

Changes from Issue 16 of this guidance

1.1 Updates as shown in the Department for Education guidance:
[Schemes for financing local authority maintained schools 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

1.2 Directed revisions

The Secretary of State may by a direction revise the whole or any part of the scheme as from such date as may be specified in the direction. To make a directed revision to schemes, the Secretary of State is required, by provisions in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, to consult the relevant local authorities and other interested parties.

There are no new directed revisions in this issue.

1.3 Changes for 2026 to 2027

There are no changes in this issue.

1.4 The following updates have been made to better reflect current local policy positions and clarify information already contained in the scheme:

- 1) Front page updated (version 1.6) and the issue number of the statutory guidance from “issue 16” to “issue 17”
- 2) Annex A: LIST OF SCHOOLS TO WHICH THIS SCHEME APPLIES
 - a. Basildon removed – academising 1 May 2026
 - b. Compton removed – academised 1 April 2026
 - c. The Downs removed – academised 1 May 2026
 - d. John Rankin Infant & Nursery – academised 1 January 2026
 - e. John Rankin Junior School – academised 1 January 2026
- 3) Annex C: EARLIER DIRECTED REVISIONS
 - a. added “Issue 17 - There are no new directed revisions in this issue.”
 - b. Planning for deficit budgets updated to 2026
- 4) Point 5.1.2 updated to request all maintained schools submit P3, P6, and P9 budget monitoring forecasts within one month of each quarter end.
- 5) Point 5.2 updated to include procedure proposing change of financial software.
- 6) Point 5.3.1 updated to remove requirement for a deficit school to submit a 5 year budget plan.
- 7) Point 5.3.1 updated to confirm that deficit schools should show deficit recovery in three-year period.
- 8) Point 5.15 updated to confirm notice of concern may be issued when a school does not have a robust plan to repay the deficit within a maximum of three years.