

Item 4

Summary of responses to consultation on school funding formula 2021-2022

Question 1

Under funding regulations, the Local Authority is able to apply protection against a year on year reduction in per pupil levels of funding of between 0.5% and 2%.

What level of protection should the Local Authority put in place through the Minimum Funding Guarantee to protect schools against a change in per pupil funding levels compared to 2020-2021?

Response	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL
Retain the current level of 0.5%	21	20	1	2	1	45
Set at the maximum affordable level between 0.5% and 2%	7	8	8	10	3	36
Set at another specific value (between 0.5% and 2%)	2	2	6	19	3	32

Comments

Retain current level 0.5%	Set maximum affordable level between 0.5% and 2%	Set at another specific value between 0.5% and 2%	Comment
Neither agree or disagree	Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree	The school needs to be able to generate enough funding for its students
Strongly agree	Disagree	Disagree	This will continue to move schools who have historic financial protection towards the NFF
Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	We don't feel we have sufficient information to make this choice with confidence
Strongly agree			Setting the MFG at the minimum level allows changes in pupil demographics to flow through

			and more funding be available to distribute to all schools. This is preferable to option 2 given the maximum of 2% may not be an affordable option for CW&C when the final allocations are received in December and the protection may need to be set between 0.5% and 2%.
Strongly agree	Strongly disagree	Strongly disagree	It makes no sense to increase this & move away from NFF
Strongly agree	Strongly disagree	Strongly disagree	It makes no sense to increase this & move away from NFF principles
Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly agree	A maximum amount needs to be set but between 0.5% and 1% would support our budgets better

Transfer to High Needs Block

Question 2

Considering the continuing pressure on funding from the high needs block, do you agree with the proposal to transfer **up to** 0.5% of funding from the schools block for 2021-2022 as part of a package of measures to be taken across all sectors?

13	Strongly agree
27	Agree
5	Neither agree or disagree
3	Disagree
2	Strongly disagree
50	TOTAL

Comments

Strongly disagree	As a percentage of children with high needs funding, we would be at a considerable loss which would impact on the SEND support we could offer children across the school.
Strongly agree	The demand on the high needs block already outstrips funds provided, so in my mind this transfer is unavoidable and will hopefully limit more punitive measures having to be implemented.
Agree	LA school, we support the wider provision
Agree	Careful monitoring of the high needs block spend should take place to identify why it continues to over-spend and consider ways to create efficiencies if the funding levels continue to remain insufficient.
Agree	Even though this would have a significant impact on our budget, we recognise the need to input funds into the High Needs block, to ensure effective SEND provision remains in place within school.

Agree	Careful monitoring of the high needs block spend should take place to identify why it continues to over-spend and consider ways to create efficiencies if the funding levels continue to remain insufficient.
Strongly agree	The increasing demand for specialist provision and additional support in mainstream is creating a year on year pressure on high needs funding. In spite of an additional £1.2m high needs allocation and using £1m of reserves, in 2019-2020 expenditure on high needs provision and services overspent by £0.6m. This pressure has not reduced in 2020-2021 and although high needs funding increased by £3m, expenditure is forecast to overspend by a further £1.2m.
Agree	As long as specialist schools are not holding large surpluses
Agree	As long as specialist schools are not holding large surpluses

De-delegation of funding

Question 3a

If you are a representative of a local authority maintained school in either the primary or secondary phase, do you agree to continue with the de-delegation of the following in 2021-2022?

Primary maintained schools

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL
Contingencies to cover suspensions	9	13	6	2	0	30
Free school meals eligibility assessment	11	15	3	1	0	30
Licences	7	17	3	2	0	29
Staff costs-supply cover for maternity	12	16	2	0	0	30
Staff costs - trade union facilities	4	17	7	2	0	30

Secondary maintained schools

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL
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Contingencies to cover suspensions	2	8	0	0	0	10
Free school meals eligibility assessment	3	6	1	0	0	10
Licences	3	6	0	0	1	10
Staff costs - trade union facilities	1	8	1	0	0	10

Question 3b

If you are a representative of a local authority maintained school in either the primary or secondary phase, would you recommend that Schools Forum consider all schools opt in to the Risk Protection Arrangement collectively or leave this as an individual school decision in 2021-2022?

Primary maintained schools

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL
Opt in all schools into RPA	3	9	2	9	3	26
Remain as an individual school decision	8	9	5	1	1	24

Secondary maintained schools

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL
Opt in all schools into RPA	2	0	4	0	1	7
Remain as an individual school decision	1	7	1	1	0	10

Summary of 50 responses received

Responses by school type

40 responses from 35 Local Authority Maintained Schools

10 responses from 8 Academy/free schools

0 Other body/representing both school types

Responses by school phase

35 responses from 32 Primary schools and academies

15 responses from 11 Secondary schools and academies

0 Representative of both sectors

Response from

- 22 Headteacher/Principal
- 5 Chair of governors/governing body
- 18 Business manager/bursar
- 5 Combined response

General comments received

I understand we are all under huge financial pressure. However working to maintain a collective responsibility for High Needs and share responsibilities is still really important.

We need to maintain protection for small schools
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