

Individual Decision



Scan here to access the public documents for this meeting

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

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member	Page No.
ID4758	Schools Funding Formula 2026/27	Councillor Iain Cottingham	3 - 10



West Berkshire
COUNCIL

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Funding Formula 2026/27

Committee considering report: Individual Executive Member Decisions

Date of Committee: 20 January 2026

Portfolio Member: Councillor Iain Cottingham

Report Author: Lisa Potts

Forward Plan Ref: ID4758

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the school funding formula distribution for 2026/27.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the 2026/27 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 22nd January 2026.
- 2.3 To note that the final formula rates and allocations will be notified to schools by 27th February 2026.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	Distribution of £149.1m to schools
Human Resource:	n/a
Legal:	Need to notify budgets to schools by 27 th February 2026
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.
-------------------------------------	---

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 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.
- 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 27th February 2026.
- 4.3 A consultation was held between late October 2025 and early November 2025. The responses were considered by the Schools Forum in December 2025, and a methodology for distributing the funding was agreed.
- 4.4 The final DSG funding notification was received from the DfE in December 2025 totalling £149.1m, including a growth allocation of £0.4m. 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 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) 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 apply a 0% top slice to schools' funding.
 - (d) To use the full sparsity factor.
 - (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 2026 following the recommendation to add the DSG growth funding allocation for 2026/27 into the school formula and allocate to schools. This paper assumes that is agreed.

Schools Funding Formula 2026/27

5.3 The final DSG funding notification was received from the DfE in December 2024 totalling £149.1m, including a growth allocation of £0.4m.

Growth Funding 2026/27

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 school formula and the Growth Fund is not treated as a transfer between blocks.

5.6 The DSG growth funding for 2025/26 is £0.4m. The projected balance of our Growth Fund is sufficient, so the Schools' Forum will make a decision in January 2026 following the recommendation to add the DSG growth funding allocated for 2026/27 into the school formula to distribute to schools.

Final School Funding:

Unit of funding (£)	Number of pupils	Total Funding (£)	2026/27		
			Unit of funding (£)	Number of pupils	Total Funding (£)
Primary	5,584.04	12,362	69,029,903	5,916.06	12,061
Secondary	6,929.72	10,438	72,332,417	7,278.97	10,358
Premises factor			1,896,510		1,929,022
Growth			307,452		389,155
Total Schools Block funding			143,566,283		149,064,391
Less: NNDRdirect allocation			(1,929,400)		(1,929,022)
Total Schools Block after deduction			141,636,883		147,135,369

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				
Basic per pupil funding												
Primary AWPU	£3,847	£3,986	£3,972	£4,064	£4,211	£4,207	£49,178,802	£50,813,624				
KS3 AWPU	£5,422	£5,618	£5,598	£5,686	£5,892	£5,886	£35,559,243	£36,807,917				
KS4 AWPU	£6,113	£6,334	£6,312	£6,410	£6,642	£6,635	£25,814,291	£27,229,630				
Minimum per pupil												
Primary	£4,955	£4,955		£5,115	£5,115							
Secondary	£6,465	£6,465		£6,640	£6,640							
Additional needs funding												
Deprivation												
Primary FSM	£495	£513		£505	£523							
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							
Low Prior Attainment												
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				
English as an Additional Language												
Primary EAL	£595	£617		£610	£632		£614,700	£589,922				
Secondary EAL	£1,595	£1,653		£1,630	£1,689		£403,010	£242,026				
Mobility												
Primary Mobility	£965	£1,000		£985	£1,021							
Secondary Mobility	£1,385	£1,435		£1,415	£1,466		£125,792	£142,611				
School led funding												
Lump Sum												
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							
Sparsity												
Primary Sparsity	£57,400	£59,479		£58,600	£60,721							
Secondary Sparsity	£83,400	£86,421		£85,200	£88,284		£954,610	£1,027,063				
Premises												
Primary Premises							£1,929,400	£1,929,022				
Secondary Premises												
Total Allocation (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG funding total)							£143,331,890	£148,966,917				
- Additional funding to meet the minimum funding level							£145,064	£51,765				
Total Allocation including minimum funding adjustment							£143,476,954	£149,018,682				
- MFG adjustment							£89,329	£45,709				
Total funding for Schools Block Formula							£143,566,283	£149,064,391				
- NNDR allocation							-£1,929,400	-£1,929,022				
DSG Schools Block DfE allocation							£141,636,883	£147,135,369				

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

Schools Funding Formula 2026/27

Appendix A

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 Isles 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%
Calicot Infant School and Nursery		Primary	170	£1,005,706	£5,916	158	£1,015,566	£6,428	-12	£9,859	1%	£512	8%
Calicot 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%
Chaddieworth 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	£-930	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%
Streatley 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%
Bright walton 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 Nervet 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 Winchcombe 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 Baily Primary School		Primary	531	£2,710,299	£5,104	496	£2,706,699	£5,457	-35	£-6,600	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	708	£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%
Total allocation				£143,566,283			£149,064,391			£5,498,108			
Primary Total				£70,768,419			£73,047,521			£2,279,102			

This page is intentionally left blank