

REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	21 st June 2019
2.	Title:	Funding adjustments for permanently excluded pupils and pupils accessing off-site provision
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. Purpose of the report

To inform Schools Forum members of changes to the calculation of the adjustments made to the school budget shares in respect of permanently excluded pupils and pupils who remain on school roll but are educated elsewhere. This paper outlines changes to the funding adjustments for these pupils to enable us to comply with DfE legislative requirements..

2. Summary

This paper outlines changes to the funding adjustments for permanent exclusions and pupils who remain on school roll and access off-site provision.

3. Recommendations

Forum is asked to note the changes outlined in section 5 for calculating the amount to be recovered from a school or academy which has permanently excluded a pupil or where the pupil is educated elsewhere.

4. Background Information

When a pupil is excluded from school, DfE regulations require that funding is removed from the school by the local authority from the sixth day following the date of permanent exclusion.

Currently the deduction made to the school's budget is currently calculated using the basic entitlement pupil led funding (the age-weighted pupil unit AWPU) that the school receives together with any pupil premium that the excluded pupil attracts. These amounts are multiplied by the proportion of the local authority financial year remaining after the exclusion, measured in weeks (i.e. the period from six days after the permanent exclusion until 31st March.

The deduction will also include the amount of any financial adjustments order where this is relevant.

Recent DfE guidance states that these deductions should be calculated using not just the AWPU and the Pupil Premium but also including other pupil-led factors in budget shares which relate to the excluded pupil.

5. Increase in the permanent exclusion deduction rate

Recent DfE guidance makes clear that the local authority must deduct from the excluding school's budget in-year the amount within the funding formula relating not just to the age, but also the personal circumstances of the excluded pupil, pro rata to the number of weeks remaining in the financial year from the sixth school day following the date of permanent exclusion.

Therefore the deduction needs to cover not just the basic entitlement of per pupil funding (AWPU) but also the relevant amounts for other pupil-led factors, such as free school meals or English as an additional language, where the pupil would attract funding through those criteria.

In order to comply with the DfE's guidance, the Authority intends to amend the deductions for permanently excluded pupils in 2019-20 in order to include the additional needs funding relevant to the pupil.

Annex A outlines the pupil-led funding factors that would be deducted under these arrangements and the maximum deduction of budget share funding possible, in the every unlikely event that a pupil attracted all the funding factors listed.

In line with the DfE requirements, Pupil Premium would continue to be deducted where applicable – in addition to the budget share formula factors shown.

6. Applying the deduction rates to pupil accessing off-site provision.

The mechanism outlined in section 5 also applies to pupils who leave mainstream schools and academies for reasons other than permanent exclusion, and are receiving education funded by the local authority other than at school. The deduction rate will be applied on a pro-rata basis i.e. the charge will reflect the number of days the pupil is educated off-site by the LA.

6. Other Issues

Funded pupil numbers

On occasion funding is deducted for an excluded pupil who was not on roll at the school at the previous October's census and for whom the school has not received funding. In this situation, schools sometimes query whether the decision is appropriate. The DfE guidance specifies that the requirement to deduct funding for a permanent exclusion is unconnected to whether a particular pupil has been on the census in the first place, and whether school has received funding for them.

Readmission of permanently excluded pupil

Where a school admits a pupil who has previously been permanently excluded, the admitting school receives an allocation based on the deduction taken from the excluding school. The allocation paid to the admitting school relates to the length of the period from the admission of the pupil to the end of the financial year. For academies, the calculation would be based on the period from the pupil's admission date to the end of the academic year.

7. Conclusion

The calculated rate for exclusions will include additional needs-led factors to allow us to comply with DfE legislation requirement and will be implemented from 1st April 2019. The result will be that funding deductions will more closely reflect the circumstances of the pupils being excluded or educated elsewhere.

Annex A

Formula factors to be included in the calculation of funding adjustments for permanently excluded pupils.

Local Funding Formula Factors 2019-2020	Primary	Secondary KS3	Secondary KS4
AWPU	£2,985	£4,550	£4,750
Ever 6 Free School Meals	£540	£785	£785
Free School Meals	£320	£320	£320
IDACI (Highest Band A)	£390	£540	£540
Low Prior Attainment	£645	£920	£920
English as an Additional Language	£515	£1,385	£1,385
Maximum Potential Annual Deduction excluding Pupil Premium)	£5,395	£8,500	£8,700

Pupil Premium	Primary	Secondary KS3	Secondary KS4
Ever 6 Free School Meals	£1,320	£935	£935
Adopted from Care	£2,300	£2,300	£2,300
Service Children	£300	£300	£300

5. Names and contact details

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