

Dedicated Schools Grant 2026/27: Final Allocations

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting: 19th January 2026

Report Author:

Item for: Discussion/Comment **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set out the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2026/27.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the funding allocation.

Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?

Yes:

No:

3. Executive Summary

3.1 The DFE provides a breakdown of the future year funding in December. This information is collated and a comparison with the previous year is tabled below:

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
2026/27 total funding	149.06	32.48	1.11	32.92	215.57
<i>2025/26 total funding</i>	<i>143.57</i>	<i>30.83</i>	<i>1.07</i>	<i>27.70</i>	<i>203.16</i>
<i>Change from last year</i>	<i>5.50</i>	<i>1.65</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>5.22</i>	<i>12.41</i>
<i>Percentage change</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>18.8%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>
Deductions for NNDR and direct funding of High Needs places	-1.93	-3.48	0.00	0.00	-5.41
2026/27 allocations after deductions	147.14	29.00	1.11	32.92	210.16

Final Allocations

4. Introduction and background

- 4.1 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 2025.
- 4.2 The DSG consists of four blocks: Schools, High needs, Central School Services and Early Years.
- 4.3 The following table shows the 2026/27 DSG final allocation based on the October 2025 census pupil numbers.

DSG Final Allocation	Schools Block (Including growth)	High Needs Block (before deductions)	Central Schools Services Block	Early Years Block	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2026/27 total funding	149.06	32.48	1.11	32.92	215.57
<i>2025/26 total funding</i>	<i>143.57</i>	<i>30.83</i>	<i>1.07</i>	<i>27.70</i>	<i>203.16</i>
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5. Schools Block

- 5.1 2026/27 is the fourth year of the transition to the direct NFF for schools. In 2026/27, 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 2025/26, unless they are already mirroring the NFF.
- 5.2 The final allocation for 2026/27 (based on October 2025 census data) is shown below:

Schools Block	2025/26 Total funding	2026/27 Final		
		Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Total funding
Primary	69,029,902	5,916.06	12,061	71,350,642
Secondary	72,332,417	7,278.97	10,358	75,395,571
Premises factor (NNDR)	1,896,510			1,929,022
DfE allocation	143,258,830			148,675,235
Growth	307,452			389,155
Total block funding	143,566,283			149,064,390
Block transfer (0%)	-			-
Total formula funding	143,566,283			149,064,390
NNDR direct allocation	- 1,929,400			- 1,929,022
Total schools block after deductions	141,636,883			147,135,368

6. High Needs Block

- 6.1 The 2026/27 allocation for West Berkshire is £32.48m, before deductions for direct funding of places an increase of £1.65m from last year (5.4%).

Final Allocations

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 2026/27 is £1.11m, an increase of 4% from last year.

8. Early Years Block

- 8.1 The 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 2026/27 is £32.92m. The increase in funding is due to expansion of entitlements for working parents which increased to 30 hours from September 2025 for children over 9 months old.

9. Appendices

None
