

REPORT FOR ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date of Meeting:	19th January 2024
Title:	2024/2025 DSG Schools Block Funding
Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to Schools Form members as to the 2024/2025 Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Rotherham.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That members of Schools Forum note the content of the report.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

To ensure members are aware of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding information as set out by the Department for Education.

To ensure compliance with the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department for Education issued the final version of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) to local authorities, with the autumn 2023 pupil census information shortly before Christmas. The local authority has until 22nd January 2024 to submit the final version back to the Department for Education.

In November 2023 the local authority sought consultation with schools, academies and Schools Forum on the local funding formula decisions as set out in the regulations and the tables and appendix within this report contain summary information on the impact of those decisions.

5. INITIAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT ALLOCATIONS

On 19th December 2023, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2024/2025 financial year.

For Rotherham, the initial allocations are;

Table 1.

	Initial Allocation
Schools block (both schools and academies)	£243.723m
Central schools services block	£1.565m
Early Years block	£30.373m
High Needs block	£57.863m
TOTAL	£333.524m

6. SCHOOLS BLOCK

The final allocation is mainly based on funding rates of £5,190.82 for primary children (£4,915.14 in 2023/2024) and £6,747.09 for secondary children (£6,426.61 in 2023/2024) as at the October 2023 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2023 census count shows that there are a total number of pupils across the borough of 40,078; this is an increase of 55 (-149 in primary & +204 in secondary) pupils from the October 2022 census count.

Table 2 below shows that the overall school block funding allocation has increased from £230.617m in 2023/2024 to £243.723m in 2024/2025.

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on the 1st December 2023 a request to transfer 0.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State.

Summary position in respect of DSG schools block allocation

Table 2- Successful Disapplication request to transfer 0.5%

	2023/2024	2024/2025	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£230.62m	£243.72m	£13.10m	2023/2024 Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) rolled into 2024/2025 Schools Block
Pupil Growth fund	£120k	£120k	-	Agreed at November meeting (from reserve)
Falling Rolls Fund	£50k	£50k	-	Agreed at November meeting (from reserve)
Transfer to High Needs	£3.44m	£1.21m	£2.23m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£227.18m	£242.51m	£15.33m	Increase in funding rates, addit MSAG & lowere % transfer to HN
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	99.5%		

To date the Education & Skills Funding Agency has not made a final decision regarding the local authority's request to transfer 0.5%.

A report providing details of the rates applied to the individual formula funding rates will be presented to Schools Forum at the next meeting in April 2024. The rates applied will continue to be in line with the previous decisions reached in respect of the gradual transition to the national funding formula.

7. CENTRAL SERVICES SCHOOLS BLOCK (CSSB)

The table below compares the CSSB allocation and 2024/2025 budgets with 2023/2024.

Table 3

	2023/2024	2024/2025	Difference	Comments
Central services schools block allocation	£1.51m	£1.56m	£50k	Increase in funding rates
Admissions	£201k	£207k	£6k	
National copyright licences	£312k	£327k	£15k	To be notified by DfE
Former ESG	£806k	£825k	£19k	
Centrally employed teachers pay and pensions	£180k	£190k	£10k	
Schools Forum	£5k	£5k		
Sacre	£6k	£6k		

8. PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING FOR 2024/2025

The following rates for pupil premium in 2024 to 2025 were announced on 19th December 2023:

Table 4

	2023/2024	2024/2025	Increase
Primary FSM6 pupils	£1,455	£1,480	£25
Secondary FSM6 pupils	£1,035	£1,050	£15
Looked after children	£2,530	£2,570	£40
Children who have ceased to be looked after	£2,530	£2,570	£40
Service children	£335	£340	£5

9. TEACHERS PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT (TPAG) 2024/2025

For the 2024 to 2025 financial year, the ESFA will continue to pay TPAG as a separate grant, and it will cover the whole of that financial year. Allocations for 2024 to 2025 will therefore be calculated using twelve sevenths of the funding rates in 2023 to 2024.

Mainstream academies will receive an additional allocation to cover April to August 2025 because their funding cycle follows the academic year – this will represent five-twelfths of academies' 2024 to 2025 allocations.

9. NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS

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