

Summary of Proposed Changes to School and Early Years Financial Regulations and Conditions of Grant for 2014/15 Financial Year

	Implications for Rotherham	Proposed Response	Rotherham Schools Forum Agreed Response (to be determined)
<p>Regulation 3 includes an amendment to the Order that transfers responsibility for school meals to schools to make it clear that this transfer applies to schools whether or not the local authority provides a specific amount of funding to the school for lunches. This is a clarification of existing policy. Schools already fund lunches from their mainstream budgets rather than a specific grant.</p>	No impact – existing policy is clarified	Support proposed change to regulation	
<p>Regulation 6 and regulation 12 require local authorities to make an initial determination of their 2014-15 schools budget, individual schools budget and the amount of each school's budget share by 28th February 2014 (except in relation to special schools, pupil referral units, etc). In the previous regulations the date for doing so was 15th March. <i>The date for informing schools of their budget shares also moves from 15th March to 28th February.</i></p> <p>Another change is that the determination of amounts included in budget shares in relation to sixth form funding is excluded from these determinations. Sixth form funding calculations will have to be done within a reasonable period after the Secretary of State has informed the authority of the allocation of Sixth Form Grant. Under regulation 12(7) the deadline for informing special schools and pupil referral units of their budgets moves from 15th March to 31st March.</p>	Agree new timetable for notifying schools and PRU's of their budget share	Support proposed change to regulation	
<p>Regulation 9(7) requires local authorities to put any unspent money from the 2013-14 growth and infant class size funds into the 2014-15 individual schools budget, so that it is recycled to schools.</p>	Current year allocation of £350k has been fully allocated	Agreed – future years allocations	
<p>Regulation 9(8) allows local authorities to carry over to 2014-15 unspent de-delegated central expenditure to be used for the same purpose as it was used in 2013-14. In other words, it can be used for de-delegated services without having to allocate through the formula again. This responds to representations that money that maintained schools de-delegate should continue to be available for the use of maintained schools.</p>	Current year allocations have been fully allocated	Agreed – future years allocations	

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<p>Regulation 12(8) prevents local authorities from redetermining a school's or early years provider's 2014-15 budget once it has been set, except in specific circumstances. This provision was introduced for 2013-14 but there has been some confusion about it so we are clarifying the position.</p>	<p>Early years funding redetermination with reference to changes in pupil numbers is not affected by this proposal.</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	
<p>The definition of "pupils" for regulation 14 and elsewhere (other than regulation 17 on early years) has been amended to clarify that pupils only count if they are single registered or dual main registered at the school.</p>	<p>Current allocations based on pupil numbers already reflect this – i.e. double funding is avoided</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	
<p>Regulation 15 has been amended to ensure that, for maintained special schools, the separate calculation of funding for sixth form places ceases with effect from 1st August 2014, and all places (including sixth form places) other than hospital education places will then attract £10,000 per annum.</p>	<p>Pre and post 16 places at special schools will be funded on the same basis @£10k per place</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	
<p>Regulation 17 (regulation 16 in the previous School Finance Regulations) has been expanded to include exempt early education providers. This reflects the revised Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities, which comes into effect in September 2013. Section A4 of this guidance makes clear that LAs should fund providers who have exemptions from the Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development requirements if a parent wants their child to attend that provider. The change to the draft finance regulations allows this funding to count as part of the individual schools budget.</p>	<p>RMBC currently have no exempt early years providers</p>	<p>Support Proposal</p>	

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<p>Regulation 17(6) enables LAs to vary funding paid to providers of funded early education if the number of children admitted by a provider is in excess of any number agreed by the LA. This provision, by potentially reducing the funding paid for some children, risks constraining parental choice about where to access their funded early education. We are minded to remove this provision, which we have placed in square brackets, but would welcome views on whether this provision is still needed and appropriate.</p>	<p>Where a provision admits pupils above the agreed number it is now a requirement that they are funded.</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	
<p>Regulation 19(7) excludes schools that opened in the previous seven financial years and are still adding year groups from the capping of budgets under regulation 19(4) to pay for the minimum funding guarantee. This is because the capping of budgets for schools in such circumstances on a per pupil basis can produce distorting effects.</p>	<p>Capping the funding for individual schools at a % increase enables the 1.5% guarantee to be paid to those schools who have a reduction in funding compared to the previous year. If funding for schools with additional year groups was capped those schools would not receive a budget share relevant to their current year pupil number.</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	
<p>Regulation 25(8) provides that the sum to be determined for an excluded pupil in a sixth form is £4,000 on an annual basis. This sum has been brought into line with the base funding for a full-time pupil in the academic year 2013/14.</p>	<p>£4,000 is the amount for the full funding period attributable to a primary or secondary pupil – now to apply to sixth form pupils</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	

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<p>Schedule 2, paragraph 11: the previous provision allowing local authorities to retain funding for CRC allowances for schools centrally has been deleted since schools will be excluded from the CRC scheme with effect from 1 April 2014. It has been replaced with a provision allowing authorities to retain funding for licences purchased centrally by the Secretary of State, following the introduction of the new Copyright Licensing Agency and Music Publishers Association licences in 2013-14.</p>	<p>The budget currently retained for CRC's will no longer be required to be allocated from 2015/16 onwards.</p>	<p>Support proposal</p>	