

School Funding 2024/25

Report to the Schools Forum 16 November 2023

- 1.1 In July 2023, the government announced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) per pupil funding allocations for 2024/25. In October 2023 schools block funding amounts per pupil were revised down, due to “*an error made by officials during the initial calculations of the NFF. Specifically, there was an error processing forecast pupil numbers, which meant that the overall cost of the Core Schools Budget in 2024-25 would be 0.62% greater than allocated. The Department therefore issued new NFF allocations on 6th October 2023 to correct that error.*” (statement by Nick Gibb, Minister for Schools).
- 1.2 Other DSG blocks (high needs, early years and central school services) were unaffected by this.

2024/25 Schools Block - Allocations

- 1.3 At the last Forum the 2024/25 DSG allocations notified in July were compared to 2023/24 DSG combined with the ‘mainstream schools additional grant’, to give a like-for-like comparison. In the table below, the new allocations are shown in the same way.

Table 1: 2024/25 Primary School Funding

Factor	2023/24	2024/25 July Figures	Original Increase	2024/25 October Figures	Revised Increase
Basic entitlement	£3,513	£3,597	2.39%	£3,562	1.39%
Lump sum	£132,510	£135,700	2.41%	£134,400	1.43%
FSM	£480	£490	2.08%	£490	2.08%
FSM6	£809	£830	2.60%	£820	1.36%
IDACI A	£670	£685	2.24%	£680	1.49%
IDACI B	£510	£520	1.96%	£515	0.98%
IDACI C	£480	£490	2.08%	£485	1.04%
IDACI D	£440	£450	2.27%	£445	1.14%
IDACI E	£280	£285	1.79%	£285	1.79%
IDACI F	£230	£235	2.17%	£235	2.17%
Low prior attainm't	£1,155	£1,185	2.60%	£1,170	1.30%
EAL	£580	£595	2.59%	£590	1.72%
Mobility	£945	£970	2.65%	£960	1.59%
Minimum per pupil	£4,509	£4,655	3.24%	£4,610	2.24%

Table 2: 2024/25 Secondary School Funding

Factor	2023/24	2024/25 July Figures	Original Increase	2024/25 October Figures	Revised Increase
KS3 basic	£4,953	£5,072	2.40%	£5,022	1.39%
KS4 basic	£5,583	£5,717	2.40%	£5,661	1.40%
Lump sum	£132,510	£135,700	2.41%	£134,400	1.43%
FSM	£480	£490	2.08%	£490	2.08%
FSM6	£1,182	£1,210	2.37%	£1,200	1.52%
IDACI A	£930	£950	2.15%	£945	1.61%
IDACI B	£730	£750	2.74%	£740	1.37%
IDACI C	£680	£695	2.21%	£690	1.47%
IDACI D	£620	£635	2.42%	£630	1.61%
IDACI E	£445	£455	2.25%	£450	1.12%
IDACI F	£335	£345	2.99%	£340	1.49%
Low prior attain't	£1,750	£1,790	2.29%	£1,775	1.43%
EAL	£1,565	£1,605	2.56%	£1,585	1.28%
Mobility	£1,360	£1,395	2.57%	£1,380	1.47%
Minimum per pupil	£5,910	£6,050	2.37%	£5,995	1.44%

- 1.4 According to the DfE, the revised overall increase in funding per pupil for T&W is 2.12% compared to a national average of 1.90%. This seems slightly high compared to the percentage increases for individual factors shown above, but may be accounted for in changes in local demographics (e.g. an increase in the numbers of pupils from deprived backgrounds).
- 1.5 As noted previously, the tables above do not include the 'Teachers pay additional grant' which was introduced from September 2023 and will continue as a separate grant for the 2024/25 financial year.

2024/25 Schools Block - Commentary

- 1.6 The original funding increases for 2024/25 were already significantly below current levels of inflation. The subsequent downwards revision exacerbates this.
- 1.7 Unless 2024/25 salaries and other costs for schools increase at a far slower rate than in recent years, the increases illustrated above will represent a real terms reduction in school funding.
- 1.8 In this context, following two years in which DSG was supplemented at a later stage by additional grants, there would appear to be a possibility of this again occurring in 2024/25, if inflation does not reduce to much lower levels.

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