

Lancashire Schools Forum

eNewsletter

• Issue 116 • September 2021 •

Fair Exchange?

This is the first newsletter of the 2021/22 academic year and the Schools Forum hopes that all colleagues had an enjoyable summer. This is Issue 116 of 'Fair Exchange?' a Pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum, which deals with matters to be considered at the early autumn term 2021 cycle of meetings.

School Funding Arrangements 2022/23

The DfE have made announcements about the 2022/23 school funding arrangements.

2022/23 is the final year of the DfE's three year funding settlement that has increased funding by £7.1b compared to the 2019/20 baseline. This is a £2.3b increase nationally over 2021/22.

National Funding Formula (NFF) 2022/23

The basic structure of the National Funding Formula (NFF) remains unchanged for 2022/23, but DfE have increased factor values using the additional funding available from April 2022 and made some other minor changes to the arrangements. Further details are provided below:

Factor Values

NFF factor values for 2022/23 have increased, as follows:

- 3% to basic entitlement, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum;
- 2% to the funding floor, the minimum per pupil levels and free school meals (FSM);
- 0% on the premises factors, except for PFI which has increased by RPIX.

Minimum Pupil Funding

The DfE announcements included the relevant minimum pupil funding (MPF) levels for primary and secondary schools, which incorporate the 2% uplift for 2022/23:

- The primary schools, the MPF level will be £4,265 per pupil in 2022/23 compared to £4,180 per pupil in 2021/22.
- For secondary schools, the MPF level will be £5,525 per pupil from 2022/23 compared to £5,415 per pupil in 2021/22.

Sparsity factor

Following the Government's consultation on the Sparsity factor held earlier this year, the DfE have amended the factor from April 2022, including:

- Increasing the maximum sparsity values for both the primary and secondary phases by £10,000. Maximum sparsity values will be £55,000 for primary schools and £80,000 for secondary, middle, and all-through schools.
- Updating the schools sparsity distances calculations so that they are now based on road distances, instead of straight-line distances,
- Introducing a sparsity distance taper, in addition to the existing year group size taper.

FSM6 Data

Data on pupils who have been eligible for FSM6 is now taken from the October 2020 school census instead of the January 2020 census. DfE indicate that this will make the factor more up to date and bring it in line with arrangements for other NFF factors as well as the pupil premium.

Low Prior Attainment

In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests will be used as a proxy for the 2020 tests, following the cancellation of assessment due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Mobility Factor

Pupils who joined a school between January 2020 and May 2020 will attract funding for mobility based on their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school, as the May 2020 census did not take place due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

High Need Block Funding 2022/23

DfE announcements also confirmed that the basic structure of the high needs National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2022/23 is not changing and confirmed that funding levels would be increased from April 2022. Of the £2.3b increase nationally in 2022/23, some £780m is targeted at High Needs Block.

There remains considerable cost and growth pressures in the block, but initial estimates forecast that additional funding for Lancashire should meet increases in demand growth and facilitate a balanced High Needs budget.

De-delegation Consultation 2022/23

The soft National Funding Formula (NFF) arrangements in 2022/23 will continue to allow de-delegations and a consultation was issued to schools on 23 September 2021 via the Schools Portal, seeking views about which services should be de-delegated. Proposals seek views about the continuation of services de-delegated in 2021/22, which were:

- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions;
- Heritage Learning Service (Museum Service) - Primary Schools Only;
- Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty;
- Primary Inclusion Hubs Primary Schools Only.

One key issue to look out for relates to the charging methodology for the Staff Costs and the Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty de-delegations. Traditionally, the charging structure for these services has included a lump sum element, which may have disadvantaged small schools. The Forum have agreed that the charges should transition to a purely NOR basis, but that this should happen over a two year period to minimise turbulence in the system.

It is extremely important to the County Council and the Schools Forum to be able to reflect the views of Lancashire schools when making decisions about de-delegation arrangements for 2022/23, as these decisions are binding on all primary and secondary schools. Responses are requested by **15 October 2021**, so that an analysis can be shared with the Schools Forum on 19 October. A link to the consultation questionnaire is [here](#).



Forum Update

The draft minutes from the last Schools Forum meeting held on 6 July 2021 have now been added to the Schools Forum website.

All Schools Forum agendas and minutes are in the public domain and can be accessed [here](#).

What's Happening Nationally

Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy have launched a second phase of the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund. The scheme, for all eligible public sector bodies to apply and will remain open until all funding has been allocated. In total up to £15m is available in this financial year to enable organisations to secure the expert skills required to develop Heat Decarbonisation Plans.

Specific provision has been made for schools (maintained schools and academies), with £3.5m of grant funding reserved for schools only and a dedicated window in the application portal being made available for schools. The Application Portal opened on Monday 13th September 2021 at 2pm for schools applications only and further details can be found on the Salix website available [here](#) including a link to the application portal.

Funding For School Rates

Following consultations, the DfE are changing rates funding from 2020/21. From April 2022, DfE will pay rates bills directly to billing authorities. This means rates funding will be removed from school budgets.

DfE will only pay rates for buildings on a school site which are used to deliver pupils education (eg a sports hall used during school hours and at evenings by the wider community).

The DfE are therefore encouraging schools to register buildings not used to deliver education for pupils as a separate entity on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) rating list (eg caretaker's house or community swimming pool).

The new rates arrangements are not applicable to nursery schools and uncertainty remains around PRU schools.

Who's Who? - Forum Membership

As part of the annual membership review, several new members joined the Forum from September 2021, including:

Primary School Governors

- Daniel Baron, St Bartholomew's CE Primary School
- James Johnstone, Barrow URC Primary School
- Tim Young, Howick CE Primary School, Penwortham

Primary School Headteachers

- Angela Aspinwall-Livesey, St. John's Catholic Primary and Hillside Community Primary School
- Anna Smith, Burscough Village Primary School
- Sarah Robson, Ribby with Wrea Endowed CE Primary School

Secondary School Governor

- Jackie Lord, Penwortham Girls' High School

Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) early years providers

- Sharon Fenton, Rosy Apple Childcare Ltd
- Philippa Perks, University of Cumbria Pre School Centre

Short Stay School Governor

- Liz Laverty, Shaftesbury High School

Secondary Headteacher

An election process is underway to appoint to the secondary Headteacher vacancy on the forum. Further information on the nominees was issued on the Schools Portal in a posting dated 15 September 2021. If you are a secondary Headteacher, you can cast your vote [here](#) the election will close on 30 September 2021.

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Paul Bonser, Forum Clerk, 01772 531815, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk