

# Agenda Item 30

**TITLE** 2024/25 Proposed Schools Block Budget Submission

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** School Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**WARD** (Non-specific);

**DIRECTOR** Director of Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Final 2024/25 Schools Block Budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This is the Final 2024/25 Schools Block Budget for discussion and agreement.

We were informed by the ESFA of our final DSG allocation for 2024/25 on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## 2024/25 Final School Block Budget January 2024

### .01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides a final School Block Budget for 2024/25 for consideration by the Schools Forum following the announcement of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations in December 2023. Pupil data has now been updated to reflect the October 2023 census together with the updated data sets for determining additional educational needs.

### .02 Recommendations

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Final 2024/25 Schools Block budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

### .03 Background

Final funding allocations for the 2024/25 financial year were received from the ESFA on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The final budget reflects the October 2023 pupil numbers and updated data.

### .04 Changes from Estimated Budget

Table A shows that the final allocation was £146,763,431, a difference of (£77,078) from the estimated budget. The difference is due to 7 less pupils compared to the figures received from schools and the draft census. This also affected the growth fund income we had estimated. The impact on individual schools will vary depending on the pupil characteristics in each school, see Appendix A.

57 schools will see an increase in budget from 2023/24 with 8 seeing a reduction. All 8 of these schools have seen reduction in pupil numbers since the October 2022 census, of between 6 and 15%.

As agreed at the extraordinary Schools Forum in November, 0.5% will be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25, equating to approx. £734k. The DSG Management Plan retains a 1% block transfer assumption from 2025/26 onwards however, and therefore work will continue through the relevant task & finish groups and the Borough Education Partnership to secure system wide support for the approach in future financial years.

**Table A**  
**Compares the Draft Budget for 2024/25 with the Final Budget for 2024/25**

	2024-25 ESTIMATED	2024-25 FINAL	Variance between Estimated and Final
Number on Roll	26,559	26,552	(7)
Primary PUF	74,810,480	74,841,765	31,285
Secondary SUF	69,092,022	69,007,350	(84,672)
Premises factor	1,790,045	1,790,045	0
Growth	1,147,963	1,124,271	(23,692)
<b>TOTAL Schools Block</b>	<b>146,840,509</b>	<b>146,763,431</b>	<b>(77,078)</b>
Growth Fund Estimate	1,500,000	1,400,000	(100,000)
0.5% Transfer to HNB	734,203	733,817	(385)
<b>Amount to put through APT</b>	<b>144,606,307</b>	<b>144,629,614</b>	<b>23,307</b>

### The Model

The model considers the results of the consultation with schools in September/October.

- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) has been set at 0.5%. Therefore, every school will see a 0.5% increase on the pupil led factors compared to 2023/24
- The minimum NFF rates have been used against each factor.
- Our disapplication request for our all-through school has been approved by the ESFA and has been incorporated into the model.

### Growth Fund

The DSG finance settlement confirmed Growth Funding of £1.12m for 2024/25, a slight decrease on that assumed in planning figures previously discussed. And no amount for Falling Rolls Funding.

In order to meet mainstream place planning challenges, the full allocation is proposed to be retained for Growth. As shown in Table A, we will require £1.4m from the Schools Block funding for growth, which taken with the anticipated £270k remaining in reserves at the end of this financial year, gives £1.67m total resources for 2024/25.

There is little evidence to support the creation of a Falling Rolls Fund, as where pupils numbers have fallen, the SCAP return doesn't show that school places will be required in the next 3 to 5 years, which is a mandatory requirement. It is more likely that funding will be required for growth. Where rolls are falling, schools should look into reducing their PAN.

## Additional Funding

In addition to Schools Block funding, in 2024-25 schools will also continue to receive Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) and also an additional grant for Teachers Pensions to reflect the additional costs of the increase to the employer contribution rates to the Teachers Pensions Scheme from April 2024. Further details will be announced by the DfE in due course.

