



National Funding Formula Consultation – June 2022

Schools Forum

28 June 2022



Background - prior consultations and timeline

- 2016 – set out principles of funding system
 - 2017 – outlined factors to determine funding
 - 2018-19 – first stage of introduction of NFF
 - 2021- consultation on implementation of directly applied NFF
 - 2022 – consultation on the approach to transitioning to a direct NFF
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- June 2022 – Second Stage Consultation on details of how the more complex aspects of direct NFF will be implemented, including growth fund and premises factors

Key points

- High Needs Block & NFF
 - Government committed to retaining flexibility to transfer from other DSG blocks to high needs
 - Further work will be undertaken to review criteria for transfer
 - Should notional SEN be determined nationally or locally
- Growth and falling rolls funding from 2024-25
 - Approach 1 Locally determined -Bulge classes to be funded at minimum per pupil level with further stipulations on when additional funding would be required
 - Approach 2– national standardised system
 - Local level formula is the preferred approach
 - Re-baselining the 2023-24 spend to reflect current patterns for both growth and decline
 - Growth / falling rolls funding could support revenue costs associated with school place repurposing/ reductions
 - Popular growth funding should be available for all schools

Key Points

- Split Sites from 2024-25
 - 2 factor eligibility basic & distance
 - Proposed funding weighted to distance criteria
- Exceptional premises factor no later than 2027-28
 - Criteria under review

Implications for Bucks Schools

- High Needs Funding
 - Recalculation of notional SEN - likely to be based on similar elements of the formula
- Growth Funding
 - Bulge class funding – no impact as currently fund at AWP rate which is higher than de minimus
 - Maintained school may now be eligible for popular growth funding
 - Implications for using growth funding to cover place reductions

Implications for Bucks Schools

- **Split sites**
 - additional schools may qualify for split site funding due to new criteria but further work required to identify any that fall into category
 - Existing split site schools may benefit from higher funding levels
 - May impact on future amalgamations/ federations
- **Exceptional Premises Factor**
 - May need to reapply for exceptional premises funding

Key deadlines & Link

- Launched 7 June 2022
- Respond by 9 September 2022
- <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/implementing-the-direct-national-funding-formula/>
- Direct NFF implemented by no later than 2027-28