



## Schools Forum November 2025

*This is Issue 15 of the Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter' a Pre-Forum Edition.*

### Schools Budgets for 2026/27

The Schools Forum working groups will be considering a number of issues during meetings in November and December 2025, However, the main focus of this cycle of Forum meetings are the matters relating to setting the Schools Budget for 2026/27.

Final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2026/27 and final pupil data from the DfE are not expected until later in December, with final budget proposals being presented to the full Schools Forum meeting, scheduled for 9 January 2026 and the Lancashire County Council Cabinet meeting on 22 January 2026.

Once Lancashire plans are agreed, a submission will need to be sent to the DfE so that our Schools Block proposals can be compliance checked before Individual School Budgets (ISBs) are issued.

Schools will receive their ISBs in the final week of February 2026.

Colleagues will be aware from the October Newsletter, that following a consultation with schools earlier in the autumn term, the Forum have already taken some decisions that impact on the Schools Budget. This was also sent as a separate letter to all schools.

### Other Forum Matters

Other matters to be considered by the Forum Working Groups in this round of meetings includes:

- Review the latest DSG Modelling for 2025/26.
- Consideration of the High Needs Block places to be commissioned in 2026/27.
- To offer advice on the School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme arrangements for 2026/27.
- To consider clawback exemption requests from schools.



## Reminder - 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 deadline for any clawback exemption requests was 31 October 2025, any requests that are received after the 31 October deadline will not be considered.

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

## School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme 2025/26

Schools who are members of the 2025/26 scheme are encouraged to submit claims monthly. The deadline for submitting claims for this scheme year is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026, claims received after this date will not be payable.

Scheme offers for 2026/27 will be circulated to all schools in January 2026 following the Schools Forum.

### Local News

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

The outline for the autumn term is shown below.

- [Dealing with Deficit Forecasts](#): Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10:00-10:30am

### Forum Membership

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

### Questions?

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

