

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 8th October 2014

School Revenue Funding 2015-16 Operational Guidance – Summary

The EFA published guidance for school revenue funding in 2015-16 in July 2014. The document can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fairer-schools-funding-arrangements-for-2015-to-2016>

The following is a summary of the main points:

- The Schools Block funding per pupil unit will be the same value in 2015-16 as 2014-15.
- Funding for 2 year olds will be based on participation
- There are some small changes to the funding for High Needs
- A Minimum Funding Level (MFL) will be introduced, providing additional resources to those authorities that are seen as being least fairly funded.

Delegated School Funding

There are no changes to the permitted funding factors in the local funding formula for schools. These are:

Basic entitlement, deprivation, prior attainment, looked after children, English as an additional language, pupil mobility, sparsity, lump sum, split sites, rates, PFI, London fringe, Post 16 and specific exemptions.

Wirral formula does not use mobility, sparsity, PFI, Fringe or Post 16.

There are minor changes to how the sparsity and lump sum factors may be used. In future amalgamating schools may be able to claim an 85% allowance on the lump sum lost following amalgamation for a 2 year period (currently this is one year only).

Early Years

2 year old funding will be based on participation and census counts, rather than a proxy calculation. For 2015 only there will be 2 census counts to take account of the expected growth in numbers during the year.

A Pupil Premium will be introduced for 3 and 4 year olds in Early Years. This grant will have similar eligibility criteria to schools. The rate will be £300.

Schools

The rate for Universal Infant Free School Meals (currently £2.30) is still to be confirmed as is the 2015-16 Pupil Premium.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee will be maintained at minus 1.5%

There are no changes to de-delegated budgets or controls around centrally managed schools budgets.

Non Recoupment Academies

Funding for all schools will be included in the initial DSG Settlement to local authorities. From 2015-16 this will include non-recoupment academies and

Free Schools within local authority areas, previously the funding for these schools was held centrally by the EFA. This adjustment will bring the pupil numbers and funding for Birkenhead Girls into the overall DSG for Wirral. This change is intended initially to be cost neutral, since Wirral's DSG will be uplifted, academy budgets will still be deducted and paid directly by the EFA (as currently).

High Needs

The final high needs block allocations should be announced in December 2014.

Place numbers used in 2014 will roll forward into 2015. It is thought unlikely that autumn 2014 census and individualised learner records will be completed in time for the DSG settlement.

Exceptional cases to increase place numbers or Hospital School provision may be made by 17th October.

Any additional funding in the High Needs DSG Block will be distributed after taking the place changes into account.

Alternative provision places will increase in value from £8,000 to £10,000. It is expected that this change will see matching reductions in top up funding.

Top up rates in Special Schools and Academies must continue to be set at rates that are no lower than a rate that if the school were full the funding would reduce by no more than 1.5%.