

SCHOOLS FORUM

Funding Consultation 2015 - Responses

1 Purpose of the report

Further to discussions held at the 21st October Forum this paper seeks to demonstrate how the consultation responses have been both included in and have shaped the Proforma submitted to the DfE, and to clarify four questions raised at that meeting.

2 Suggested action

That Forum notes the report.

3 Responses informing the Submission of the Draft Proforma

Appendix A shows in the form of pie charts the responses received.

Appendix B shows by phase and type of school the responses received.

Impact of responses upon setting the indicative budget for schools

1. WBC will continue to use the Prior Attainment Factor
2. WBC will continue to use the Lump Sum Factor
3. The Lump Sum is remaining at last year's rate of £175,000
4. WBC will continue to use the Mobility factor
5. WBC will continue to use the LAC factor
6. The LAC factor is remaining at last year's rate of £900
7. WBC will continue to use the EAL factor
8. The EAL factor will continue to be used on a 3 year basis
9. The EAL factor rate will continue to be higher for Secondary aged pupils than for Primary aged pupils.
10. WBC is not introducing a split site factor
11. WBC will continue to base the notional SEN factor on 100% of Prior Attainment funding and 35% of the Lump Sum funding.
12. WBC will continue with the Primary / Secondary ratio at last year's rate of 1:1.27
13. WBC will continue to fund growth based upon 7/12ths of the AWPU
14. WBC is not introducing a Falling Rolls Fund
15. WBC will introduce a cap to contribute towards MFG – the decision as to where this cap will be set will be taken at the 20th January 2016 Forum.
16. WBC will continue to delegate and de-delegate as under the previous methodology.

4 Responses to the Four Specific Questions Raised

Question 9 – How much do we want the LAC rate to be?

The consultation response was tied with 50% voting for £900 and 50% voting for £1,900. The draft Proforma was based upon a rate of £900. To have increased the rate would have meant "finding" a new £1,000 per pupil. This could only have been done by reducing a rate elsewhere in the formula. Given that there was no appetite to reduce funding in any other area the draft Proforma remained at £900.

Question 15 – Introduction of a split site factor

The consultation response had been 84% of responses stating No –this was reflected in the draft Proforma. The question was raised at Forum around who had responded and what had been taken into consideration.

Those schools requesting the introduction of a split site were:-

Colleton Primary

Radstock Primary

Southfield

St Nicholas Primary

Forest

Holt

Waingels College

From the consultation responses received it cannot be identified as to what had been taken into consideration.

Question 20 – possible reduction of the Primary / Secondary ratio

No Primary school voted to increase the ratio and no Secondary school voted to reduce it.

The basis of the ratio is historical and is based around the belief that the cost to deliver the curriculum is more expensive for a secondary aged pupil than a primary aged pupil. Secondary curriculum requires laboratories, specialist equipment and subject specialists all of which increases the cost of delivery. In order to put a definitive value on the ratio an exercise would need to be carried out looking at the actual costs incurred by both Primary and Secondary schools in delivering education.

This would not be an easy exercise for a number of reasons:-

1. Secondary schools have different staff structures; they have different leadership models within the secondary school provision.
2. Primary schools can have 1 teacher per class per year group. Most Secondary schools have subject based teachers.
3. Primary schools do not have the buying power of Secondary schools.
4. Primary schools do not have the volume of pupils.
5. Secondary schools have larger sites and potentially higher maintenance and running costs.
6. Newly built or refurbished schools may be more energy efficient.

Question 24 – should WBC de-delegate based on a Lump Sum or a per pupil rate.

