

eNewsletter

• Issue 11 • June 2025 •



Schools Forum July 2025

Welcome to Issue 11, a pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

Summer Term 2025 Cycle

The working groups will consider issues in June 2025 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 2024/25
- Information on the level of individual **school balances** at 31 March 2025 and about **clawback arrangements** for March 2026
- The Schools Forum Annual report for 2024/25
- Initial information about possible **de-delegations** and formula changes for 2026/27
- An update of the **Early Years Funding** Agreement 2025/26
- Consideration of the High Needs Block **commissioned places** process for 2026/27

Schools Budget 2025/26 (Income and Expenditure return)

Many thanks to all those maintained schools that have submitted their annual **Income and Expenditure (I&E)** return for 2025/26. The deadline for this return has now passed.

If you have not yet submitted your I&E return, please could you make every effort to do so as soon as you are able. The return can be submitted via the Schools Portal, located in the [Forms > Finance > Income and Expenditure Form](#)

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) 2024/25

Many thanks also to all maintained schools and their **Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)** submission. **99.61%** of returns were received and the annual SFVS assurance statement has now been submitted to the DfE confirming that most submissions had been received by the LA.



Closure of Accounts 2024/25

As part of the financial year-end closure of County Council accounts for 2024/25, all school accounts for were closed in accordance with the County Council closure timetable.

The County Council would like to say a big thank you all schools for their considerable efforts in closing the 2024/25 accounts.

Teacher Pay Award 2025

The Department for Education has announced the **2025 teacher pay award** along with **£615 million in new funding** to support schools with staff pay and other costs.

What's Included in the Funding?

- **£470+ million** for mainstream schools (ages 5–16) via the [Schools Budget Support Grant \(SBSG\)](#)
- **£85 million** for special and alternative provision (AP) schools through the [Core Schools Budget grant](#)
- **£30+ million** for 16–19 education providers
- **£15 million** for early years provision in schools, forming part of a new £40 million [Early Years NIC and Teachers' Pay grant](#)

Schools can now access **funding [calculators](#) and rates** to estimate their allocations.

What Does This Cover?

This funding supports:

- The **teacher pay award** (from Sept 2025 to March 2026)
- The **support staff pay offer** for the full year
- [National Insurance contributions](#) for schools and [post-16](#) providers

What's Next?

From 2026–27, the main grant funding for mainstream schools is expected to be rolled into the **National Funding Formula (NFF)**.

Extra Support for 16–19 Providers

An additional **£160 million** will help colleges and sixth forms recruit and retain expert teachers in key subjects. Combined with other funding, this brings the total boost for 16–19 education to [over £190 million](#) for the 2025–26 academic year.

More details on updated funding rates and allocations will be shared in **June**.



Schools Forum Updates

Summer Term Schools Forum Dates

- High Needs Block Working Group 11 June 2025
- Early Years Block Working Group 12 June 2025
- Schools Block Working Group 17 June 2025
 - Lancashire Schools Forum 1 July 2025

Schools Forum Minutes

The draft minutes from the Forum meeting held on March 2025 are available on the Schools Forum website [here](#)

Schools Forum Membership 2025

A membership list can be found on the Forum [website](#).

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

