

2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget

Schools Forum

Date: 17th March 2015

ANNEX B

Primary Pupil Growth Policy

As required by the new school finance regulations the Schools Forum has agreed a primary pupil growth policy which determines eligibility for additional funding which goes out to new and expanding schools over and above their annual delegated budget.

This policy covers the following

- Pre- opening start- up funding for new schools of up to £100,000
- Set up cost funding for infrastructure at £35,000 per Form of Entry (central infrastructure requirements) and £11.500 per additional class
- In year trigger funding relating to new classes which open to meet planned LA expansions where additional BPPE funding is provided for every extra pupil (with funding for at least 21 pupils in new reception classes).

Pre-opening start-up costs

The LA's funding model is essentially based on the experience of costs at the new Croft School which were agreed with the White Horse Federation but did not reflect the provision of a nursery.

Set up costs

There are usually two elements to set up costs, furniture and equipment (including ICT) and teaching materials. The values of each are £35,000 per Form of Entry (central infrastructure requirements) and £11.500 per additional class.

For future capital related schemes there will not be a separate budget for set up costs and the values above will be included in the capital budget for the scheme.

Trigger Funding

At the October Schools Forum meeting concerns were raised that the trigger funding policy may need revising to provide a degree of protection to schools where additional pupils joining expansion classes were significantly below LA forecasts.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Burbidge on 01793 464384 or iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk

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The LA consulted with SAPH and SASH on the basis that, based on recent school estimates, part year staffing costs (Teacher plus Teaching Assistant) were approximately £29,145 per class and that pupil numbers would therefore need to BPPE's would, at current rates (£2,645) generate part year funding of £33.400 thereby fully covering additional costs and making a contribution to curriculum resources. This model was supported by SAPH and SASH.

During the course of the LA review into break even funding the question of whether protection should be provided for all expanding year groups or just reception cases arose and the LA sought views from SAPH and SASH on a number of options. Given the potential cost implications consideration also needed to be given as to whether a school which opens for all year groups (such as East Wichel) should be provided with the same level of protection when low numbers across the school may well provide viable options to operate mixed classes without the need for additional funding.

The current approved policy is to fund 7/12 actual change in additional pupils (Years 1-6) with a protection for Reception at 21

Key points to note are; Having considered the need to provide a sufficient degree of protection to expanding schools, balanced against the overall DSG position, the policy gives a degree of protection (for reception age pupils) but not full protection for all age groups and avoids having to consider separate criteria for schools which open for all year groups.