

Appendix A

Schools Revenue Funding and the Scheme for Financing Schools 2024 to 2025

Briefing & Consultation Document for Schools October 2023

1. How to respond to this consultation

- 1.1 Schools are invited to make comments on specific areas in the consultation. Please e-mail your response to Melanie Ellis, Head of Finance melanie.ellis@westberks.gov.uk by **8th November 2023**.
- 1.2 Any suggestions for change should be accompanied by clear rationale on why your proposal is a better solution and fair and equitable for all schools in West Berkshire Council (WBC), and not just for your own individual school. You should also check that it falls within the current funding regulations. Policy and operational documents relating to the 2024/25 National Funding Formula (NFF) can be accessed on this webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>
- 1.3 To aid understanding of the proposals in this paper, illustrations are provided in Appendix Ai) 1 & 2 for individual schools. These are based on Department for Education (DfE) data taken from the October 2022 census.
- 1.4 Schools should note that actual funding for 2024/25 will be based on the October 2023 pupil census and changes in pupil data and business rate adjustments may have a significant impact. Therefore, in responding to this consultation, schools are advised to concentrate on the principles rather than simply on the illustrative cash changes.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this consultation is to outline and seek views on:
 - (1) West Berkshire Council's proposed school funding formula for 2024/25.
 - (2) A transfer from the Schools Block to other funding blocks.
 - (3) The criteria to be used to allocate additional funds.
 - (4) The proposed services to be de-delegated.
 - (5) The Scheme for Financing Schools.
- 2.2 The proposed areas of consultation will be decided by Schools Forum at its meeting of 16 October 2023. The consultation will be open for three weeks from 18 October 2023 to 8 November 2023. The principle consulted on and adopted in previous years, is to mirror as closely as possible to the NFF.

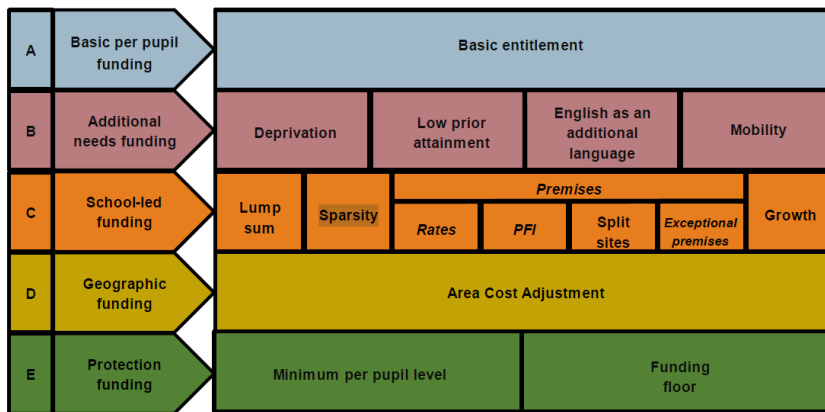
3. Introduction

- 3.1 All mainstream (academies and maintained) school funding is allocated to the Local Authority (LA) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The grant is split into four funding blocks:
- (1) Schools,
 - (2) Early years,
 - (3) High needs,
 - (4) Central Schools Services (including school admissions, licences, finance support, schools' forum costs, education welfare etc).
- 3.2 The Schools Block is only for Primary and Secondary school formula allocations, plus growth funding for new or growing schools (such pupils are not included in the funding allocation as they did not exist in the previous census).
- 3.3 The Schools Block is ring fenced, but up to 0.5% can be transferred to other blocks subject to consultation with all schools and Schools' Forum agreement. Secretary of State approval is required if the Local Authority wants to make a transfer above this limit or where the Schools' Forum has opposed the transfer but the LA wishes to appeal.
- 3.4 2023/24 is the second year of transition to the direct schools National Funding Formula (NFF). Local authorities:
- (1) Must use all NFF factors.
 - (2) Will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae.
 - (3) Must move their local formula factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF, except where local formulae are already 'mirroring' the NFF. (local factors within 2.5% of the respective NFF values are deemed to be mirroring the NFF).
 - (4) Will continue to set a minimum funding guarantee in local formulae, which in 2024/25 must be between +0.0% and +0.5%.
 - (5) Will again be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their total schools block allocations to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. Without schools forum agreement, or where they wish to transfer more than 0.5% of their schools block funding into one or more other blocks, local authorities must submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State.
- 3.5 The LA is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula. Political ratification must be obtained before the 22nd January 2024 deadline.
- 3.6 Provisional 2024/25 LA allocations were published by the DfE in July 2023. The DfE calculate this at a school level in order to determine the LA allocation. However, the notional school level allocations are not the same as the final allocation which will be calculated using updated pupil numbers, baselines and other local factors.
- In December 2023 the funding allocation will be updated with the October 2023 pupil numbers to produce the Schools Block DSG allocation.

