



# Report to Schools Forum

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

**Title:** Schools Budget Update

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## Recommendations:

- a) Schools Forum is asked to note that Buckinghamshire schools’ local funding formula model and growth methodology as agreed by Schools Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 received political ratification on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and has been cleared by the DfE.
- b) Schools Forum is asked to note that Ministerial approval has been received for the request to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for special schools for the 2022-23 financial year.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. This report updates School Forum on the Schools Budget Proposals as presented at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## 2. Budget Update 2022-23

### Mainstream Schools

- 2.1. The 2022-23 Schools Block allocation is £387.291m, including £2.373m Growth Fund. Buckinghamshire will also receive £11.1m in supplementary grant to support the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost pressures.
- 2.2. The schools’ local funding formula was based on Model 1a agreed by Schools Forum in January 2022. The model uses 100% of National Funding Formula rates with a +0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and DfE minimum per pupil funding rates.

- 2.3. As a result of the model there are 4 schools protected through MFG with the cost of protection (£71k) met from within the DfE allocation. There is no requirement to cap schools in 2022-23 to fund MFG.
- 2.4. The schools' local funding formula, proposed growth fund methodology, and maintained schools de-delegation details received political ratification from the local authority on 14th February 2022 and were cleared by the DfE on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- 2.5. Maintained mainstream schools have now received details of their funding allocations for the financial year 2022-23. For academies, the DfE will issue 2022-23 general annual grant allocation statements within the statutory timescales.
- 2.6. The published rates for the allocation of the supplementary grant are outlined below. It should be noted that from the 2023-24 financial year it is expected that this grant will be rolled into the overall schools block rather than allocated as a separate grant.

### **Rate for early years**

The base per-pupil funding rate for early years provision in schools, and for maintained nursery schools, will be £24 per pupil.

### **Rates for 5 to 16 schools:**

The base funding rates for 5-16 schools will be:

- basic per-pupil rate of £97 for primary pupils
- basic per-pupil rate of £137 for key stage 3 pupils
- basic per-pupil rate of £155 for key stage 4 pupils
- lump sum of £3,680
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £85 per eligible primary pupil
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £124 per eligible secondary pupil

### **Rates for post-16**

The base per-student funding rate for 16-19 provision in schools, including 16 to 19 schools and academies, will be £35 per student.

### **Special Schools**

- 2.7. The council has now received confirmation that the request for an exemption from the MFG for special schools, agreed by Schools Forum in December 2021, has now been approved by the Minister. This enables band values to be issued to special schools in line with the proposed transitional arrangements for the implementation of the banded funding mechanism.
- 2.8. Special Schools and alternative provision will also receive a supplementary grant to cover the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy. The guidance for the grant requires local authorities to develop a methodology for allocating the grant to

schools and therefore special schools and the PRU will be notified of their allocations from April in due course.

