

# Lancashire Schools Forum



## eNewsletter

• Issue 128 • February 2023

# Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 128 of 'Fair Exchange?' a pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

## Schools Budget for 2023/24

Information about the key school funding decisions relating to the 2023/24 financial year taken by the Schools Forum and the LCC Cabinet in January 2023 were set out in Fair Exchange, Issue 127.

Proposals for the Schools Block budget then had to be submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for compliance checking against the relevant Regulations. The ESFA subsequently contacted the LA seeking various clarifications and explanations and once satisfied with the responses provided approval for the Lancashire proposals :

Budget information was subsequently prepared and issued to all schools and early years providers on 20 February 2023, including:

- Individual School Budgets (ISBs);
- Forecast High Needs Block allocations;
- Forecast Early Years funding statements.

### Pupil Premium Grant

For 2023/24, the DfE are calculating the PPG allocations for most schools on the basis of October school census data, rather than the January school census. This means that actual PPG information will be available much sooner, and the DfE have indicated that 2023/24 allocations should be notified to the LA in March 2023.

The LA did not therefore include an indicative PPG statement with the budget notifications. Once we receive the confirmed 2023/24 PPG allocations from DfE, we will inform schools.

### Mainstream Schools Annual Grant 2023/24

Initial information about the additional £31m funding for schools and high needs, to be paid as a Mainstream Schools Annual Grant in 2023/24 was also included in Fair Exchange 127.

For the 2023/24 mainstream schools additional grant, the Department for Education (DfE) published an online calculator tool along with the existing grant methodology.

All documents regarding methodology, calculator guidance, and access to the calculator can be found by clicking on the link below;

[Mainstream schools additional grant 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mainstream-schools-additional-grant-2023-to-2024)

[Calculator Guidance's](#) Link and [Calculator Tool](#) for (MSAG).

Discussions will take place with the Schools Forum during the spring term cycle of meetings to finalise the local arrangements for the High Needs Supplementary Grant.

Final information will be provided for schools' once confirmations are received from DfE.

## What else is happening?

### Clawback 2022/23

Due to issues with Oracle Fusion, School Forum was requested to consider temporarily suspending clawback. Unfortunately, since it is not possible to temporarily suspend clawback, the Chairs of the School Forum met and decided not to suspend it for the entire year. Therefore, clawback still stands for 2022/23 as agreed by School Forum in July's meeting.

In the future, there will be proposals for changes to the clawback policy for 2023/24.

### Closure of Accounts 2022/23

Notes on the Closure of School Accounts for 2022/23 have been issued via the schools portal on 6 February 2023.

The guidance documentation is also available on the Schools Forum website, which can be accessed from the links below:

- [Notes to Schools on Closure of Accounts 2022/23](#)
- [Notes to Schools with Local Bank Account on Closure of Accounts 2022/23](#)

### School Teaching & Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme

2023/24 offer letters for the School Teaching & Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme were issued on the Schools Portal on 26 January 2023. Final confirmations for the level of cover, if any, for each school from April 2023 will be issued in March 2023.

If you have any queries please email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk)

### Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

Please remember that there is a statutory requirement on all maintained schools to complete the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) each year and to provide a copy of the completed return to the authority, by 31 March each year.

A formal core agenda item is included on the spring term governor's meetings and governing bodies must formally discuss the SFVS annually with the head teacher and senior staff and ensure that the standard is completed in full. The approved SFVS spreadsheet should be uploaded on the 'Forms' section of the Schools Portal. This can be accessed via the schools portal home page under Forms > Finance > Schools Financial Value Standard.

Please also note that the DfE's Schools Financial Benchmarking data, including the Schools Financial Value Standard Self-assessment dashboard has now been updated to 2020/21 data for maintained schools.

The DfE's SFVS website is available [here](#) and contains links to the financial benchmarking.

Schools are asked to ensure that their completed SFVS template is approved by governors and submitted to the LA by the statutory deadline of 31 March 2022.

**The School Forum meeting will take place via Teams on 16 March 2023 due to the strike day.**

### QUESTIONS?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum,  
please contact email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk)