eNewsletter

● Issue 13 ● September 2025 ●

Lancashire Schools Forum

Schools Forum September 2025

This is Issue 13 of the Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter' a Pre-Forum Edition.

School Funding Arrangements 2026/27

In recent announcements, the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed the school funding arrangements for 2026/27 will be published in in the autumn term and issued an initial summary policy document for 2026 to 2027. Therefore, the DfE has not been able to publish the schools and high needs operational guides in July as per normal practice.

The DfE have however confirmed that starting from September 2026, free school meals (FSM) will be extended to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. For 2026 to 2027, the DfE confirmed that there are no changes to the schools NFF to allocate funding for the expansion of FSM. Instead, the funding needed for the FSM expansion will be provided through a separate grant. Further details on how this grant will be calculated will be published separately in due course.

The DfE have also confirmed that the schools budget support grant (SBSG) and the National Insurance contributions (NICs) grant will also be rolled into the NFF for 2026 to 2027.

De-delegations Consultation 2026/27

The following proposals have been received from the relevant services, with a change to the Schools Requiring Additional Support de-delegation, however there is no proposal from the service in relation to the inclusion hubs and as such this will cease to be a de-delegation in 2026/27:

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

The consultation will be issued to schools after the Schools Working Block Meeting on 18th September.

Clawback at March 2026

In July 2025, the Lancashire Schools Forum voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2026 **at the reduced rate of 8% CFR income**.

The Clawback Policy can be found on the Schools Forum Website.

Local News

Starting in the autumn, the Schools Financial Service will be offering a series of short webinars, briefing on a wide variety of topics.

The outline for the autumn term is shown below.

- **Introduction to Schools Finance for Headteachers**: Tuesday 30th September 10:00-11:00am
- **Introduction to Schools Finance for School Bursars/School Business Managers**: Tuesday 30th September 13:30-14:30pm
- **Managing and Administrating Income Collection**: Thursday 25th September, 10:00-10:30am
- **Capital**: Tuesday 21st October, 10:00-10:30am
- **Dealing with Deficit Forecasts**: Wednesday 26th November 10:00-10:30am

Please use the links above or that were provided in the Portal Post sent 5th September to book a place. Please note that at this stage, we do not have any information about any future webinars planned.

Forum Membership September 2025

The latest membership list can be found here.

School Forum Meetings

The meeting schedule is published on the Schools Forum website and can be found here.

If you wish to attend as an observer, please contact the Schools Forum Officer by email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk.

Questions?

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