

# Lancashire Schools Forum

## eNewsletter

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# Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 106 of 'Fair Exchange?' a Pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.  
This issue deals with matters to be considered at the summer term 2020 cycle of meetings.

## COVID-19

The Schools Forum is continuing to operate during the current COVID-19 pandemic, although no face-to-face meetings are taking place, and business is being conducted using alternative means. In order to approve actions needing urgent attention due to the current coronavirus situation, the Forum has supported policy and operational changes using their Urgent Business procedure. Agreed changes have included:

- A Supply Cover Insurance policy update has been agreed, which will allow schools to claim for staff that are self isolating or shielding, where the school can demonstrate that they are incurring additional costs which could not be met by other flexible working options available at the current time. Under normal operation, the scheme only reimburses schools for sickness absence. Further information is available [here](#)
- DfE have cancelled the May 2020 school census and alternative data sources have been agreed with school representatives and the Forum to enable summer term funding redeterminations to be calculated. Slightly different methodologies have been agreed for different sectors, to reflect the needs of each phase. Arrangements are now taking place to collect and calculate the data.

## Summer Term 2020 Cycle

The Forum Working Groups, will consider issues in June 2020 and recommendations to be presented to the Schools Forum in July. Amongst the main items to be presented are:

- The Schools Budget Outturn position for 2019/20;
- Information on the level of individual school balances at 31 March 2020 and about clawback arrangements for March 2021;
- The Schools Forum Annual report 2019/20;
- Amendments to the Lancashire scheme for financing schools;
- Initial information about possible de-delegations and formula changes for 2020/21
- Possible reimbursement of some de-delegated funding to schools.



### Forum Update

The draft minutes from the Forum meeting held using the Forum's urgent business procedure in March 2020 are available on the Schools Forum website [here](#):



# Statutory Returns

Many thanks to all those schools that have submitted their annual Income and Expenditure (I&E) return for 2020/21 and their 2019/20 Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) submission. We know that finalising plans and obtaining governor approval has been particularly challenging over recent months, and that schools have been dealing with a host of new pressures and priorities.

If you have not yet submitted your I&E or SFVS return, please could we ask that you make every effort to do so, as soon as you are able. Both returns can be submitted via the Schools Portal and are located in the Forms > Finance section of the menu on the left of the portal homepage, then

["Income and Expenditure Form"](#)

or

["Schools Financial Value Standard"](#)

## WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

### Closure of Accounts 2019/20

As part of the financial year-end closure of County Council accounts for 2019/20, all school accounts for 2019/20 were closed in accordance with the County Council closure timetable and no major issues were reported from schools.

The County Council would like to say a big thank you all schools for their considerable efforts in achieving this, particularly given the increased challenges faced by schools due to the pandemic.



## WHAT IS HAPPENING NATIONALLY?

### COVID-19

The DfE are keeping the national coronavirus guidance updated and reference to these updates and also local advice is provided to schools in the regular C19 Education Bulletin that is issued by the County Council and also available on the Schools Portal.

All the DfE guidance is available [here](#) and includes a specific section on Finance and administration.



### 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](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk)