3,847	£3,986	£3,972	£46,388,016	£49,178,802
KS3 AWPU	£5,022	£5,203	£5,176	£5,422	£5,618	£5,598	£32,836,687	£35,559,243
KS4 AWPU	£5,661	£5,865	£5,834	£6,113	£6,334	£6,312	£23,898,605	£25,814,291
Minimum per pupil								
Primary	£4,610	£4,610	£4,610	£4,955	£4,955	£4,955		
Secondary	£5,995	£5,995	£5,995	£6,465	£6,465	£6,465		
Additional needs funding								
Deprivation								
Primary FSM	£490	£508	£508	£495	£513	£513		
Secondary FSM	£490	£508	£508	£495	£513	£513		
Primary FSM6	£820	£850	£850	£1,060	£1,098	£1,098		
Secondary FSM6	£1,200	£1,243	£1,243	£1,555	£1,611	£1,611		
Primary IDACI A	£680	£705	£705	£685	£710	£710		
Primary IDACI B	£515	£534	£534	£520	£539	£539		
Primary IDACI C	£485	£502	£502	£490	£508	£508		
Primary IDACI D	£445	£461	£461	£445	£461	£461		
Primary IDACI E	£285	£295	£295	£285	£295	£295	£6,840,684	£8,046,636
Primary IDACI F	£235	£243	£243	£235	£244	£244		
Secondary IDACI A	£945	£979	£979	£950	£984	£984		
Secondary IDACI B	£740	£767	£767	£745	£772	£772		
Secondary IDACI C	£690	£715	£715	£695	£720	£720		
Secondary IDACI D	£630	£653	£653	£635	£658	£658		
Secondary IDACI E	£450	£466	£466	£450	£466	£466		
Secondary IDACI F	£340	£352	£352	£340	£352	£352		
Low Prior Attainment								
Primary LPA	£1,170	£1,212	£1,212	£1,175	£1,218	£1,218	£4,621,470	£4,702,932
Secondary LPA	£1,775	£1,839	£1,839	£1,785	£1,850	£1,850	£4,317,947	£4,425,098
English as an Additional Language								
Primary EAL	£590	£611	£611	£595	£617	£617	£636,996	£614,700
Secondary EAL	£1,585	£1,642	£1,642	£1,595	£1,653	£1,653	£400,524	£403,010
Mobility								
Primary Mobility	£960	£995	£995	£965	£1,000	£1,000	£77,755	£125,792
Secondary Mobility	£1,380	£1,430	£1,430	£1,385	£1,435	£1,435	£0	£0
School led funding								
Lump Sum								
Primary	£134,400	£139,246	£139,246	£145,100	£150,356	£150,356	£10,721,978	£11,577,375
Secondary	£134,400	£139,246	£139,246	£145,100	£150,356	£150,356		
Sparsity								
Primary	£57,100	£59,159	£59,159	£57,400	£59,479	£59,479	£940,043	£954,610
Secondary	£83,000	£85,993	£85,993	£83,400	£86,421	£86,421		
Premises								
Primary							£1,799,164	£1,929,400
Secondary								
Total Allocation (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG funding total)							£133,479,868	£143,331,891
Additional funding to meet the minimum funding level							£178,812	£145,064
Total Allocation including minimum funding adj							£133,658,680	£143,476,954
MFG adjustment							£25,021	£89,329
Total funding for Schools Block Formula							£133,683,700	£143,566,283
Amount of block transfer							£335,047	£0
NNDR allocation							-£1,832,054	-£1,929,400
DSG Schools Block DfE allocation							£132,186,693	£141,636,883

Proposals

5.7 To approve the final school funding formula allocations for 2025/26.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix A – Final school funding allocations

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