- A sum for growth funding and falling rolls will be added to give the final DSG total.

4. The National Funding Formula (NFF)

4.1 The NFF structure is shown in the chart below.



4.2 The NFF assigns funding rates to each of the factors. School funding through the NFF is increasing by 2.7% per pupil in 2024/25.

4.3 For some local authorities the factors are uplifted by an area cost adjustment (ACA). For West Berkshire this is 1.03606.

4.4 The main features for 2024/25 are:

- (1) The core factors in the NFF (such as basic entitlement, additional needs factors and the lump sum that all schools attract) will increase by 2.4%. The free school meals factor will increase by 1.6%, in line with the GDP deflator forecast for 2024/25.
- (2) The minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPLs) which guarantees a minimum amount of funding for every pupil, will also increase by 2.4%. Every primary school will receive at least £4,655 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £6,050.
- (3) The 2022/23 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) has been rolled into the schools NFF for 2024/25 ensuring that this additional funding forms an ongoing part of schools' core budgets. Appropriate adjustments have been made to NFF factor values and baselines to reflect this.
- (4) Every school attracts a lump sum of £135,700 through the NFF irrespective of size or phase.
- (5) Eligibility for sparsity funding depends on the distance the pupils living closest to the school would have to travel to their next nearest school, and the average number of pupils per year group. Primary schools qualifying attract up to £57,700 and all other schools up to £83,900.
- (6) The funding floor protects schools from year-on-year funding decreases, by ensuring a minimum increase in pupil-led funding per pupil compared to the previous year. In 2024/25, the formula ensures that all schools attract an increase of at least 0.5% in pupil-led funding per pupil compared to 2023/24.

- (7) For the first time in 2024/25, the DfE is allocating funding based on both growth and falling rolls. Growth funding is distributed on the observed differences between the number on roll in each authority between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. Falling rolls funding will be distributed on the basis of the reduction in pupil numbers that local authorities experience for each year. Both are measured at the middle layer super output area (MSOA) within each local authority, to capture growth and falling rolls in small geographical areas.

