
Growth Fund 2025/26 Payments

Report being considered by:	Schools' Forum
Date of Meeting:	19 th January 2026
Report Author:	Edith Cheng/Lisa Potts
Item for:	Discussion/Comment By All School Representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum members of payments recommended to be made to schools from the Growth Fund budget in 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note no payment would be made.

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Growth funding is allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) by formula and forms part of the Schools Block DSG allocation. The funding can either be used to form a growth fund, or it can be added into the school formula. The Schools Forum must be consulted on the total size of the growth fund and criteria for use.
- 3.2 The purpose of the growth fund is to support maintained schools and academies which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, and to meet the cost of new and reorganised schools including pre-opening and diseconomy costs. It can also fund schools where very limited pupil number growth requires an additional class as set out by infant class size regulations. It cannot be used for general growth in pupil numbers.
- 3.3 The growth fund is also to support new schools with pre-opening costs and diseconomies of scale.
- 3.4 Following the receipt of the final October 2025 Census data, all schools were invited to make a funding request if they felt that their circumstances met the growth fund criteria. To support their applications, schools were asked to submit information regarding increases in class and teacher numbers between the two academic years. Only growth in relation to basic need requirements in the area (and thus increases in PAN or bulge years approved by the local authority for this purpose) qualifies for this funding.

4. Applications made

- 4.1 With reference to the October 2025 Census data, no schools met the criteria for growth in relation to basic need requirements.
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