

National Funding Formula Report

1 Purpose of the Report

To provide the Schools Forum with an update on the National Funding Formula (NFF). The report's object is highlight the propose changes in funding and the effect on Wokingham schools.

2 Suggested Action

The Forum is asked to note the contents of this report and work with the Council to ensure the borough achieve the appropriate NFF allocations for Wokingham schools.

3 Background

The government basis for creating NFF is to address the unfairness and lack of transparency of the current funding system. This is because similar schools within comparable local areas receive very different levels of funding, with little or no justification.

The aim of the change, referred to as Fairer Funding, is to ensure that all children can continue to benefit from high quality education, irrespective of locality or circumstances.

However, the Councils' response to the NFF Stage 2 consultation stated that the proposed funding positioning was unfair as it did not address WBC current low-funded base. The borough schools will remain at the bottom of the national league table and still be the lowest funded local authority compared to the neighbouring Councils despite the high attainments. Some points outlined were as follows:

- Lowest funded - benchmarking across neighbouring authorities and nationally
- Pupil progress - Local Authority risk assessments of schools have indicated that fewer schools were likely to gain the Ofsted "outstanding" grade due to the limited finances to identify and track pupils who make insufficient progress, and the related support to targeted interventions.
- Special Educational Needs - local schools are struggling to meet the needs of pupils with significant levels of special educational needs with dedicated support staff. This has resulted in more out of borough placements, and created pressures on the schools budget as a whole.

This is not a list of exhaustive factors covered by the consultation and others like pupil-led factors, lump sum reduction and baseline funding will be covered in detail by the NFF Task Force.

4 **Points to Explore**

1) Schools in Difficulties

Considerable numbers of schools are projecting deficit budgets for 2017/18 and beyond. Currently, the Council assist to keep schools operations afloat by offering loans to schools and off-set loan repayments against future funding. Considerations:-

- a. What will be the alternative support under the hard NFF from 2019/20, where schools will be funded directly by DfE?
- b. What will be DfE or schools arrangement to cover the current and future loans to avoid compounding the Councils pressures for limited funding?

2) Effect on Growth Expansion Projects

The NFF proposals (for 2018/19) state that they will allocate funding for growth on the basis of historic spend. This carries a significant risk where future growth does not follow the pattern established in the past. In particular where growth requires new schools rather than expansion of existing schools revenue costs per new place will (at least in the short term) rise significantly. In Wokingham's case six new primary schools are planned to open associated with the four Strategic Development Locations, and the timetables for opening must be flexible to allow for variations in build out rates. The first of these schools is expected to open in September 2018 and others may follow on in 2019 and 2020.

5 **Schools Position**

Current analysis indicates that WBC schools represent losses and gains (slightly more gains than losses) as shown in Appendix 1 attached.

6 **Next Steps**

- a. NFF Task and Finish group confirmed at March 2017 Forum meeting to consider challenges going forward and outline a programme of activity.
- b. Check for the announcement of the stage 2 outcome to address responses accordingly.

7 **Recommendations**



That the report is noted and that schools continue to work with the Council's Schools Finance Team to ensure an accurate financial reporting position to ensure that any emerging deficits are addressed in an appropriate manner.

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May 2017

APPENDIX A

WOKINGHAM SCHOOLS

Sum of Percentage change compared to baseline 2016-17

Column Labels Row Labels 

Gain

Loss

Aldryngton Primary School	1%	
All Saints CofE (Aided) Primary School		-1%
Bearwood Primary School		-1%
Beechwood Primary School		-1%
Bohunt School Wokingham		
Crazies Hill CofE Primary School		-1%
Earley St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	2%	
Emmbrook Infant School		-1%
Emmbrook Junior School		-1%
Evendons Primary School		
Farley Hill Primary School		-1%
Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School		-1%
Floreat Montague Park Primary School		
Gorse Ride Infants' School		-1%
Gorse Ride Junior School	1%	
Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School		-1%
Hatch Ride Primary School		-1%
Hawkedon Primary School	3%	
Highwood Primary School		-1%
Hillside Primary School	2%	
Keep Hatch Primary School	1%	
Lambs Lane Primary School		-1%
Loddon Primary School	3%	
Maiden Erlegh School		-2%
Nine Mile Ride Primary School	1%	
Oakbank		
Oaklands Infant School		-1%
Oaklands Junior School		-1%
Polehampton Church of England Infant School		-1%
Polehampton Church of England Junior School		-1%
Radstock Primary School	2%	
Rivermead Primary School		-1%
Robert Piggott CofE Infant School		-1%
Robert Piggott CofE Junior School		-1%
Saint Sebastian's Church of England Aided Primary School		-1%
Shinfield Infant and Nursery School		-1%
Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School		-1%
Sonning CofE Primary School		-1%
South Lake Primary School	3%	
St Crispin's School	3%	
St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School	2%	
St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst		-1%
St Paul's CofE Junior School	3%	
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Wokingham	1%	
The Bulmershe School	3%	
The Colleton Primary School	3%	
The Coombes Church of England Primary School		0%
The Emmbrook School	3%	
The Forest School	3%	
The Hawthorns Primary School	1%	
The Holt School		-2%
The Piggott School		
Waingels	3%	
Walter Infant School	3%	
Wescott Infant School		-1%
Westende Junior School	1%	
Wheatfield Primary School		
Whiteknights Primary School	3%	
Willow Bank Infant School		-1%
Willow Bank Junior School		-1%
Windmill Primary School		
Winnersh Primary School	3%	
Woodley CofE Primary School	2%	

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