4.5 The table below sets out the national rates and West Berkshire's cost adjusted rates.

Factor	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC final rate	National Rate	WBC National Rate (with ACA)	WBC Rate with minimum sparsity	WBC Rate with minimum sparsity and 0.5% transfer	Total Funding after 0% transfer & growth funding	Provisional funding
	2023/24			2024/25				2023/24	2024/25
Basic per pupil funding									
Primary AWPU	£3,394	£3,512	£3,501	£3,597	£3,727	£3,732	£3,706	£45,367,600	£48,296,270
KS3 AWPU	£4,785	£4,952	£4,935	£5,072	£5,255	£5,263	£5,225	£31,251,334	£33,274,003
KS4 AWPU	£5,393	£5,581	£5,563	£5,717	£5,923	£5,932	£5,890	£22,367,127	£23,817,006
Minimum per pupil									
Primary	£4,405	£4,405	£4,405	£4,655	£4,655	£4,655	£4,655		
Secondary	£5,715	£5,715	£5,715	£6,050	£6,050	£6,050	£6,050		
Additional needs funding									
Deprivation									
Primary FSM	£480	£497	£497	£490	£508	£508	£508		
Secondary FSM	£480	£497	£497	£490	£508	£508	£508		
Primary FSM6	£705	£730	£730	£830	£860	£860	£860		
Secondary FSM6	£1,030	£1,066	£1,066	£1,210	£1,254	£1,254	£1,254		
Primary IDACI A	£670	£693	£693	£685	£710	£710	£710		
Primary IDACI B	£510	£528	£528	£520	£539	£539	£539		
Primary IDACI C	£480	£497	£497	£490	£508	£508	£508		
Primary IDACI D	£440	£455	£455	£450	£466	£466	£466		
Primary IDACI E	£280	£290	£290	£285	£295	£295	£295	£6,061,528	£6,707,328
Primary IDACI F	£230	£238	£238	£235	£243	£243	£243		
Secondary IDACI A	£930	£962	£962	£950	£984	£984	£984		
Secondary IDACI B	£730	£755	£755	£750	£777	£777	£777		
Secondary IDACI C	£680	£704	£704	£695	£720	£720	£720		
Secondary IDACI D	£620	£642	£642	£635	£658	£658	£658		
Secondary IDACI E	£445	£460	£460	£455	£471	£471	£471		
Secondary IDACI F	£335	£347	£347	£345	£357	£357	£357		
Low Prior Attainment									
Primary LPA	£1,155	£1,195	£1,195	£1,185	£1,228	£1,228	£1,228	£4,146,645	£4,259,530
Secondary LPA	£1,750	£1,811	£1,811	£1,790	£1,855	£1,855	£1,855	£4,137,677	£4,237,406
English as an Additional Language									
Primary EAL	£580	£600	£600	£595	£616	£616	£616	£601,097	£617,393
Secondary EAL	£1,565	£1,619	£1,619	£1,605	£1,663	£1,663	£1,663	£331,285	£340,166
Mobility									
Primary Mobility	£945	£978	£978	£970	£1,005	£1,005	£1,005	£79,131	£81,323
Secondary Mobility	£1,360	£1,407	£1,407	£1,395	£1,445	£1,445	£1,445	£0	£0
School led funding									
Lump Sum									
Primary	£128,000	£132,454	£132,454	£135,700	£140,593	£140,593	£140,593	£10,198,989	£10,825,687
Secondary	£128,000	£132,454	£132,454	£135,700	£140,593	£140,593	£140,593		
Sparsity									
Primary	£56,300	£58,259	£48,015	£57,700	£59,781	£50,561	£50,561	£742,348	£924,228
Secondary	£81,900	£84,750	£69,850	£83,900	£86,925	£73,515	£73,515		
Premises									
Primary								£1,797,378	£2,032,395
Secondary									
Total Allocation (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG funding total)								£127,082,139	£135,412,735
Additional funding to meet the minimum funding level								£293,032	£241,081
Total Allocation including minimum funding adj								£127,375,171	£135,653,816
MFG adjustment								£64,271	£0
Post MFG budget								£127,439,442	£135,653,816
Growth fund								£0	£0
Total funding for Schools Block Formula								£127,439,442	£135,653,816
Amount of block transfer								£0	£0
NNDR allocation								-£1,597,037	-£2,032,395
DSG Schools Block DfE allocation								£125,842,405	£133,621,421

4.6 The funding above is provisional and the final funding allocation could go up or down for the following reasons:

- (1) The final funding allocation will reflect the October 2023 pupil numbers.
- (2) The final allocation will **not** reflect any changes in pupil characteristics (such as deprivation and prior attainment).
- (3) A block transfer may or may not be approved by the Schools Forum.
- (4) Growth and falling rolls funding will be added.

5. Sparsity

5.1 In 2022/23, 16 local authorities diverged from the NFF in respect of the sparsity factor values. In 2023/24, 9 authorities diverged – we were one of these authorities using a lower value.

