

Schools Forum

Title: Charges/allocations for Permanently Excluded Pupils

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek agreement from Schools Forum to alter the charges/allocations for pupils permanently excluded from mainstream schools. This report went to the Schools Forum Funding Sub Group on the 16th September 2016.

2. DECISION

Whether to accept the recommendation of the Schools Forum Funding Sub Group to change the mechanism to calculate exclusion charges/allocations for all mainstream schools and use this mechanism to form an agreement with all academies.

3. BACKGROUND –RISING LEVELS OF PERMANENT EXCLUSION

In the last academic year permanent exclusions have risen by nearly 100%.

Table 1 Number of Permanent Exclusions by Academic Year

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 YTD
Primary	1	0	0	7	4	6	24
Secondary	52	51	57	47	41	53	91
Total	53	51	57	54	44	59	115

4. MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS EXCLUSION CHARGES

The methodology for the calculation of exclusion charges for mainstream pupils is set out within the School Finance Regulations.

The purpose of the charge is to provide a contribution to the cost of alternative school provision as part of the arrangements for pupils educated out of school and if the pupil is admitted to another mainstream school within the funding period, the admitting school's will receive the budget share in accordance with the complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is a pupil at the admitting school

The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 states that where a child is permanently excluded the Local Authority must re-determine an excluding school's budget share. All references within the Regulations regarding the amount to reduce by refer to the 'funding period' and not the financial year. The regulations do not provide specific dates for the funding period and schools and the local Authority need to agree this period.

Schools will be aware that the funding formula is calculated according to lagged pupil numbers and data (from the preceding October school census). Therefore, if a pupil is excluded before the October census date, the school will receive no further formula funding for the pupil beyond the end of the current financial year. However, for a pupil excluded after the census date the school will receive funding for the whole of the following financial year. The exclusion charges, therefore, include funding for the relevant period of both years (the funding period).

5. CURRENT METHOD USED IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Currently Buckinghamshire only charge the AWPU from the excluding school from the point of exclusion to the end of the current the financial year that ends 31st March, and only gives the AWPU to the admitting school from the date of admission to the 31st March. This method currently applies to all schools including academies.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGE

In other Local Authorities they use different methods to calculate the amount they remove/allocate after a permanent exclusion. The proposal below is being recommended for the following reasons:

6.1 Fairer Method

- If the pupil is excluded after the October Census then we are not removing (or allocating to the receiving school) the amount for the full period the pupil is funded for.
- By charging/allocating just AWPU, we are not removing/allocating the full amount that has been attributed to the pupil as outlined in appendix one.
- Currently academies that accept a previously permanently excluded pupil do not receive the funding that aligns to their financial year

6.2 Removes any financial incentive to Permanently Exclude

- Currently it costs less to permanently exclude a pupil than to place them in alternative provision. Additionally by just removing AWPU the excluding will be able to retain some funding attributed to the pupil even though the pupil is no longer attending their school.

6.3 Funding Pressure

- The LA buys places for excluded pupils upfront from the PRUs to ensure that permanently excluded pupils have access to education (6 day provision). There is a finite amount of DSG budget that the LA can use to do this with and if the number of places is exceeded then additional budget will need to be found to spot purchase places. If we leave things as they are and exclusions continue to rise then this will ultimately mean that all schools budgets would need to be reduced further to cover the cost of placing them.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Schools Forum accept the following changes to the charging/allocation mechanism for permanent school exclusions.

Calculate the charge/allocation for the full funding period. i.e. for the remainder of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year if the exclusion is after the October census and the pupil is not in year 11 and include

Charge/allocate for all the amounts attributable to a pupil of the same age and personal circumstances. Outlined in Appendix 1

Change to calculating the charge/allocation based on the individual school's financial year i.e. to 31st March for maintained schools and 31st August for academies.

* Example

If a key stage 3 pupil who has English as an additional language is permanently excluded in 30th November 2016 the calculation would be different depending on whether the school was an academy or maintained.

KS3 AWPU + EAL for secondary= £4895

- *Amount charged to a maintained school (4/12 of £4895)+£4895 = £6526*
- *Amount charged to an academy (9/12 of £4895)+£4895 =£8566*

If the pupil was then placed at another school on the 1st February then the amount the admitting school would receive would be calculated as follows:

- *Amount given to an admitting maintained school (2/12 of £4895)+£4895 = £5711*
- *Amount given to an admitting academy (7/12 of £4895)+£4895= £7750*

If Schools Forum accepts these proposals we will issue a written agreement to all academies that outlines the changes to the current charging mechanism

Appendix 1

Funding to be deducted in option 1

The amounts charged to the school will be based on those “*attributable to a pupil of the same age and personal circumstances*”

N.B. pupil characteristics will be taken as at the date of exclusion and not tracked back to the previous October census date.

The following elements will be charged in line with the schools funding formula

- Basic entitlement – Is the pupil primary, KS3 or KS4 educated?

	£
AWPU - Primary (KS 0 - 2)	2,646
AWPU - Key Stage 3	3,758
AWPU - Key Stage 4	4,335

- Deprivation FSM – has the pupil been eligible for a free school meal in the last year?

	£
Free School Meals - Primary	850
Free School Meals - Second:	1050

- Deprivation IDACI – which IDACI band is the pupil (based on home postcode)?

		£
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 1	0.2-0.25	210
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 2	0.25-0.3	260
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 3	0.3-0.4	350
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 4	0.4-0.5	425
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 5	0.5-0.6	480
Deprivation (IDACI) - Primary - Band 6	0.6-0.7	690
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 1	0.2-0.25	290
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 2	0.25-0.3	380
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 3	0.3-0.4	470
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 4	0.4-0.5	560
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 5	0.5-0.6	620
Deprivation (IDACI) - Secondary - Band 6	0.6-0.7	820

- LAC – is the pupil a looked after child?

	£
Looked After Children	1000

Buckinghamshire County Council

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- EAL – has the pupil been identified as EAL in the last 2 years?

	£
English as an Additional Language - Primary	460
English as an Additional Language - Secondary	1,100

- SEN prior Attainment – if primary, did the pupil fail to meet a good level of progress or 78pts at EYFSP? If secondary, did the pupil fail to achieve level 4 in English or Maths at KS2?

	£
Prior Attainment - Primary	1,500
Prior Attainment - Secondary	1,500

The following amounts will be charged in line with the pupil premium allocations

- Deprivation FSMe6 – has the pupil been eligible for a free school meal at any point in the last 6 years?

	£
Primary	1,320
Secondary	935

- Forces ever3 – has the pupil been recorded as a forces child at any point in the last few years

	£
Primary and Secondary	300

- Post-Looked after children (LAC)

	£
Primary and Secondary	1,900

N.B. LAC element follows the pupil and therefore no adjustment is necessary.

Funding rates to reclaim

The funding rates reclaimed will be the unit values agreed with Schools Forum for the relevant financial year. Pupil premium rates will be as per the allocations from the Department.

References

The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015

Section 2.2.1 of the *Academy and Free School: Master Funding Agreement*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-multi-model-master-funding-agreement>