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Appendix A

2025/26 School Formula Allocations												
APPENDIX FINAL ALLOCATIONS 2025/26												
School Name	Phase	2024/25 FINAL ALLOCATION (after 0.25% HNB transfer)			2025/26 FINAL ALLOCATION (after 0% HNB transfer)			YEAR ON YEAR CHANGE				
		Pupil count Oct 2023	Formula allocated	Per pupil funding	Pupil count Oct 2024	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	58	£482,743	£8,323	45	£449,215	£9,983	-13	-£33,528	-7%	£1,659	17%
Chieveley Primary School	Primary	177	£899,008	£5,079	171	£944,021	£5,521	-6	£45,013	5%	£441	8%
Curridge Primary School	Primary	82	£509,414	£6,212	96	£632,452	£6,588	14	£123,038	19%	£376	6%
The IIsleys Primary School	Primary	53	£414,979	£7,830	49	£431,422	£8,805	-4	£16,443	4%	£975	11%
Hermitage Primary School	Primary	188	£938,454	£4,992	172	£946,634	£5,504	-16	£8,180	1%	£512	9%
Hungerford Primary School	Primary	346	£1,772,871	£5,124	328	£1,842,728	£5,618	-18	£69,857	4%	£494	9%
Inkpen Primary School	Primary	48	£421,658	£8,785	37	£396,940	£10,728	-11	-£24,718	-6%	£1,944	18%
John Rankin Junior School	Primary	358	£1,679,949	£4,693	348	£1,780,008	£5,115	-10	£100,059	6%	£422	8%
John Rankin Infant and Nursery School	Primary	220	£1,128,644	£5,130	228	£1,286,743	£5,644	8	£158,100	12%	£513	9%
Birch Copse Primary School	Primary	414	£1,937,468	£4,680	417	£2,097,084	£5,029	3	£159,616	8%	£349	7%
Westwood Farm Junior School	Primary	238	£1,183,972	£4,975	239	£1,278,869	£5,351	1	£94,897	7%	£376	7%
Long Lane Primary School	Primary	209	£1,059,026	£5,067	207	£1,139,376	£5,504	-2	£80,349	7%	£437	8%
Garland Junior School	Primary	220	£1,163,795	£5,290	185	£1,080,262	£5,839	-35	-£83,533	-8%	£549	9%
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	Primary	213	£1,115,313	£5,236	211	£1,214,878	£5,758	-2	£99,564	8%	£522	9%
Westwood Farm Infant School	Primary	186	£952,740	£5,122	178	£1,001,739	£5,628	-8	£48,978	5%	£505	9%
Springfield Primary School	Primary	304	£1,463,122	£4,813	300	£1,547,978	£5,160	-4	£84,856	5%	£347	7%
Falkland Primary School	Primary	420	£1,964,104	£4,676	411	£2,066,262	£5,027	-9	£102,158	5%	£351	7%
Parsons Down Infant School	Primary	90	£548,861	£6,098	90	£590,443	£6,560	0	£41,582	7%	£462	7%
Mrs Bland's Infant School	Primary	148	£861,122	£5,818	126	£814,444	£6,464	-22	-£46,678	-6%	£645	10%
Downway Primary School	Primary	212	£1,025,198	£4,836	212	£1,114,814	£5,259	0	£89,616	8%	£423	8%
Kennet Valley Primary School	Primary	194	£1,030,986	£5,314	199	£1,140,146	£5,729	5	£109,160	10%	£415	7%
Parsons Down Junior School	Primary	184	£976,161	£5,305	167	£983,144	£5,887	-17	£6,983	1%	£582	10%
Calcot Infant School and Nursery	Primary	191	£1,035,507	£5,422	170	£1,005,706	£5,916	-21	-£29,801	-3%	£494	8%
Calcot Junior School	Primary	273	£1,435,347	£5,258	261	£1,481,322	£5,676	-12	£45,974	3%	£418	7%
Spurcroft Primary School	Primary	382	£1,841,150	£4,820	368	£1,933,071	£5,253	-14	£91,921	5%	£433	8%