5.2 For 2023/24, West Berkshire Council set sparsity values at the minimum:

Factor	23/24 NFF values	23/24 NFF minimum
Primary sparsity	58,259	48,015
Secondary sparsity	84,750	69,850

5.3 In 2024/25, small remote schools would be expected to benefit, as local authorities are required to bring their formulae closer to the NFF. The NFF has set out minimum values in order to do this:

Factor	24/25 NFF values	24/25 NFF minimum
Primary sparsity	59,781	50,561
Secondary sparsity	86,925	73,515

5.4 The cost of increasing the sparsity factor will only constitute a very small fraction of overall funding levels. As such, local authorities would not be required to make any significant changes to other factor values in order to afford the increased sparsity factor. This means that the per-pupil impact on other schools is expected to be small. The modelling of this is shown in Appendix Ai) 2.

6. Block Transfers

6.1 Local authorities continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. If approved, this would enable a transfer of up to £678k, leaving £135m to be allocated to schools. These figures are estimates based on indicative NFF funding (October 2022 census pupil data).

6.2 Without schools forum agreement, or where they wish to transfer more than 0.5% of their schools block funding, local authorities must submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State by 17th November 2023. Evidence of schools forum discussion and voting would need to be provided.

- 6.3 Block transfers need to be approved annually. Transfers have previously been approved in 2020/21 0.25% (£263k), 2021/22 0.5% (£549k) and 2022/23 0.25% (£300k) to support the High Needs Block. A transfer was not approved for 2023/24.
- 6.4 Setting a balanced budget for the High Needs Block continues to be a significant challenge; funding received for this block has seen increases not keeping pace with demand in terms of numbers of high needs pupils and unit costs of provision.
- 6.5 Up until 2016/17, West Berkshire was setting a balanced high needs budget. Since then, the budget has been under pressure on an annual basis, with savings identified each year to reduce the overspend. A decision was made by the Schools' Forum to set a deficit budget for the first time in 2016/17.
- 6.6 Savings of £219k were implemented in 2017/18 and a further £306k in 2018/19. Despite these savings the budget has been set with planned overspends since 2018/19. The HNB year-end position at the end of 2022/23 was an overspend of £5.1m, and with a 2023/24 budget shortfall of £3.1m, the forecast overspend on this block at the end of 2023/24 is £8.2m.
- 6.7 The SEND Review, which has been conducted over the last year in order to determine the West Berkshire SEND Strategy for the next five years, has identified six key priority areas, one of which is strengthening the "universal offer" for children with SEND, including provision made for them in mainstream schools.
- 6.8 An important principle in the draft SEND Strategy for 2023-28 is early intervention and the need for children to get the right support at the right time, so that their needs can be met quickly and do not escalate.
- 6.9 Schools receive delegated SEN budgets to provide support for children who have SEND but do not have an EHCP. Where it is not possible to meet a child's needs using the school's own SEN resources, schools may apply for an Education, Health and Care assessment leading to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- 6.10 However, the statutory EHCP process is not designed to deliver resources quickly (the process takes 20 weeks) and EHCPs should only really be issued for children with long term needs which cannot be met through the "graduated approach" set out in the SEN Code of Practice. The number of EHC assessments and EHCPs is increasingly significantly, suggesting that our system is over reliant on the EHCP process to deliver resources to children with SEND.
- 6.11 This pattern needs to change because such reliance on the EHCP process does not allow for resources to be delivered quickly and also means that in some cases EHCPs may be issued for children who may not have required them had they had more intensive support at an earlier stage.
- 6.12 It is therefore proposed that resources are made available for children with SEND which mainstream schools can apply for without the need for an EHCP. The system which would be used to apply for funds would need to be co-designed with schools. There would need to be a balance struck between ensuring that resources are appropriately targeted whilst at the same time having a system which is not overly onerous for schools. In some Local Authorities, funds are allocated to groups of schools and Head teachers make decisions on allocations of funding with administrative support from the Local Authority. However, there are other systems which could be used.

