

**WIRRAL COUNCIL
SCHOOLS FORUM – 27th SEPTEMBER 2017
REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES
SCHOOL FUNDING GUIDANCE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the Schools Revenue Funding Guidance for 2018-19 and some of the main changes that have been announced by the ESFA

BACKGROUND

In July the ESFA issued the “Schools Revenue Funding 2018-19 Operational Guidance” document to assist local authorities and Schools Forum in their planning for the coming year’s budget.

The guide sets out some of the main requirements including:

- The makeup of the local schools funding formula and the allowable factors
- Minimum pupil funding amounts for schools
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee
- Excluded Pupils
- Movements between funding blocks
- The introduction of a Central Schools Block
- High Needs
- Budget timescales

The full document can be found at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pre-16-schools-funding-guidance-for-2018-to-2019>

KEY ISSUES

Some of the key areas are:

1. The National Funding Formula will initially sit alongside the agreed local formula in 2018-19 and 2019-20
2. Additional funding identified for schools of £1.3bn will mean that all LA’s will receive an increase in funding
3. A Central Schools Block is created for ongoing responsibilities such as Admissions, Combined Budgets, Historic Commitments and retained duties (formerly Education Services Grant).
4. The Schools Block will provide for at least a 0.5% increase in funding for schools and at least £4,800 per pupil funding for Secondary schools. The implementation of this will be determined locally
5. A flexible Minimum Funding Guarantee of between 0% and minus 1.5% to be determined locally
6. The ability to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to meet spending pressures where this is agreed by the Schools Forum and the Secretary of State (about £1m for Wirral).
7. Full consultation with schools and academies when considering any changes to the local funding formula.

8. A requirement to deduct amounts relating to the age and circumstances of Excluded Pupils, pro rata to the number of weeks remaining in the year
9. Confirmation of continuing de-delegation for School Improvement, Contingencies, Behaviour, MEAS, Free School Meal eligibility, Insurance, Library Service and Special Staff costs.
10. An adjustment to change the funding for Resource Bases and Special Units in schools. There will no longer be a deduction to the school budget for pupil numbers in the base; instead place funding will be reduced from £10,000 to £6,000 where the place is occupied by a pupil on the school roll.
11. Equivalent pupil funding adjustments (£4,000) for changes in pupil numbers at Special Schools, Non Maintained Special Schools and Special post 16 provision.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Operational Guidance is considered at a meeting of the Schools Forum Formula Working Group alongside proposals to consult on the School Funding Formula for 2018-19

Deborah Gornik
Interim Director of Children's Services