Pangbourne Primary School	Primary	164	£883,993	£5,390	136	£829,980	£6,103	-28	-£54,014	-7%	£713	12%
Aldermaston C.E. Primary School	Primary	103	£678,863	£6,591	116	£790,279	£6,813	13	£111,416	14%	£222	3%
Basildon C.E. Primary School	Primary	150	£764,729	£5,098	156	£851,865	£5,461	6	£87,136	10%	£362	7%
Beedon C.E. (Controlled) Primary School	Primary	35	£373,199	£10,663	22	£337,428	£15,338	-13	-£35,771	-11%	£4,675	30%
Brimpton C.E. Primary School	Primary	53	£443,554	£8,369	47	£442,179	£9,408	-6	-£1,375	0%	£1,039	11%
Bucklebury C.E. Primary School	Primary	107	£630,807	£5,895	113	£708,718	£6,272	6	£77,911	11%	£376	6%
Burghfield St Mary's C.E. Primary School	Primary	190	£962,434	£5,065	207	£1,135,759	£5,487	17	£173,325	15%	£421	8%
Chaddelworth St Andrew's C.E. Primary School	Primary	27	£328,324	£12,160	26	£342,718	£13,181	-1	£14,394	4%	£1,021	8%
Cold Ash St Mark's CE Primary School	Primary	195	£936,081	£4,800	203	£1,039,556	£5,121	8	£103,475	10%	£321	6%
Compton C.E. Primary School	Primary	179	£945,922	£5,284	166	£956,487	£5,762	-13	£10,564	1%	£477	8%
Enborne C.E. Primary School	Primary	75	£491,776	£6,557	81	£551,956	£6,814	6	£60,180	11%	£257	4%
Hampstead Norreys C.E. Primary School	Primary	67	£512,736	£7,653	49	£459,664	£9,381	-18	-£57,071	-12%	£1,728	18%
Kintbury St Mary's C.E. Primary School	Primary	130	£760,292	£5,848	122	£801,874	£6,573	-8	£41,582	5%	£724	11%
Purley CofE Primary School	Primary	93	£565,863	£6,085	81	£555,828	£6,862	-12	-£10,035	-2%	£778	11%
Shaw-cum-Donnington C.E. Primary School	Primary	95	£587,512	£6,184	91	£621,755	£6,832	-4	£34,243	6%	£648	9%
Shefford C.E. Primary School	Primary	52	£417,400	£8,027	52	£449,231	£8,639	0	£31,832	7%	£612	7%
Mortimer St Mary's C.E. Junior School	Primary	243	£1,145,899	£4,716	235	£1,192,140	£5,073	-8	£46,241	4%	£357	7%
Mortimer St John's C.E. Infant School	Primary	176	£885,448	£5,031	165	£900,616	£5,458	-11	£15,168	2%	£427	8%
Streatham C.E. Voluntary Controlled School	Primary	99	£562,495	£5,682	98	£599,770	£6,120	-1	£37,275	6%	£438	7%
Theale C.E. Primary School	Primary	314	£1,522,849	£4,850	308	£1,639,332	£5,323	-6	£116,483	7%	£473	9%
Welford and Wickham C.E. Primary School	Primary	66	£489,494	£7,417	62	£505,388	£8,151	-4	£15,894	3%	£735	9%
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Primary	298	£1,416,337	£4,753	296	£1,518,929	£5,132	-2	£102,592	7%	£379	7%
Bradfield C.E. Primary School	Primary	148	£770,799	£5,208	150	£835,536	£5,570	2	£64,737	8%	£362	7%
Brightwalton C.E. Aided Primary School	Primary	93	£560,736	£6,029	87	£585,341	£6,728	-6	£24,605	4%	£699	10%
Englefield C.E. Primary School	Primary	109	£575,273	£5,278	110	£629,012	£5,718	1	£53,740	9%	£441	8%
St Nicolas C.E. Junior School	Primary	258	£1,235,423	£4,788	255	£1,353,766	£5,309	-3	£118,343	9%	£520	10%
Stockross C.E. School	Primary	73	£499,252	£6,839	80	£562,388	£7,030	7	£63,136	11%	£191	3%
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet School	Primary	99	£584,194	£5,901	99	£637,414	£6,439	0	£53,221	8%	£538	8%