- 6.13 The Local Authority is in the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme. The programme recommends reviewing areas of increased costs and to find practical solutions to try and bring these costs down, by a number of one off schemes. As a result, the Local Authority has asked for a 1% transfer to be modelled, which if approved would be used to fund this work.
- 6.14 The consultation models block transfers of 0.5% (£678k) and 1% (£1.36m) in Appendix Ai) 2. If a transfer is agreed, head teachers would be invited to join a working group to agree the methodology by which resources would be allocated.
- 6.15 The Central Schools Services Block continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. Our CSSB has faced funding shortfalls of £115k in 2020/21, £87k 2021/22, £57k in 2022/23 and £19k in 2023/24. Whilst we continue to make efficiencies in the way this support is delivered, the funding has not kept pace with cost increases.
- 6.16 The Early Years Block overspend at the end of 2022/23 was £1.05m. The EYB has an approved five year deficit recovery plan in place based on reductions to funding rates.

7. Notional SEN

- 7.1 Local authorities are required to identify a notional budget for their mainstream schools which helps them comply with their duty to use their 'best endeavours' to meet the special educational needs (SEN) of their pupils. The notional SEN budget is not a separate budget, but is within a maintained school's delegated budget share or an academy's general annual grant. It is calculated by the local authority using their funding formula factors.
- 7.2 Authorities should review the calculation each year to make sure that the notional SEN budget is realistic for meeting the costs of additional SEN support up to £6k per pupil. The amount is calculated using a £6k threshold per pupil, below which the school is expected to meet the additional costs of pupils with SEN from their annual budget.
- 7.3 The notional SEN budget is intended as a guide for a school's spending decisions and is neither a target nor a constraint on a school's duty to secure special provision for its pupils with SEN. It is important to note that the notional SEN budget is not intended to provide £6k for every pupil with SEN, as most pupils' support will cost less than that.
- 7.4 Most local authorities calculate the notional SEN using a combination of funding from the basic entitlement factor, deprivation factors and low prior attainment factors in the local funding formula. Local authorities should decide how big the notional SEN budget should be, taking into account how many pupils are in the SEN support category, how many attract top up funding.
- 7.5 West Berkshire has calculated the notional SEN budget for 2024/25 as £13.8m, following the DfE guidance on calculation.

	EHC plans	285	1,710,720	£6,000
	EHC plans (percent)	2.2%		
WBC primary	SEN support/SEN without an EHC plan	1,737	6,078,240	£3,500
	SEN support/SEN without an EHC plan (percent)	13.4%		
	Headcount	12,960		
	EHC plans	280	1,677,186	
	EHC plans (percent)	2.7%		
WBC secondary	SEN support/SEN without an EHC plan	1,232	4,312,025	
	SEN support/SEN without an EHC plan (percent)	11.9%		
	Headcount	10,353		
			13,778,171	

8. Local Formula

8.1 West Berkshire Council replicates the NFF as far as possible, however, a decision needs to be taken locally on how to allocate any surplus or shortfall in the final funding allocation. There are a number of options for ensuring affordability, which effectively means deciding on a methodology for allocating any funding shortfall or surplus. The options are outlined below:

- (1) Amending the AWPU values. This would restrict the gains of all schools, although would result in additional MFG and MMPF to protect some schools.
- (2) Amending the MFG, within the allowable parameters. This does not generate much funding and impacts the lower funded schools the most.
- (3) Reducing the additional needs factors. This would impact those schools with pupils that require extra support. The DfE have directed more funding towards disadvantaged pupils so this would be contra to their aim.
- (4) Reducing the lump sum. This detrimentally affects small schools due to the amount of funding they are able to generate through pupil led factors.

8.2 Appendix Ai) shows:

- (1) The 2023/24 allocations per school vs the 2024/25 NFF allocation.
- (2) The 2024/25 NFF allocation compared to the minimum sparsity allowable, a 0.5% block transfer and a 1% block transfer.

8.3 Actual individual school allocations will be dependent on the October 2023 census.

9. Additional Funds outside the School Formula

9.1 Funding regulations allow a few exceptional circumstances to be funded outside the formula and be top sliced from the DSG. Criteria for allocating these need to be agreed.

