

TITLE OF REPORT: Special Schools Funding 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum the proposal to increase special school top up unit of funding by 5%, and the allocation of additional funding to special schools and the pupil referral unit (PRU) for the increase in national insurance contributions (NI) from April 2022 and the funding for teachers pay and pension grants.

Background

2. The outcome of the special schools top up review was implemented for 2019/20, and the review of the fixed cost element was implemented for 2020/21. There have been no changes to the main formula for 22/23.
3. For the special schools formula, the unit of funding drives the banded top ups, and by increasing or decreasing the unit of funding rather than the top up value themselves maintains the ratios of the bandings.
4. There are allocations within the high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for the former teachers pay and pension grant and for the increase in NI contributions. For the teachers pay and pension funding there is an amount of £660 for each special school child on roll at the October census, but there is no allocation for children in alternative provision.
5. There is additional funding for the increase in national insurance contributions, however the Department for Education (DfE) has not stipulated how this funding should be distributed to special schools and alternative provision settings.
6. Modelling has been undertaken using the allocation methodology for mainstream schools as per below for the most recent October census:-
7. Base per-pupil funding rate for early years provision in schools, and for maintained nursery schools is £24 per pupil.
8. Rates for 5 to 16 schools:
The base funding rates for 5-16 schools are:
 - basic per-pupil rate - £97 for primary pupils
 - basic per-pupil rate - £137 for key stage 3 pupils
 - basic per-pupil rate - £155 for key stage 4 pupils
 - lump sum of £3,680
 - FSM6 per-pupil rate - £85 per eligible primary pupil
 - FSM6 per-pupil rate - £124 per eligible secondary pupil

9. Rates for post-16

The base per-student funding rate for 16-19 provision is £35 per student.

The outcome of this modelling in comparison to the estimated increase in NI contributions shows that the model distributes sufficient funding to cover the estimated increase in NI for the financial year 2022/23.

Proposal

10. It is proposed to increase the funding for special schools by uplifting the unit of funding by 5%. This will equate to an on average 2% increase in main funding via the formula excluding the additional elements for the former teachers pay and pension grants and the increase in NI contributions. The on average 2% increase is above the mainstream minimum funding guarantee (MFG) of 1.3%

11. For the teachers pay and pension grant allocations it is proposed that funding of £660 be allocated to special schools and PRU for the higher number of either, the number on roll at the most recent October census or commissioned places.

12. For the increase in national insurance contributions, it is proposed that the mainstream school methodology is used using the most recent October census.

13. In the summer term a meeting will be held with the special head teachers for a post implementation review of the formula to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

Recommendations

14. That Schools Forum approves:-

- The 5% increase in the special school unit of funding for special school top ups.
- The allocation methodology for the former teachers pay and pension grants funding
- The allocation methodology for the funding for the increase in NI

15. And Schools Forum notes that a meeting of the special heads will be held in the summer to review the special schools funding formula post implementation.

For the following reasons: -

- To enable Special School and PRU budgets to be calculated and disseminated

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Appendix 1

Primary Social Emotional Mental Health		
	2021/22	2022/23
Band 1	11,425.85	12,378.15
Band 2	6,822.81	7,544.96
Band 3	527.21	934.58
Band 4	-2,621.00	-2,371.04
Secondary Social Emotional Mental Health		
Band 1	11,425.85	12,378.15
Band 2	5,341.84	5,989.94
Band 3	527.21	934.58
Band 4	-2,621.00	-2,371.04
Autistic Spectrum Disorder		
Band 1	11,425.85	12,378.15
Band 2	7,440.64	8,193.69
Band 3	3,675.42	4,240.20
Band 4	-378.06	-15.95
Cognition and Learning		
Band 1	9,891.66	10,767.25
Band 2	7,440.64	8,193.69
Band 3	527.21	934.58
Band 4	-2,435.33	-2,176.08