Woolhampton C.E. Primary School	Primary	100	£599,347	£5,993	102	£656,491	£6,436	2	£57,143	9%	£443	7%
Yattendon C.E. Primary School	Primary	94	£563,900	£5,999	90	£592,730	£6,586	-4	£28,830	5%	£587	9%
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	Primary	201	£960,876	£4,780	203	£1,049,659	£5,171	2	£88,782	8%	£390	8%
The Winchcombe School	Primary	425	£2,085,649	£4,907	414	£2,199,213	£5,312	-11	£113,564	5%	£405	8%
Thatcham Park CofE Primary	Primary	320	£1,581,182	£4,941	318	£1,702,463	£5,354	-2	£121,281	7%	£412	8%
The Willows Primary School	Primary	349	£1,895,491	£5,431	339	£2,003,738	£5,911	-10	£108,246	5%	£480	8%
St John the Evangelist C.E. Nursery and Infant Sch	Primary	179	£936,656	£5,233	171	£970,015	£5,673	-8	£33,359	3%	£440	8%
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary	213	£1,106,255	£5,194	213	£1,179,688	£5,538	0	£73,433	6%	£345	6%
The Willink School	Secondary	1016	£6,550,610	£6,447	1031	£7,183,271	£6,967	15	£632,661	9%	£520	7%
Little Heath School	Secondary	1312	£8,460,100	£6,448	1313	£9,119,619	£6,946	1	£659,519	7%	£497	7%
The Downs School	Secondary	1046	£6,404,391	£6,123	1045	£6,948,227	£6,649	-1	£543,836	8%	£526	8%
Fir Tree Primary School and Nursery	Primary	206	£1,149,166	£5,578	211	£1,264,759	£5,994	5	£115,592	9%	£416	7%
Whitelands Park Primary School	Primary	392	£1,920,240	£4,899	396	£2,102,015	£5,308	4	£181,774	9%	£410	8%
Highwood Copse Primary School	Primary	98.5	£574,925	£5,837	137.5	£792,004	£5,760	39	£217,080	27%	-£77	-1%
Lambourn CofE Primary School	Primary	149	£848,947	£5,698	136	£863,484	£6,349	-13	£14,536	2%	£652	10%
Speenharland School	Primary	286	£1,462,786	£5,115	292	£1,647,268	£5,641	6	£184,482	11%	£527	9%
Francis Baily Primary School	Primary	524	£2,477,611	£4,728	531	£2,710,299	£5,104	7	£232,689	9%	£376	7%
John O'gaunt School	Secondary	463	£3,254,136	£7,028	448	£3,422,948	£7,641	-15	£168,813	5%	£612	8%
Theale Green School	Secondary	699	£4,658,693	£6,665	725	£5,234,392	£7,220	26	£575,698	11%	£555	8%
Park House School	Secondary	912	£5,857,925	£6,423	892	£6,157,384	£6,903	-20	£299,458	5%	£480	7%
Kennet School	Secondary	1522	£9,831,511	£6,460	1485	£10,370,359	£6,983	-37	£538,848	5%	£524	8%
Trinity School	Secondary	1145	£7,538,958	£6,584	1188	£8,489,226	£7,146	43	£950,268	11%	£562	8%
St Bartholomew's School	Secondary	1354	£8,395,759	£6,201	1352	£9,180,778	£6,791	-2	£785,019	9%	£590	9%
Denefield School	Secondary	971	£6,195,305	£6,380	963	£6,691,660	£6,949	-8	£496,355	7%	£568	8%
Total formula funding			£133,683,700			£143,566,283			£9,882,583			
Block Transfer			£335,047			£0			-£335,047			
Additional grants			£7,675,682						-£7,675,682			
Total allocation			£141,694,429			£143,566,283			£0			
Primary Total			£66,536,312			£70,768,419			£4,232,107			
Secondary Total		23076	£67,147,388		22824	£72,797,864		-252	£5,650,475			

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