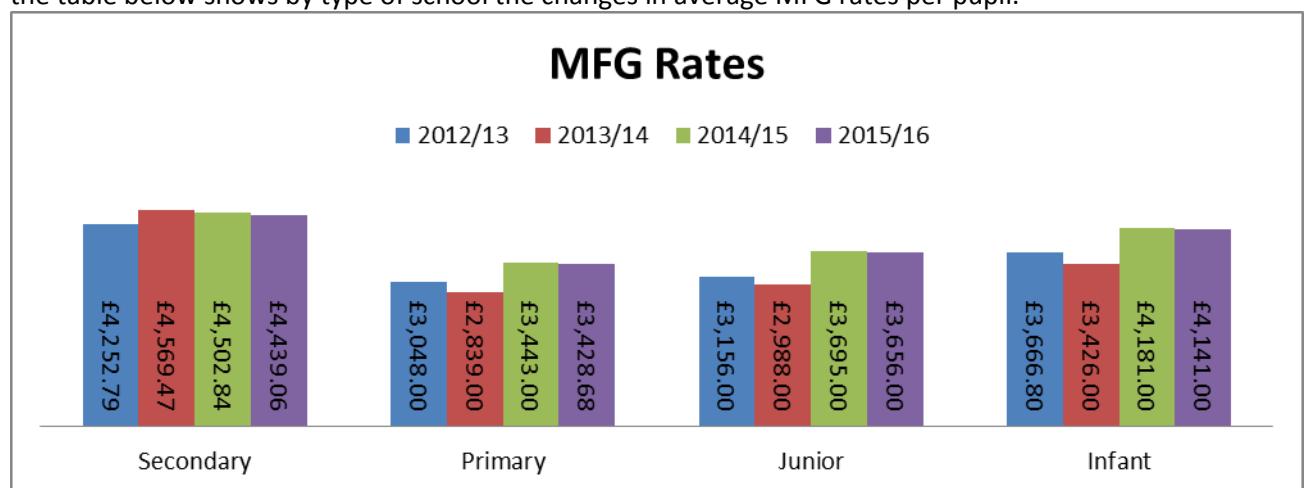
When budgets were delegated they were delegated on a lump sum basis. Thus to de-delegate using a lump sum basis means that there is no overall impact on a schools budget. Moving to a per pupil basis would mean a benefit to those schools with low pupil numbers and an additional cost to those schools with high pupil numbers.

An area that continues to cause comment is that of MFG protection. Historically it was rare for a school to be in receipt of MFG but that was largely due to the fact that school funding had been relatively stable. When the government decided to reform school funding its aim was to introduce a National Funding Formula in order to do this, steps were needed to rationalise the factors used at a

Local Authority level. The table below shows the factors in use before and after the introduction of the Funding Reforms in 2013/14.

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Social Deprivation				
Additional Factor				
NQT				
Rent & Rates				
Fixed Sum				
Achievement				
NWPU's				
Repairs & Maintenance				
Insurance				
Taper Relief				
UPS Threshold				
Hydrotherapy				
Residential	Rates	Rates	Rates	Rates
1:2:1 Tuition	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	Lump Sum
Extended schools subsidy	Prior Attainment	Prior Attainment	Prior Attainment	Prior Attainment
SSG(P)	LAC	LAC	LAC	LAC
SDG	EAL	EAL	EAL	EAL
Turbulence	Mobility	Mobility	Mobility	Mobility
Kitchen & Meals	Deprivation	Deprivation	Deprivation	Deprivation
AWPU	AWPU	AWPU	AWPU	AWPU
	not included in MFG calculation			

It was an intentional consequence of the reforms to re-distribute funds between schools but in order to "smooth" the transition MFG was used as transitional protection. Moving from 2012/13 to 2013/14 a school would be protected from a drop in the average MFG rate per pupil that was greater than -1.5%. WBC took steps to minimise the disruption by keeping the overall rates as stable as possible. Since 2012 there has only been one increase in pupil funding and this was £23 per pupil the table below shows by type of school the changes in average MFG rates per pupil.



The above demonstrates that over the last 4 years there has been a re-distribution between types of schools but that we are now in a position whereby the average MFG rate per pupil is higher now than in 2012.

At a national level schools are finding themselves in financial difficulties not so much due to the funding changes but to the ever increasing cost of delivering education.

Please note the October Submission is a DRAFT submission for three reasons:-

1. WBC does not yet know our funding allocation – announcement due week commencing 14th December.
2. WBC does not know the contents of the Autumn Statement – announcement due 25th November.
3. WBC does not have our confirmed October Census data – data to be confirmed 27th November

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November 2015