

Proposed update to the Scheme for Financing Schools

Consultation Document for Schools 15 June to 25 June 2026

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools which set out the financial relationship between the local authority and the schools they maintain.
- 1.2 The Department for Education (DfE) issues statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools. The DfE guidance lists the provisions which a local authority must, should or may include. Local schemes need not follow the exact format used in the DfE guidance, except for the text of directed revisions. The DfE guidance is updated annually.
- 1.3 Issue 17 was published on 26 March 2026 and can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools/schemes-for-financing-local-authority-maintained-schools>
- 1.4 In making any changes to the scheme, a local authority must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their Schools' Forum representing maintained schools.
- 1.5 The local authority has reviewed the current scheme to ensure that all sections are still appropriate. The proposed Scheme for Financing Schools (2026 update) and Appendix B highlighting the proposed updates are attached to this email.
- 1.6 In order to respond to this consultation, please email your comments to edith.cheng@westberks.gov.uk stating the corresponding paragraph number(s) at the start of each comment you make.
- 1.7 If a response is not received it will be assumed that the school has no comment to make and agrees the updated scheme.
- 1.8 The timetable for this consultation is as follows:

15 June to 25 June 2026	Consultation with Schools
13 July 2026	Schools' Forum approve revisions
14 July 2026	Revised scheme comes into operation