Pupil premium rates are increasing for 2024-25:

- primary FSM6 pupils: £1,480
- secondary FSM6 pupils: £1,050
- looked-after children: £2,570
- children who have ceased to be looked-after: £2,570
- service children: £340

## .05 **Summary**

The Final Schools Block budget for 2024/25, subject to Schools Forum approval, will be submitted to the ESFA by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January deadline.

Appendix A – Comparison of individual schools 2023-24 allocations compared to the provisional 2024-25 allocations

Appendix B – Contribution of individual schools to the 0.5% block transfer

**Katherine Vernon**  
**Schools Finance Manager**  
**January 2024**



APPENDIX B			WITHOUT 0.5% TRANSFER		WITH 0.5% TRANSFER			
URN	LAESTAB	School Name	Oct 2023 NOR	24-25 Post MFG Budget	Oct 2023 NOR	24-25 Post MFG Budget	£ Contribution to 0.5% Transfer	% of allocation
<b>Total</b>			<b>26,647</b>	<b>£145,363,620</b>	<b>26,647</b>	<b>£144,630,013</b>	<b>£733,607</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
147862	8722009	Alder Grove Church of England Primary School	267	£1,529,322	267	£1,529,322	£0	0.00%
109850	8722116	Aldryngton Primary School	312	£1,466,480	312	£1,466,480	£0	0.00%
109836	8722100	Bearwood Primary School	265	£1,317,583	265	£1,317,583	£0	0.00%
144571	8723312	Earley St Peter's Church of England Primary School	454	£2,107,232	454	£2,107,232	£0	0.00%
140953	8722002	Evendons Primary School	400	£1,855,776	400	£1,855,776	£0	0.00%
110012	8723315	Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School	105	£571,810	105	£571,810	£0	0.00%
142182	8722003	Floreat Montague Park Primary School	402	£2,044,257	402	£2,044,257	£0	0.00%
109877	8722148	Gorse Ride Junior School	198	£1,025,107	198	£1,025,107	£0	0.00%
109929	8722237	Hawkedon Primary School	629	£2,979,050	629	£2,979,050	£0	0.00%
131689	8722246	Highwood Primary School	423	£2,029,795	423	£2,029,795	£0	0.00%
109930	8722238	Hillside Primary School	410	£1,961,268	410	£1,961,268	£0	0.00%
131192	8723371	Loddon Primary School	508	£2,397,176	508	£2,397,176	£0	0.00%
145281	8722067	Nine Mile Ride Primary School	372	£1,719,810	372	£1,719,810	£0	0.00%
109927	8722235	Radstock Primary School	362	£1,719,764	362	£1,719,764	£0	0.00%
149521	8722167	Rivermead Primary School	419	£1,939,520	419	£1,939,520	£0	0.00%
145285	8723330	Saint Sebastians Church of England Primary School	120	£671,618	120	£671,618	£0	0.00%
109976	8723041	Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School	355	£1,647,097	355	£1,647,097	£0	0.00%
133383	8722247	South Lake Primary School	419	£1,968,710	419	£1,968,710	£0	0.00%
110041	8723368	St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School	420	£1,944,034	420	£1,944,034	£0	0.00%
109987	8723055	St Paul's CofE Junior School	381	£1,785,082	381	£1,785,082	£0	0.00%
109921	8722227	The Hawthorns Primary School	433	£2,039,394	433	£2,039,394	£0	0.00%
139899	8722000	Windmill Primary School	180	£922,763	180	£922,763	£0	0.00%
109876	8722146	Winnersh Primary School	389	£1,824,010	389	£1,824,010	£0	0.00%
110015	8723319	Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School	206	£1,004,782	206	£1,004,610	£172	0.02%
144637	8722006	The Coombes Church of England Primary School	355	£1,678,309	355	£1,676,485	£1,824	0.11%
147377	8723037	St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst	140	£727,052	140	£725,912	£1,139	0.16%