- (a) Growth funding is within the Local Authorities' Schools Block DSG allocations. It may be set aside as a specific growth fund or distributed via the formula. The growth fund supports growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need; supports additional classes needed to meet infant class size regulation; and meets the costs of new schools.
- (b) Funding for schools in financial difficulty where a school phase has agreed to de-delegate this funding (primary phase only in West Berkshire). There needs to be agreed criteria on how this funding is to be determined and allocated to schools. The Schools Forum agreed to cease this fund in 2022/23.
- (c) Funding can be used from the high needs block to allocate additional funding to schools which have a disproportionate number of high needs pupils. This has to be determined by a formulaic method.
- (d) Falling rolls funding is, from 2024/25, also within the Schools Block DSG allocations. A falling rolls fund may be set aside, and used where a school has surplus places and faces a funding shortfall but an increase in pupils in the near future is expected. In 2018/19 the Schools Forum agreed to cease the Falling Rolls fund. This should be reconsidered now that there is a DSG allocation for this.

For each fund the Schools' Forum need to agree clear criteria setting out the circumstances in which payments could be made and the basis for calculating the sum to be paid. These are included in Appendices B and C.

10. De-delegations, Education Functions and Health & Safety Service (maintained schools)

10.1 De-delegated services are for maintained schools only. Funding for these services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated' for maintained primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. Academies may be given the option to buy into the service, as can Nursery schools, Special schools and PRUs. The de-delegations need to be re-determined on an annual basis.

10.2 The relevant Schools' Forum representatives for each phase will vote on whether each service is to be de-delegated or not. The services currently and proposed to be de-delegated are as follows:

Primary and Secondary only:

- Behaviour Support Services
- Ethnic Minority Support
- Trade Union Local Representation
- CLEAPSS
- School Improvement

10.3 Education responsibilities held by local authorities for **all** schools are funded from the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG. Education functions held by local authorities for **maintained schools only**, can be funded from maintained schools budget shares and de-delegated, with agreement of the maintained schools members of schools forums.

All Maintained Schools:

- Statutory and Regulatory Duties comprising:
 - Statutory accounting functions in respect of schools
 - Internal Audit of schools
 - Administration of pensions for school staff
- Health and safety service

10.4 Academies and other non-maintained schools may be able to choose to buy into the above services, subject to provider agreement.

10.5 Information about these services is reported to the Schools' Forum on an annual basis. The final decision on each service will be made by the relevant Schools' Forum Members for each phase on 22nd January 2024. Schools may wish to contact their Schools' Forum representative to express their view, or respond as part of this consultation.

11. Scheme for Financing Schools

11.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools which set out the financial relationship between the local authority and the schools they maintain.

11.2 The Department for Education (DfE) issues statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools. The DfE guidance lists the provisions which a local authority must, should or may include. Local schemes need not follow the exact format used in the DfE guidance, except for the text of directed revisions. The DfE guidance

is updated annually. Issue 15 was published on 31 March and can be found at [Schemes for financing local authority maintained schools 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/Schemes_for_financing_local_authority_maintained_schools_2023_to_2024_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

11.3 In making any changes to the scheme, a local authority must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools. The local authority has reviewed the current scheme to ensure that all sections are still appropriate.

11.4 After discussion, Heads Funding Group (HFG) in October 2023, have recommended that the Scheme should include a clawback mechanism. The DfE Scheme for Financing Schools says the following:

The scheme may contain a mechanism to claw back excess surplus balances (from schools). Any mechanism should have regard to the principle that schools should be moving towards greater autonomy, should not be constrained from making early efficiencies to support their medium-term budgeting in a tighter financial climate, and should not be burdened by bureaucracy.

The mechanism should, therefore, be focused on only those schools which have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area.

11.5 The current scheme states that schools with excessive balances greater than 10% of their budget share or £20k, whichever is greater, should provide further information on commitments and plans for use of those balances. A clawback was last made in 2015 when balances were £4m; they are now £13.7m, of which £10.8m is in main school budgets. The table below shows balances at 31st March 2023 over 10% of funding.

