

Schools Forum September - October 2023

This is the first newsletter of the 2023/24 academic year and the Schools Forum hopes that all colleagues had an enjoyable summer. This is Issue 1 of the new Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter' a Pre-Forum Edition, which deals with matters to be considered at the early autumn term 2023 cycle of meetings.

School Funding Arrangements 2024/25

Overall, core schools funding (including funding for mainstream schools and high needs) is increasing by £2 billion in 2024/25 compared to the previous year.

Funding through the schools NFF is increasing by 2.4% overall in 2024-25, and 2.7% per pupil, compared to 2023-24.

The basic structure of the National Funding Formula (NFF) remains unchanged for 2024/25, but DfE have increased factor values and made some other changes to the arrangements. Further details are provided below:

Key changes to the schools NFF in 2024 to 2025 are:

- introducing a new formulaic approach to allocating split sites funding in the NFF in 2024 to 2025, replacing the previous locally determined split sites factor
- rolling the 2023 to 2024 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) into the NFF
- increasing NFF factor values (on top of the amounts we have added for the mainstream school's additional grant)
- introducing, for the first time, a methodology for calculating and allocating funding for falling rolls
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The DfE announcements included the relevant minimum pupil funding (MPF) levels for primary and secondary schools, which incorporate the 2.7% uplift for 2024/25:

- The primary schools, the MPF level will be £4,655 per pupil in 2024/25 compared to £4,405 per pupil in 2023/24.
- For secondary schools, the MPF level will be £6,050 per pupil from 2024/25 compared to £5,715 per pupil in 2023/24.



De-delegations Consultation 2024/25

The soft National Funding Formula (NFF) arrangements in 2024/25 will continue to allow de-delegations and a consultation was issued to schools on 2 October 2023 via the Schools Portal. The consultation seeks views about which services should be de-delegated.

- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions
- Heritage Learning Service (Museum Service) - Primary Schools Only
- Schools Requiring additional Support
- Primary Inclusion Hubs.
- Children's Champions

The main change from 2023/24 relates to the new Children's Champion De-delegation proposal and the removal of the School Improvement delegation. Please note the Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty has been renamed to Schools Requiring additional Support with slight changes to the funding mechanism.

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 2024/25, as these decisions are binding on all primary and secondary schools.

Please let us know your views on the de-delegations proposals for 2024/25, by completing the consultation questionnaire available [here](#), by **13th October 2023**.

An analysis of the consultation will be shared with the Schools Forum on the 17th October 2023.

Clawback at March 2024

Due to the continued high level of balances within Lancashire schools, the Schools Forum on unanimously voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2024.

The Clawback Policy can be found on the [Schools Forum Website](#).

Forum Membership September 2023

Michael Nolan – Governor Burscough Village Primary School

The Lancashire Schools Forum currently has a Pupil Referral Unit Governor Vacancy. Self-nominations are currently open, please us this [link](#) by 13th October 2023.

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Millie Dixon, Forum Officer, 01772 534844, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