145284	8722163	Hatch Ride Primary School	208	£982,130	208	£980,464	£1,666	0.17%
144455	8723341	St Teresa's Catholic Academy	309	£1,433,593	309	£1,431,154	£2,439	0.17%
145282	8722062	Oaklands Junior School	243	£1,127,434	243	£1,125,452	£1,981	0.18%
109890	8722161	Willow Bank Junior School	238	£1,125,147	238	£1,122,380	£2,767	0.25%
147805	8722106	Keep Hatch Primary School	432	£2,008,380	432	£2,002,477	£5,904	0.29%
109924	8722232	Gorse Ride Infants' School	82	£500,492	82	£498,995	£1,496	0.30%
147378	8723048	Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School	85	£493,731	85	£492,180	£1,551	0.31%
109829	8722088	Farley Hill Primary School	270	£1,316,065	270	£1,311,772	£4,293	0.33%
136891	8724505	The Piggott School	1373	£8,050,344	1373	£8,023,898	£26,447	0.33%
109989	8723057	Robert Piggott CofE Infant School	119	£643,987	119	£641,815	£2,172	0.34%
149352	8723372	All Saints Church of England Primary School	222	£1,182,160	222	£1,178,109	£4,051	0.34%
109889	8722160	Willow Bank Infant School	158	£821,140	158	£818,257	£2,884	0.35%
109993	8723061	Robert Piggott CofE Junior School	164	£847,878	164	£844,885	£2,993	0.35%
147926	8722101	Wescott Infant School	147	£759,843	147	£757,160	£2,683	0.35%
149722	8722121	Emmbrook Infant School	182	£933,891	182	£930,570	£3,321	0.36%
109830	8722089	Lambs Lane Primary School	208	£1,062,641	208	£1,058,845	£3,796	0.36%
147023	8722008	Beechwood Primary School	326	£1,661,424	326	£1,655,475	£5,950	0.36%
145283	8722132	Oaklands Infant School	160	£807,939	160	£805,019	£2,920	0.36%
147556	8723046	Polehampton Church of England Infant School	178	£881,946	178	£878,697	£3,249	0.37%
109869	8722137	Walter Infant School	263	£1,287,016	263	£1,282,216	£4,800	0.37%
148014	8722184	Westende Junior School	234	£1,129,699	234	£1,125,429	£4,271	0.38%
109878	8722149	The Colleton Primary School	286	£1,379,944	286	£1,374,724	£5,219	0.38%
109988	8723056	Woodley CofE Primary School	306	£1,470,267	306	£1,464,683	£5,584	0.38%
139900	8722001	Wheatfield Primary School	206	£989,388	206	£985,629	£3,759	0.38%
147580	8723370	Polehampton Church of England Junior School	233	£1,116,885	233	£1,112,633	£4,252	0.38%
147249	8722157	Shinfield Infant and Nursery School	267	£1,268,472	267	£1,263,599	£4,873	0.38%
149723	8722130	Emmbrook Junior School	258	£1,224,994	258	£1,220,285	£4,708	0.38%
148800	8722105	Whiteknights Primary School	415	£1,957,109	415	£1,949,535	£7,574	0.39%
147379	8723320	Sonning Church of England Primary School	210	£989,955	210	£986,123	£3,832	0.39%
149555	8722010	St Cecilia's CofE Primary School	98.75	£598,164	98.5	£595,247	£2,917	0.49%
138367	8724000	Oakbank	523	£3,552,103	523	£3,520,424	£31,680	0.89%
139853	8724050	The Forest School	666	£4,372,306	666	£4,332,009	£40,297	0.92%
110062	8724051	The Bulmershe School	1233	£8,064,117	1233	£7,989,416	£74,700	0.93%
145286	8724048	St Crispin's School	1191	£7,577,030	1191	£7,505,090	£71,940	0.95%
148453	8724049	The Emmbrook School	1155	£7,335,652	1155	£7,265,823	£69,829	0.95%
142166	8724060	Waingels	1227	£7,726,653	1227	£7,652,276	£74,377	0.96%
136637	8724053	Maiden Erleigh School	1408	£8,745,101	1408	£8,659,713	£85,388	0.98%
142181	8724001	Bohunt School Wokingham	1239	£7,678,340	1239	£7,603,215	£75,125	0.98%
136880	8724047	The Holt School	1200	£7,383,459	1200	£7,310,677	£72,782	0.99%