

School Balances 2024/25

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 16th June 2025

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Item for: Discussion **By:** All Maintained Schools Representative

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out for information purposes the year end balances for all maintained schools, highlighting those schools with a deficit or significant surplus.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To discuss the report and consider if further information is required on surplus balances.

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 This report provides an overview of school balances at the end of 2024/25.
- 3.2 The Scheme for Financing Schools 2024/25 states: "In order to control surplus balances, the authority will report the balances held by each school at the end of the financial year to the Schools' Forum (during the Summer term), alongside the actual balance for the previous three years and any other data deemed to be of relevance." Individual schools with excessive balances may be required to provide further information on a School Balance Statement, to be reviewed by the Heads Funding Group. Clawback of balances in excess of 10% of the budget share (subject to leaving the schools with a minimum balance of £50,000) will be calculated on balances at 31.03.25.

4. Overview of School Balances as at 31st March 2025

- 4.1 Table 1 summarises the overall closing balances (all funds) of West Berkshire maintained schools compared to the previous year.

TABLE 1	As at 31st March 2024	As at 31st March 2025	Increase/(Decrease)	
Total Balances Summary	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Nursery Schools	238	280	42	17.6%
Primary Schools	4,146	3,532	(614)	(14.8%)
Secondary Schools	3,383	2,822	(561)	(16.6%)
Special Schools	951	842	(109)	(11.4%)
Pupil Referral Units	590	563	(27)	(4.6%)
Total for all Schools	9,308	8,039	(1,269)	(13.6%)

- 4.2 The school balances (revenue and capital) at 31st March 2025 total £8.0m, a decrease of £1.3m from 2023/24. All school types have seen a decrease, except for the Nursery schools.

School Balances 2024/25

4.3 Table 2 summarises the balances of West Berkshire maintained schools by fund.

TABLE 2 2024/25 Balances by type of fund	Main School Budget	Pupil Premium	Revenue Sports Fund	Resource Units	Revenue Total	Community (Before & After school clubs)	Capital	Total Balances
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Nursery Schools	278	0	0	0	278	0	2	280
Primary Schools	1,989	158	173	141	2,461	555	516	3,532
Secondary Schools	2,299	0	0	0	2,299	0	523	2,822
Special Schools	777	12	11	0	800	0	42	842
Pupil Referral Units	522	0	7	0	529	0	34	563
Total for all Schools	5,865	170	191	141	6,367	555	1,116	8,039
2023/24 Balance	7,360	166	177	42	7,745	346	1,217	9,308
Increase/(Decrease)	(1,495)	4	14	99	(1,378)	209	(100)	(1,269)
%	(20.3%)	2.7%	7.9%	(236.3%)	(17.8%)	60.4%	(8.2%)	(13.6%)

4.4 In addition to £6.3m being held in revenue balances, £555k is held in before and after school club funds and £1.1m in capital balances.

- (1) Of the revenue balances, £170k is unspent pupil premium grant (though note that not all schools account for this separately and include within the main school budget), and £191k is unspent sports premium grant. All unspent sports funding must be spent by the end of this academic year (2024/25).
- (2) The £555k balance in the before and after school clubs is an increase on 2023/24 and builds upon the increase in the previous year.

4.5 Table 3 summarises the main school balances.

TABLE 3 Main School Balances	As at 31st March 2024	As at 31st March 2025	Inc/(Dec)	Balance as a % of funding
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Nursery Schools	158	278	120	17%
Primary Schools	2,802	1,989	(813)	3%
Secondary Schools	3,001	2,299	(701)	8%
Special Schools	848	777	(71)	15%
Pupil Referral Units	552	522	(30)	14%
Total for all Schools	7,360	5,865	(1,495)	5%

- (1) Primary school balances have decreased for a third year in a row. The balance of £1,989k represents 3% of the main school funding. 31 primary schools have seen an increase in balances of £715k, and 31 a decrease (£1528k). A detailed breakdown per school is shown in Appendix A.
- (2) One of the maintained secondary schools has an increased balance in 2024/25 of £135k. Two of the maintained secondary schools have seen a decrease in their balance (£836k). Appendix B provides details of these.
- (3) The maintained special schools main school balance has decreased by £71k. Please see Appendix B for the breakdown.
- (4) The nursery school balances have increased by £120k as shown in Appendix B.

5. Schools with Significant Surpluses

- 5.1 The Schools' Forum has agreed to reintroduce the claw back scheme for schools with excess surplus balances at 31.03.25. Information on high surplus balances is to be reported for 2024/25. Table 4 shows those schools with a main school surplus balance greater than 10% of their funding in 2024/25.

TABLE 4 Main School Surplus Balances	As at 31st March 2024	As at 31st March 2025	Percentage of Funding %	Balance in excess of 10%
<u>Nursery</u>				
Hungerford Nursery School	8,319	116,824	15%	39,432
Victoria Park Nursery	149,760	160,976	19%	75,838
<u>Primary</u>				
Beedon Primary	65,718	76,597	18%	26,597
Beenham Primary	-9,894	55,902	10.4%	2,172
Compton Primary	89,873	270,709	25.5%	164,656
Hampstead Norreys & The Isle	95,029	112,005	11.0%	10,541
Inkpen Primary	36,075	62,366	13.5%	12,366
John Rankin Schools Fed	503,665	362,211	11%	31,378
Parsons Down Federation	288,513	196,812	11%	22,733
Springfield Primary	400,089	259,723	14%	79,719
<u>Pupil Referral Units</u>				
icollge	551,982	522,347	14%	145,363

All of the schools in the table above, with the exception of Beenham also held a balance greater than 10% at 31.03.24

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 School reserves had been increasing overall year on year since 2017/18, when the reserves were £3.7m.
- 6.2 Primary school main school balances have decreased for a third year in a row. The balance represents 3% of the main school funding. Given the continued combination of reduced pupil numbers, a reported growing number of children presenting with additional needs who are creating increasing budgetary pressure in schools and the removal of additional funding to support education recovery, the primary school balances are forecast to continue to reduce in the coming year.
- 6.3 Schools with surplus balances will be contacted in relation to the clawback of surplus funds.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Primary Schools
- 7.2 Appendix B – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Other Schools

School Balances 2024/25

Appendix A

Primary Schools	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	£
Aldermaston Church of England Primary School	94,133	76,480	2,263	(47,526)	(124,006)
Basildon Church of England Primary School	(23,004)	(9,986)	29,151	43,242	53,228
Beedon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School	49,431	67,618	65,718	76,597	8,978
Beenham Primary School	20,936	(31,015)	(9,894)	55,902	86,917
Birch Copse Primary School	26,569	60,025	18,642	12,764	(47,262)
Bradfield Church of England Primary School	12,596	15,476	9,246	25,397	9,921
Brightwalton Church of England Aided Primary School	42,967	35,015	48,594	34,758	(257)
Brimpton Church of England Primary School	11,308	(30,834)	(14,162)	(24,864)	5,970
Bucklebury Church of England Primary School	2,712	(18,734)	21,238	(3,790)	14,944
Burghfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School	43,292	46,588	77,028	59,912	13,324
Calcot Schools Federation	220,266	198,116	175,182	97,697	(100,419)
Chaddleworth Shefford Federation Cof E Primary School	80,762	87,012	86,479	69,297	(17,716)
Chieveley Primary School	59,104	75,856	90,251	52,760	(23,096)
Cold Ash St Mark's Church of England Primary School	17,698	879	6,137	10,837	9,958
Compton Church of England Primary School	68,759	99,784	89,873	270,709	170,925
Curridge Primary School	82,835	53,622	75,025	20,193	(33,429)
Downsway Primary School	26,948	31,417	52,020	76,987	45,570
Enborne Church of England Primary School	3,574	0	(32,598)	(14,048)	(14,048)
Englefield Church of England Primary School	70,244	60,450	42,075	14,279	(46,171)
Falkland Primary School	329,663	188,834	105,890	86,137	(102,697)
Garland Junior School	35,046	68,246	171,928	10,199	(58,047)
Hampstead Norreys & The Ilsleys	12,493	68,065	95,029	112,005	43,940
Hermitage Primary School	(7,151)	1,911	(13,311)	(40,499)	(42,410)
Hungerford Primary School	106,570	111,060	159,448	155,356	44,297
Inkpen Primary School	(17,964)	5,782	36,075	62,366	56,583
John Rankin Schools Federation	445,104	414,775	503,665	362,211	(52,564)
Kennet Valley Primary School	82,901	50,592	3,875	1,800	(48,792)
Kintbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School	18,523	56,700	59,209	71,433	14,733
Long Lane Primary School	10,279	(76,173)	(29,745)	31,672	107,845
Mortimer Federation	49,510	63,658	82,899	56,620	(7,038)
Mrs Bland's Infant School	98,099	121,064	11,704	2,972	(118,093)
Pangbourne Primary School	3,804	520	(77,778)	(88,050)	(88,570)
Parsons Down Schools Federation	101,146	218,432	288,513	196,812	(21,620)
Purley Church of England Infant School	64,326	74,704	45,390	14,829	(59,875)
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	170,993	146,824	127,157	127,038	(19,786)
Shaw-cum-Donnington Church of England Primary School	4,973	16,737	8,253	12,582	(4,155)
Springfield Primary School	274,906	352,615	400,089	259,723	(92,891)
Spurcroft Primary School	(79,302)	(138,281)	(199,639)	(154,340)	(16,059)
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	0	(33,935)	(87,161)	(75,444)	(41,510)
St John & St Nics Federation	74,283	11,214	(47,172)	58,895	47,681
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	(7,173)	(85,585)	(158,621)	(182,853)	(97,269)
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	228,677	196,548	104,347	14,776	(181,772)
Streatley Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	13,960	19,451	29,266	52,757	33,307
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CofE VA Primary School	16,993	28,714	45,908	52,159	23,444
Thatcham Park Church of England Primary School	150,148	111,216	111,581	95,106	(16,111)
The Kite Federation	(37,097)	73,182	58,193	(91,131)	(164,312)
The Willows Primary School	232,354	129,060	47,375	33,387	(95,673)
The Winchcombe School	21,573	31,821	57,886	60,543	28,722
Theale Church of England Primary School	37,384	8,626	(39,994)	(234,747)	(243,373)
Westwood Farm Schools Federation	44,253	77,699	47,080	100,749	23,051
Woolhampton Church of England Primary School	23,094	39,782	(133)	(38,500)	(78,282)
Yattendon Church of England Primary School	22,423	14,086	22,545	31,247	17,162
Total Primary Schools	3,435,921	3,185,714	2,802,018	1,988,913	(1,196,802)

School Balances 2024/25

Appendix B

	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	£
Nursery Schools					
Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families	42,439	12,082	8,319	116,824	104,742
Victoria Park Nursery School	98,679	72,277	149,760	160,976	88,699
Total Nursery Schools	141,119	84,359	158,079	277,800	193,442
	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	£
Secondary Schools					
The Downs School	662,609	1,211,610	1,467,308	889,694	(321,916)
Little Heath School	607,454	603,436	716,598	851,603	248,167
The Willink School	707,494	678,716	816,683	557,859	(120,857)
Total Secondary Schools	1,977,557	2,493,762	3,000,590	2,299,156	(194,606)
Special Schools					
The Castle School	749,418	1,147,535	847,633	776,823	(370,712)
Total Special Schools	749,418	1,147,535	847,633	776,823	(370,712)
Pupil Referall Units					
iCollege Alternative Provision	423,079	413,937	551,982	522,347	108,410
Total PRUs	423,079	413,937	551,982	522,347	108,410
Total for all Schools	6,727,094	7,325,308	7,360,301	5,865,040	(1,460,268)