Appendix C
West Berkshire Council Schools
Additional High Needs Fund Criteria 2027/28

1. Background

1.1 Local authorities can provide additional targeted support to individual schools (maintained and academies) from its high needs block where it would be unreasonable to expect the first £6,000 of support for that schools high needs pupils to be met by them from its (pre 16) formula funding due to an exceptional number of such pupils on its roll.

1.2 The guidance from the DfE has stated that the additional funding paid to schools should be formulaic based on the number of high needs pupils in each school. It cannot take into account lower level needs of pupils. The formula or criteria should be as clear and simple as possible, and should be devised so that additional funds are targeted only to a minority of schools which have particular difficulties because of their **disproportionate number** of high needs pupils or their characteristics.

1.3 The Schools' Forum agreed methodology is set out below.

2. Methodology and Process

2.1 There will be an additional payment to schools where the actual number of pre 16 high needs pupils (i.e. pupils in mainstream receiving top ups) is significantly (1%) above the average of all schools in West Berkshire.

2.2 Where the actual number of pre 16 high needs pupils per school is 1% above the West Berkshire average (the average will be calculated using the number of high needs pupils in January 2027 and shown in the pink column on the attachment), each additional high needs pupil will attract £6,000 in addition to the top up. The number of additional pupils will be calculated on a proportionate basis rather than rounding up or down to whole pupil numbers to avoid a funding cliff-edge.

2.3 The funding will be paid pro rata each term based on the actual number of pre 16 pupils receiving top ups at that time for the number of days in that term i.e. calculated and paid in April, October and January.

2.4 Schools will receive £6,000 per 1.0 high needs pupils they have on roll *above this average number.* Note that funding may be a proportion of £6,000 if the calculation is less than 1.0.

2.5 The amount of funding to be set aside for this purpose in the high needs budget will be £298k.