

TITLE OF REPORT: Contingency Funding Application

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the decision to provide contingency funding to a school.

Background

Bede Primary School

2. The school applied for contingency funding under criteria 1 as detailed below. The full list of Updated Contingency Funding Criteria is shown in appendix1.
3. “Cost pressures specifically identified and caused by a relatively large numerical change in pupil numbers, especially if it relates to a single age-group, where the change is outside the control of the governing body and where the timing of the change in circumstances prevents no opportunity to the school to plan accordingly (e.g. housing demolition or compulsory purchase orders, or reorganisation)”
4. The school has a very mobile population with some children moving in and out of the school and never being captured on the October census. In the school’s catchment area there is a refuge and a traveller site. Of the current year 6 group of children, only 6 for the 25 that joined in reception are still at the school, 19 children left and 12 children joined the class. This picture is repeated throughout the school. During the academic year to May 2017 the school had admitted 13 children from the refuge.
5. In addition to having the second highest proportion of mobile pupils, in comparison to all other Gateshead Primary Schools Bede Primary school has:
 - highest proportion of Free School Meal (FSM) and FSM ever6 children (children that have been entitled to a FSM in the previous 6 years)
 - the joint second highest proportion of children in Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) band A (the most deprived banding)
 - the 5th highest proportion of English as an Additional Language (EAL) children
 - the highest proportion of Looked After Children (LAC) children
 - the 2nd highest proportion of low prior attainment for the new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)
 - the highest proportion of the old 73 and 78 EYFSP scores (children not attaining the expected level of progress) for prior low attainment.
 - 1 in 8 of Bede’s children are either currently on, or have been on, a child protection plan.

6. The school requested a proportion of funding for pupils who have joined during the year but were not captured on the October census, and therefore they have not been funded (this does not include nursery age children).
7. The school requested a pro rata calculation based on Age Weighted Pupil Unit for 17 children and a proportion of FSM funding for 8 children totalling £36,530. The school had a carry forward of £12,004 from 2016/17 which was a reduction of £6,522 from the previous year and was unable to set a balanced budget without this funding.

Process

8. Colleagues in Education Gateshead had input into the review process of the contingency application, and fully support the application.

Proposal

9. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes that £36,530 funding was provided to Bede Primary School.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that School Forum notes the funding provided to the school.

For the following reasons:

- To provide funding to Bede Primary School for pupils who started on a non-standard date and are not recorded on the October Census and therefore not funded.

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Appendix 1

Updated Contingency Funding Criteria

The LEA will retain centrally contingency funding that **could** provide in-year support to schools for:

1. Cost pressures specifically identified and caused by a relatively large numerical change in pupil numbers, especially if it relates to a single age-group, where the change is outside the control of the governing body and where the timing of the change in circumstances prevents no opportunity to the school to plan accordingly (eg housing demolition or compulsory purchase orders, or reorganisation)
2. The correction of significant errors in the data or in the application of the resource allocation formula.
3. Emergency costs arising from incidents outside the control of the governing body of the school (eg flood or fire damage). The money allocated for these purposes will be earmarked for specific use.
4. The provision of additional resources or other special support, temporarily, in response to a school found to be in need of Special Measures within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1993 and in accordance with DFE Circular 17/93.
5. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of pupils with new or revised statements of SEN, or for statemented pupils transferring between schools within the LEA.
6. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of the admission of pupils permanently excluded by other schools. Such allocations will be determined in accordance with Regulations made by the Secretary of State under Section 47 of the 1998 Act.
7. Schools that are in financial difficulty, and can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to address financial issues, and that the current financial difficulties are not as a result of financial mismanagement. Schools must apply the LEA's "Model of Reasonableness" before making an application to demonstrate that they meet the criteria.

If contingency is given and a school ends the same financial year with a surplus balance in excess of 16% for Primary and Special Schools or 10% for Secondary Schools the contingency payment, or a proportion of it, will be clawed back.