

TITLE OF REPORT: Mainstream High Needs Top Ups 2023/24

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forums attention the proposed Mainstream schools top up rates from April 2023.

Background

2. Under the funding arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the government intends for all children and young people to be supported regardless of where they are educated. This intention is inclusive for all types of SEND pupils up to the age of 25.

Mainstream School Top Up Rates

3. A banded top up structure for mainstream schools was introduced in 2013/14 in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance and was last updated for 2023/24.
4. Additional funding has been allocated to Gateshead's high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for 2023/24 and it is proposed that the mainstream top up rates be increased.
5. When the Top up structure was introduced in 2013/14, funding was based on an hourly rate of a level 3 Teaching Assistant (TA). However, as funding has not kept pace with the increase of staffing costs, top ups have previously been either increased or decreased in line with MFG rather than annual pay awards. As a result of this prior to 2022/23 the gap between funding and costs widened.
6. Due to the additional funding, it was proposed that tops ups were increased in line with the hourly costs of a level 2 TA of £16.28 per hour (including estimated on costs). This represented an average increase of 12.41%.
7. For 2022/23 the local government pay award increased the by £1,925 on pay local government pay scales (LGPS) 1 to 43. The current top up rate is that of level 2 TA scale point 5.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that that TA level 2 point 6 be used for the mainstream top up rate, and this would give an estimated hourly rate of £17.55, an increase of £1.27 and 7.81%.
9. The previous and proposed rates are shown in Appendix 1.

Recommendations

10. That school forum approves the mainstream top up increases for 2023/24.

For the following reason(s):

To enable Mainstream School top up budgets to be set and mainstream schools to estimate their high needs income for financial year 2023/24

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Appendix 1

Mainstream Schools top ups 2022/23 & Proposed 2023/24 rates

Mainstream (Reception to Year 11)				
	No of hours support per FTE	Current Top Up Funding per FTE	Proposed Top Up Funding per FTE	Requirements
From School Resource	1 to 10	£0	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to high quality universal services supported by curriculum differentiation or environmental access/adaptation as appropriate. -Some targeted or integrated support. -Group strategies used flexibly to promote independent or child-initiated learning. -Some specific reinforcement or skill-development activities may be required. -Access to regular and additional targeted teaching in small groups and/or individually to address the pupil's individual needs, including social (skills), physical, medical and self-help skills. -Some intensive individualised programmes may be required with long term adaptation of the curriculum to address the attainment levels which will be significantly below age related expectations in National Curriculum subjects. -Input from specialist outside agencies.
Band 5	11 to 15	£3,174	£3,423	<p>As from schools' resources plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individualised programmes/adaptations will be required with adaptations for specific skills development to ensure access to the curriculum and/or significant physical/medical needs are met. -Additional and different activities may be required with regular opportunities for over learning (repetition). -Additional access to specialist equipment may be required. -Ongoing advice and support from specialist outside agencies.
Band 4	16 to 20	£6,349	£6,846	As per Band 5 but with higher levels of support required.
Band 3	21-25	£9,524	£10,268	<p>As Band 4 and 5 plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extensive individualised programmes and some one-to-one support to enable the pupil to concentrate and access the curriculum or to meet complex physical and/or medical needs more severe than at Band 4. -Regular supervision throughout the day, including the use of time out and other such approaches. -Some support may be required during unstructured times. -There may be multi-agency direct involvement.
Band 2	26 to 30	£12,699	£13,691	As Band 3 plus:

				<p>-access through the usual mainstream groupings may not be appropriate for some areas of the curriculum due to significant or complex learning/physical/medical needs so extensive individualised programmes will be required which may involve the use of specialist teaching techniques, alternative communication methods, appropriate equipment and materials.</p> <p>-On-going direct support and advice from external agencies.</p> <p>-Support during un-structured times for health and safety reasons.</p>
Band 1	31 to 35	£15,874	£17,114	<p>Pupils in this band would be those who require full time support in mainstream school because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -are very disabled -present with exceptionally challenging behaviour, -are severely autistic -present serious Health and Safety considerations.