

Buckinghamshire County Council

School Funding Consultation

**Analysis of the results of the consultation with
Schools Nov 6th –Nov 19th 2017**



Background

- In response to the DfE proposals for implementing the National Funding Formula a consultation was held with Buckinghamshire Schools
- 119 responses were received including formal responses from 78 schools (one per school)

- 57 primary
- 20 secondary
- 1 special school

The greatest proportion of formal responses

came from Heads

A separate response from FOSS was also received.

- In Buckinghamshire there (2017/18 data) were 43,451 (60%) primary pupils and 29,074 (40%) secondary pupils

Primary	57
Governor / Trustee	19
Head / Senior Leader	35
School Finance Professional	3
secondary	20
Governor / Trustee	1
Head / Senior Leader	15
School Finance Professional	4
special	1
Head / Senior Leader	1
Grand Total	78



Primary schools responses

- Aston Clinton School
- Bearbrook Combined School
- Bedgrove Junior School
- Beechview Primary
- Brookmead School
- Burford School
- Cadmore End CofE School
- Castlefield School
- Chalfont St Giles Village School
- Chartridge Combined
- Cheddington Combined School
- Claytons Primary School
- Curzon Combined C of E Primary School
- Danesfield School
- Dropmore Infants School
- Elangeni School
- Elmhurst Primary School
- Great Horwood School
- Great Kingshill CE Combined school
- Grendon Underwood School
- Halton Community Combined School
- Hamilton Academy
- Holmer Green First School
- Holmer Green Junior School
- Hughenden Primary
- Iver Heath Infant School and Nursery
- Iver Heath Junior School
- Jordans School
- Juniper Hill School
- King's Wood School and Nursery



Primary schools responses

- Little Kingshill Combined School
- Little Missenden CE Infant School
- Long Crendon School
- Longwick CE Combined
- Loudwater Combined School
- Maids Moreton CE School
- Marlow CofE Infant School
- Naphill and Walters Ash School
- Padbury CE School
- Princes Risborough Primary
- Radnage Church of England VA Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary
- St Mary's CE Primary School, Amersham
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School
- St Peters CE Primary, Burnham
- Stone CE Combined
- The Disraeli School
- The John Hampden School Wendover
- The Mary Towerton School at Studley Green
- Thornborough Infant School
- Twyford C of E School
- Tylers Green Middle School
- Waterside Community Combined School
- Wendover CE Junior School
- Weston Turville CE School
- William Harding school
- Wingrave CE Combined School



Secondary schools responses

- Aylesbury Grammar School
- Aylesbury High School
- Beaconsfield High School
- Bourne End Academy
- Burnham Grammar School
- CHESHAM GRAMMAR
- Cressex Community School
- Dr Challoner's Grammar School
- Dr CHalloner's High School
- HOLMER GREEN SENIOR SCHOOL
- Princes Risborough School
- Royal Grammar School High Wycombe
- Royal Latin
- The Chiltern Hills Academy
- The Grange
- The Highcrest Academy
- The Mandeville School
- The Misbourne
- Wycombe High School
- Sir William Borlase's Grammar



Do you support the proposal for Buckinghamshire to adopt National Funding Formula principles from 2018/19?

Formal responses	No - please specify your reasons	Yes	Grand Total	% support
Primary	9	48	57	84%
secondary		20	20	100%
special		1	1	100%
Grand Total	9	69	78	88%

Support for adopting the NFF proposals overall is very high. FOSS response and individual response concerns regarding the reduction in lump sums for smaller schools.



Concerns

- Small schools, loss of lump sum v increase in other factors.

Mitigations?

- Minimum funding guarantee protects partly the loss of lump sum.
Like for like, after MFG, funding changes would be:
 - 3 schools would receive £5k - £7k less
 - 4 schools would receive £2k - £4k less
 - 5 schools would receive £1k - £2k less
 - 2 schools would receive £0k - £1k less
- Disapplication request to DfE for new exceptional premises factors to support schools with under 50 pupils
- High Needs Block where appropriate
- One small school benefits from sparsity factor



Do you support the proposal to phase in local funding formula rates over the next 2 years?

Formal Responses	No - please specify your reasons	Yes	(blank)	Grand Total	% support
Primary	9	47	1	57	82%
secondary	5	14	1	20	70%
special		1		1	100%
Grand Total	14	62	2	78	79%

Support for phasing in overall is very high.



Concerns

- Some confusion over the proposals
- Some comments on Minimum Funding Level per pupil scaling and capping
- Link back to small schools funding issue

Mitigations?

- Capping does not apply to schools receiving Minimum Funding Level
- Minimum Funding levels will almost be at DfE levels in full in 2019/20 for those schools that benefit
- Other than agreed high needs block transfer every £ given to us by DfE is going through the formula



Do you support the proposal that the cost of protecting schools from decreases in per pupil funding is met by capping gains per pupil in other schools?

Formal Responses	No - please specify your reasons	Yes	Grand Total	% support
Primary	10	47	57	82%
secondary	10	10	20	50%
special		1	1	100%
Grand Total	20	58	78	74%

Support for MFG and capping overall is very high.



Concerns

- Some confusion over the proposals (some negative responses had affirmative comments)
- Some confusion with MFL

Mitigations?

- Capping is at levels more generous than funding to the Authority
- MFG would have applied at 1.5% if NFF had not been introduced
- MFL is after capping and MFG



Do you believe the proposals will support the strategic aims of the Authority?

Formal Responses	No - please specify your reasons	Partly - please specify your reasons	Yes	(blank)	Grand Total	% support or in part support
Primary	6	19	31	1	57	88%
secondary	4	11	4	1	20	75%
special			1		1	100%
Grand Total	10	30	36	2	78	85%

General support or partial support for this statement.



Concerns

- Strategy unclear
- High needs and disadvantaged pupils
- Small schools strategy
- Selective system
- School infrastructure (capital)
- Academies agenda
- Social and family support

Mitigations?

- Increase in funding from DfE is better than no funding increase
- Strategies in early days, so better understanding and link to funding as these progress



Which of the following amounts do you think should be transferred from ‘Schools Block’ funding to ‘High Needs Block’ funding for each of the next two years?

Analysis of consultation responses regarding high needs budget transfer
(excluding 1 formal response from a special school as they are not funding this transfer)

Response	£ -	£ 500,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,500,000	Total
Primary	16	7	15	19	57
secondary	9	6	4	1	20
weighted average primary	£ -	£ 61,404	£ 263,158	£ 500,000	£ 824,561
weighted average secondary	£ -	£ 150,000	£ 200,000	£ 75,000	£ 425,000

split of pupils

primary	43,451	60%	£ 494,009
secondary ks3	17,858	25%	£ 104,649
secondary ks4	11,216	15%	£ 65,726
total	72,525	100%	£ 664,384

estimated budget
estimated % of budget

£ 300,000,000
0.22%

Weighted average of responses indicates support for £0.65m per year for two years

(0.22% of schools block)



Concerns

- Challenge over strategy
- Uncertainty over funding proposals
- Uncertainty over how money supports schools
- Need for efficiency
- Link between past underfunding of schools and high levels of SEND

Mitigations?

- Funding proposals going back to Forum 28th November
- Inclusion strategy and budget proposals are aligned.
- Growth in special school places still included in proposals.
Spectrum of need and appropriate support part of the strategy
- Support from consultation less than half of maximum.

