
2020/21 Financial Impact of Covid-19 on Schools

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 13th July 2020

Report Author: Ian Pearson

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

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report on initial intelligence from schools about the financial impact of Covid-19 on school budgets

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report be noted.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction/Background

3.1 From Friday 20th March 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic forced schools across the UK to close their doors to the majority of pupils.

3.2 The Schools' Forum and Local Authority are responsible for ensuring that the DSG is deployed appropriately, and the Forum has asked for an initial outline of the financial impact of Covid-19 / lockdown on schools.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Since 20th March schools have remained open for the children of key workers, those with a social worker, and children with an EHCP. Attendance however has not been compulsory and take-up has varied, though generally increased over time. In some cases, schools did not have sufficient demand or available staff and utilised 'hub' schools to host their defined pupils.

4.2 From 1st June (primary) and 15th June (secondary) schools have opened more widely. This wider opening has been replicated in nursery, special and AP settings.

4.3 Throughout this period, some staff have been shielding at home, self-isolating to protect their families, providing childcare or ill. Heads therefore, have had to match their offer and arrangements to circumstances.

4.4 Many schools remained open over the Easter holiday period and Whitsun week, including the bank holidays.

4.5 All schools have been supporting home learning and have been keeping in touch with their vulnerable families.

- 4.6 Most 'out of school' provision e.g. before and after school clubs has ceased, and where this is the case, income has been lost and some dedicated staff have been furloughed.

5. Lost Income and Additional Expenditure

- 5.1 While individual circumstances will differ from school to school, the lists below identify some of the budget areas affected. It should be borne in mind that the DfE have indicated they would look to reimburse schools for unavoidable additional costs, but that this may be in the context of affordability, which we assume to mean increased school balances in 2020/21.

- 5.2 The DfE have indicated they will not approve claims for the following costs:

- costs associated with opening schools to more pupils from 1 June
- additional staff costs
- loss of self-generated income

- 5.3 DfE funding is restricted to:

- increased premises related costs associated with keeping schools open over school holidays (Easter and/or May half term)
- support for free school meals for eligible children who are not in school (where costs are not covered by the national voucher scheme)
- additional cleaning costs, specifically relating to cases or suspected cases of coronavirus.
- extraordinary costs that have been incurred due to Covid-19 can be registered under 'other costs' when applying for funding and these will be considered for reimbursement.

DfE [guidance](#) can be found here.

- 5.4 Potential Lost Income

- Wraparound care provision e.g. breakfast and afterschool clubs
- Lettings
- Fetes and fairs
- Events e.g. performances
- Profitable school meals

- 5.5 Potential Additional Costs

- Purchase of school meal vouchers (outside the Edenred scheme)
- Increased premium costs (holiday openings)
- Additional cleaning / sanitising / PPE
- School trips – lost deposits and refunds
- IT equipment
- Work experience management (secondary)
- Site safety measures (barriers / screens / tape)

- Washroom costs

5.6 Potential Savings

- Supply costs
- Furloughing staff (where relevant)
- Cleaning where schools/rooms closed (where Procurement Policy Notice (PPN) 02/20 doesn't apply in relation to 'Supplier Relief')
- Refuse collection

6. Proposals

6.1

- To note this report
- To receive an update later in the year
- To seek information about the Covid-19 impact on the HNB and EYB.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It has been useful to identify the financial impact of Covid-19 on school budgets, but this will need further review before the end of the financial year, and exploration of the impact on other DSG blocks.

8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1 A straw poll of financial impact examples was collect from cross phase schools.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.

10. Heads Funding Group Recommendation

- 10.1 To note this report.