

2023 Survey on School Responses to Proposed Transfer of 1% Schools Block budget to High Needs Block

Summary Analysis



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

- Wokingham Council ran a survey for schools between 18th September 2023 - 2nd October 2023
- This was the second stage of a two-step process
 - ✓ Stage 1 consultation in June / July gathered school's views on their priorities for improvement of the local Special Educational Needs and Disability ('SEND') system
 - ✓ Stage 2 gathered school's responses on the proposed transfer of 1% of DSG Schools Block budget to the High Needs Block, which was recommended by Wokingham Borough Council
- The survey was responded to by a total of 37 schools – 53% of all local schools



Question 1	Yes	No	Blank	Result
Do you support the proposal to transfer 1% of School Block funding (approx. £1.4m) to the High Needs Block for 2024-25 to support the programme in delivering financial sustainability for SEND in Wokingham Borough?	11	25	1	No - 68%

There was evidence of a significant difference of opinion between primary and secondary phase schools:

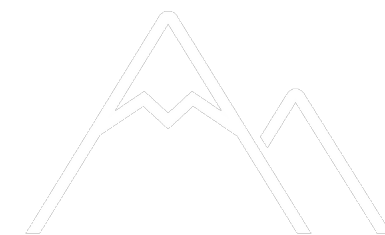
- 67% of secondary schools who responded supported the proposed transfer
- 81.5% of primary schools who responded rejected the proposal

Given that the main reason given for rejecting was financial, this may be a reflection of the relative affordability for larger schools

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There were also differences between maintained and academised schools:

- 56% of academies who responded rejected the proposed transfer
- 82.45 % of maintained schools who responded rejected the proposal



RATIONALE GIVEN FOR REJECTION	Instances	As a % of all 17 responses
Financial reasons – affordability and impact on school’s own SEND pupils (6 of these respondents confirmed they were in support of the proposals but couldn’t afford to contribute)	13	76.5%
Lack of confidence that schools will benefit quickly enough from the support services being proposed	7	41.2%
Raised concerns about why some schools are asked to contribute more than others	2	11.8%
There are better ways of finding efficiencies or raising the money	1	5.9%

A significant majority of secondary schools supported the proposed transfer whereas an overwhelming majority of primary schools rejected the proposal:

	Total No. of Settings	No. Responded	Response Rate	Rejection Nos.	Rejection %
PRIMARY	55	27	49.1%	22	81.5%
SECONDARY	10	6	60.0%	2	33.3%
SPECIAL & AP	3	2	66.7%	0	0.0%

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A lower proportion of all academies responded compared to maintained schools, but a significantly higher proportion of maintained schools rejected the proposal:

	Total No. of WBC Settings	Responses	Response Rate	Rejection Nos.	Rejection %
Maintained	31	17	55%	14	82.4%
Academies	39	18	46%	10	55.6%
Not stated		2		1	50%
Total	70	37	53%	25	67.6%

Respondents gave their role within the school as follows:

Executive Headteacher	2
Headteacher / Co-Headteacher	26
Head of School	3
Business Manager / Finance Officer	3
Governing Body	1
Role Not Stated	2
TOTAL	37