Main School Budget Balance		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% of funding	Balance > 10%
School	Funding Block				Total Balance		
Beedon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School	Schools	19,149	28,605	49,431	67,618	16%	26,356
John Rankin Schools Federation	Schools	298,129	387,427	445,104	414,775	14%	119,162
Parsons Down Schools Federation	Schools	58,879	88,012	101,146	218,432	12%	40,464
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	Schools	125,878	177,063	170,993	146,824	12%	23,656
Springfield Primary School	Schools	81,296	154,633	274,906	352,615	22%	191,111
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Schools	93,651	181,504	228,677	196,548	13%	49,979
		676,982	1,017,244	1,270,257	1,396,812		450,728
The Downs School	Schools	30,622	151,869	662,609	1,211,610	15%	407,773
Brookfields Special School	High Needs	425,991	879,012	2,027,795	3,445,943	46%	2,699,013
The Castle School	High Needs	366,436	527,828	749,418	817,535	18%	357,659
		792,427	1,406,840	2,777,213	4,263,478		3,056,672
iCollege Alternative Provision	High Needs	106,385	352,757	423,079	413,937	13%	104,780
		1,606,415	2,928,711	5,133,158	7,285,837		4,019,953

11.6 HFG has recommended that the scheme should contain a clawback mechanism for schools with balances over 10% of their budget share, subject to a minimum balance being retained by the school of £50k. The balances and commitments at 31st March each year would be reviewed by HFG in the autumn term, who would make a recommendation to Schools Forum on the level of clawback. Funds would be returned to the original funding block for future redistribution.

11.7 The proposed Scheme for Financing Schools (2022) is attached to this document at Appendix D. A clawback mechanism is not yet included, awaiting the results of the consultation.

12. Consultation Proposals

For all responses, please add any comments that you wish to make to each box.

1. Do you agree that, subject to final affordability, West Berkshire should mirror the DfE's 2024/25 NFF as closely as possible and that this formula should be used to calculate funding allocations? Yes/No

2. How would you support applying the NFF Sparsity Factor? In full/Minimum

3. Do you agree that any shortfall or surplus in funding is addressed by adjusting the AWPU values? Yes/No

4. What percentage transfer of funding would you support from the Schools Block to the High Needs block? A) 0%, B) 0.25%, C) 0.5%, D) 1%.

5. Would you support the transfer funding any of the other blocks? Yes/No

6. Do you think there should be a falling rolls fund? Yes/No

7. Do you agree with the criteria to access additional funds outside the school formula? Yes/No

8. Do you agree with the proposed De-delegated Services, Education Functions and Health and Safety service for all maintained schools? Yes/No

9. Do you support the Scheme for Financing Schools containing a clawback mechanism for schools with balances over 10% of their budget share, subject to retention of a minimum of £50k? Yes/No

13. Timetable

Date	Who	Item
July 2023	DfE	Operational guidance published
July/Aug 2023	DfE	NFF illustrative allocations published and APT issued
Sept 2023	LA	Modelling of new primary & secondary school formula
04.10.23	HFG	Approve consultation proposals
16.10.23	SF	Approve consultation proposals
18.10.23 – 8.11.23	Schools	School funding formula consultation with schools.
21.11.23	HFG	Review school formula consultation responses and make recommendation to Schools' Forum.
04.12.23	SF	Review school formula consultation responses.
Mid Dec 2023	DfE	DSG funding allocations and APT containing census data for final formula issued
Mid Dec 2023	LA	Updating by officers of formula and the funding rates in light of actual DSG funding
10.01.24	HFG	Review final proposals and make recommendation to Schools' Forum.
22.01.24	SF	Review HFG recommendations, final calculations and final formula.
By 22.1.24	Political ratification	Approval of School Formula
22.1.24	LA	Deadline for submission of final APT to ESFA
28.2.24	LA	Statutory deadline for providing primary and secondary maintained schools with funding allocation

14. Appendices

14.1 Appendix Ai) 1 - Provisional 2024/25 funding allocations

14.2 Appendix Ai) 2 - Sparsity and Block Transfer modelling

14.3 Appendix B – Criteria for awarding Growth Funding

14.4 Appendix C – Criteria for allocating the Additional High Needs Fund

14.5 Appendix D – Scheme for financing schools

14.6 Appendix E – Equalities Impact Assessment

