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# Dedicated Schools Grant 2025/26: Final Allocations

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**Report being considered by:** Schools' Forum  
**On:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
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**Item for:** Discussion      **By:** All Forum Members

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set out the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2025/26.

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the funding allocation.

## 3. Introduction

3.1 The National Funding Formula (NFF) is used by the Department for Education (DfE) to calculate the blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and was finalised in December 2024.

3.2 The DSG consists of four blocks: Schools, High needs, Central School Services and Early Years.

## 4. Overall position

4.1 The following table shows the 2025/26 DSG final allocation based on the October 2024 census pupil numbers.

DSG Final Allocation	Schools Block (Including growth) £m	High Needs Block (before deductions) £m	Central Schools Services Block £m	Early Years Block £m	Total £m
2025/26 total funding	143.57	30.83	1.07	27.70	203.16
2024/25 total funding	141.69	29.08	0.97	18.63	190.37
Change from last year	1.87	1.75	0.10	9.07	12.79
Percentage change	1.3%	6.0%	9.9%	48.7%	6.7%
Deductions for NNDR and direct funding of High Needs places	-1.93	-1.44	0.00	0.00	-3.37
2025/26 allocations after deductions	141.64	29.38	1.07	27.70	199.78

## 5. Schools Block

5.1 2025/26 is the third year of the transition to the direct NFF for schools. In 2025/26, local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae. Local authorities will also be required to move their local formulae factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2024/25, unless they are already mirroring the NFF.

## Final Allocations

5.2 Funding through the mainstream schools NFF is increasing by 2.23% per pupil on average in 2025/26, compared to 2024/25. This includes a 1.28% increase to ensure that the 2024 teachers and support staff pay awards continue to be fully funded at national level in 2025/26. The final allocation for 2025/26 (based on October 2024 census data) is shown below:

Schools Block	2024/25 Total funding	2025/26 Final		
		Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Total funding
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			-
<b>DfE allocation</b>	<b>141,191,870</b>			<b>143,258,830</b>
Growth	502,559			307,452
<b>Total block funding</b>	<b>141,694,429</b>			<b>143,566,283</b>
Block transfer ( 0.25% 24/25)	- 335,047			-
<b>Total formula funding</b>	<b>141,359,382</b>			<b>143,566,283</b>
NNDR direct allocation	- 376,239			- 1,929,400
<b>Total schools block after deductions</b>	<b>140,983,143</b>			<b>141,636,883</b>

## 6. High Needs Block (HNB)

- 6.1 The national increase in high needs funding from 2024/25 to 2025/26 is 9%.
- 6.2 The 2025/26 allocation for West Berkshire is £30.83m, before deductions for direct funding of places (2024/26 £29.08m), an increase of £1.44m from last year (6%).

## 7. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- 7.1 The CSSB within the DSG provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. This covers Statutory and Regulatory duties, Education Welfare, asset management and other duties such as licences, admissions and servicing of Schools' Forum.
- 7.2 The CSSB DSG funding for 2025/26 is £1.07m, an increase of 9.9% and £100k from last year.

## 8. Early Years Block

- 8.1 The new Early Years formula was introduced in 2017-18 with new funding rates to local authorities, and a revised simplified formula for allocating funding to providers was also brought in. All providers are now on the same rates.
- 8.2 Funding for 2025/26 is £27.7m. The increase in funding is due to new entitlements for working parents which will increase to 30 hours from September 2025 for children over 9 months old.