

Below is a description of our locally agreed methodology for allocating growth funding to eligible schools.

Start-up funding

Start-up funding comes out of growth fund also and covers costs for new schools before they open. This is currently agreed on a case by case basis by a subcommittee of Schools Forum.

Diseconomies funding

Diseconomies funding is additional funding for new schools on top of growing schools funding, to reflect the diseconomies of scale in the first few (3 to 5) years of a new school until pupil funding gives them sufficient economies of scale. This funding is part of the growth fund. This is currently agreed on a case by case basis by a subcommittee of Schools Forum.

Variations to pupils (in the formula)

Growing schools applies only to new schools and variations are made to the formula data in line with the regulations. If this was not applied, then new schools would receive no funding in their first year and growing schools would be financially disadvantaged as they grow.

The rules allow changes in pupil numbers also for schools affected by reorganisation or changes in years, with support of the Local Authority.

Growth Fund

Growth fund only applies to existing schools and may be for as little as one year. Growth fund is a budget held centrally and managed year to year by the Schools Place Planning team initially based on anticipated demand and then adjusted in year if take-up does not warrant extra capacity. We currently fund schools based on the following factors:

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| AWPU | Number of additional places required multiplied by the appropriate AWPU rate. |
| Deprivation | Number of additional places required multiplied by the average level of deprivation multiplied by the appropriate rate. |
| Prior Attainment | Number of appropriate places multiplied by the average level of attainment multiplied by the appropriate rate. |

This additional funding is paid to maintained schools for 7/12ths of the financial year and 12/12ths for academies due to the different funding periods, the additional 5/12ths are refunded to the authority via the recoupment process.