

Schools Forum 8 July 2020

Financial Impact of Covid19 on Schools

1.1 The onset of the Covid19 and the subsequent lockdown including the closure of schools to most pupils has resulted in a number of financial impacts for schools, which can be summarised as follows:

- Schools grant funding has remained in place – no adjustment has been made for pupils absence;
- Private income, most notably from nursery provision over and above funded hours and from before and after school provisions has however been severely reduced;
- Schools have continued to pay their staff at their normal rates of pay. Where the Council is the ultimate employer of school staff, i.e. most maintained schools, staff have not been allowed to be furloughed. The context of this was the clear expectation from central government that local government should not furlough staff. It should be noted that even schools had been allowed to furlough, government rules would not have enabled employees with two or more jobs to be furloughed from just one of those posts. For example, a teaching assistant also employed to support before or after school provision could not have been furloughed just from the before and after post.
- Most school costs have continued at a usual or similar level. Exceptions to this in terms of reductions include a reduction in catering charges (at least if using T&W catering) and in some cases, a possible reduction in consumable expenditure. Exceptions to this in terms of increases could include PPE equipment for staff, additional cleaning costs etc.
- The DfE has a scheme in place for school to claim additional funding for costs specifically related to Covid19 in the following areas:
 - **increased premises related costs** (including utilities and resources needed to keep the school open, such as hygiene services) associated with keeping schools open during the Easter and/or summer half term holidays, for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, over and above the costs that schools would have faced in other circumstances
 - **support for free school meals (FSM) for eligible children who are not attending school**, where those costs are not covered by the FSM [national voucher scheme](#) - this covers:
 - costs to schools arising before the introduction of the national voucher scheme
 - costs where schools are providing free meals to children for whom the national voucher scheme is inappropriate (for example, because there are no participating supermarkets locally or schools are providing meals directly)
 - **additional cleaning** – required due to confirmed or suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, in line with [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#), over and above the cost of existing cleaning arrangements

The maximum amount a school is able to claim depends upon the size of school, as follows:

Mainstream schools

250 pupils or fewer	£25,000
251 to 500 pupils	£30,000
501 to 1000 pupils	£50,000
Over 1000 pupils	£75,000

Special schools and alternative provision

All schools	£50,000
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- 1.2 The net impact of Covid 19 on school budgets will vary depending upon a school's particular circumstances. In particular, those schools with more significant private income will potentially face a larger financial impact than those with a smaller scale provision. It also remains to be seen whether the Autumn term will represent a return to relative educational and thus financial normality for schools.
- 1.3 The Authority will review the position of maintained school budgets at the end of the summer term and take a view of what support might be required. Forum will be involved in the discussions concerning the financial implications of Covid 19.

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