

Education Funding Matters

14th Sept National Funding Formula

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>



NFF update –schools block

- Buckinghamshire gains more in % than most authorities. At least £33.3m additional cash funding over next 3 years.
- Final amounts will be based on pupil numbers and cohort characteristics in October 2017 census. (expect c 1% increase each year)

year	NFF pupil- and school-led factors.	NFF growth, premises and mobility factors	Total NFF	Notes
17/18	£290.0m	£5.5m	£295.5m	average funding is 3rd lowest in the country
18/19	£300.7m	£5.5m	£306.2m	£10.7m (3.6%) increase =6th highest in the Country.
19/20	£309.5m	£5.5m	£315.0m	£19.4m (£8.7m in year) (6.6%) increase = 6th highest in the Country.
20/21	£311.2m	£5.5m	£316.7m	£21.2m (£1.8m in year) (7.2%) increase =10th highest in the Country.



NFF update –high needs block

- DfE has already reset the high needs block (£3m higher than 2017.18) based on our budgets for 2017.18.
- Plus additional £3.8m in cash funding over next 3 years
- High needs funding formula includes £15m of floor protection funding (7% of the national pot) due to our historically high spend on high needs.
- The £80.3m from 2019.20 is expected to be the maximum funding for many years.

Year	Funding	Notes
17/18	£78.8m	
18/19	£79.9m	(£1.1m extra)
19/20	£80.3m	(further £0.4)
20/21+	£80.3m	(same as 2019/20)



NFF update –central schools services block

- Reduction in funding (tapering) as expected to a per pupil amount of c £31 per pupil by 2020/21 (includes ex ESG funding).
- Historic commitments funding will be challenged each year by DfE as expected to unwind over time, for example when a contract has reached its end point. £1.7m of the figures below is already expected to be removed. £2.3m also funds BLT services.

Year	Ongoing functions	Historic commitments	Total
2017/18	£2.9m	£4.7m	£7.5m
2018/19	£2.8m	£4.7m	£7.4m
2019/20	£2.7m	£4.7m	£7.3m
2020/21	£2.4m	£4.7m	£7.1m



NFF update –implementing NFF

- The funding for Buckinghamshire should be sufficient to fully fund the 2018.19 NFF in Buckinghamshire if that is desired.
- The DfE funding also includes 0.5% increases on all schools as a minimum. As some schools will already be receiving more funding than the NFF proposes this will create some “headroom” to be allocated.
- There are several calls on this headroom apart from funding schools:
 - high needs block pressures
 - Growth and rates funding due to lag in funding from DfE
 - Early years and central blocks



NFF update – Funding includes

- All revised factors proposed in NFF for 2018/19, plus:
- 2018/19 min. £3,300 /pupil primary; £4,600 secondary
- 2019/20 min. £3,500 /pupil primary; £4,800 secondary
- Minimum 0.5% per school funding increase regardless.
- Revised area cost adjustment to take account of variation in costs between different parts of the country (c 5.4% for Bucks).



NFF update –where are NFF funding factors significantly different to ours?

- Lump sums reducing.
- Basic need funding (age weighted pupil unit) increasing.
- Low attainment for primary reducing.
- Use of FSM (Ever6) factor as well as FSM current
- Use of sparsity factor.
- Removal of Looked After Child (LAC) factor (Pupil premium plus for LAC increased instead)
- Option to set minimum funding level per pupils in both phases.
- Option to set Minimum funding guarantee between 0% and 1.5%
- Growth, mobility and rates will be funded on historic levels (outside of main formula)



NFF update –next steps

- Digest technical guidance when published
- Discuss with Schools Forum (Sept +)
- Consult with schools (Nov)
- Cabinet Member for Education decision in principle (late Dec. 2017 / early Jan 2018)
- Determine final formula and inform DfE by January 19th 2018
- Publish final allocation by school for them to set budgets (end of Jan)

