

**DfE DOCUMENTS 'SCHOOL FUNDING FOR 2016 TO 2017' –
SUMMARY OF THE KEY ISSUES**

1. Schools Block Guaranteed Units of Funding (GUF) 2016-17

- This has been set at **£4,318.28 per pupil** and the details are in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Calculation of Schools Block GUF 2016-17

Detail	Schools Block GUF £	Pupil Numbers	Schools Block DSG £'m	Note
2015-16				
Baseline	4,320.84	69121	298.661	1
Adjustment Non Recoupment Academy Holy Trinity Free School	N/A	N/A	1.606	
TOTAL			300.267	
2016-17				
Baseline A			300.267	
Pupil Numbers from previous year 2015-16		69121		
Holy Trinity Free School		413		
Total Pupils G		69534		
GUF A/B	4,318.28			2

Note 1 – This includes Worcestershire's share of the £390m (£6.2m).

Note 2 – The effect of the inclusion of Holy Trinity reduces the 2015-16 GUF by £2.56 (-0.06%). This is a consequence of the per pupil rate for the school being less than the overall 2015-16 GUF. This will reduce the DSG by £0.18m on current pupil numbers.

- The DfE have now set these final 2016-17 for all LAs using this methodology and confirmed these will **not be amended** when the October 2015 pupil numbers are available.
- The DfE will issue revised Schools Block DSG allocations for 2016-17 **using the October 2015 pupil numbers**. This amount will not be confirmed until late December 2015.

2. Other Schools Block Aspects

- The mandatory Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will remain **at -1.5% per pupil** for 2016-17 as prescribed within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- The **capping restrictions** introduced in 2014-15 limiting this to the cash requirement needed to fund the MFG **will also remain**.
- In terms of the local schools formula for 2016-17 the DfE have confirmed there is no obligation on LAs to use all the formula factors permitted.
- The only mandatory factors will remain as the current ones – the basic per pupil amount (AWPU) and the deprivation factor. The remaining ones are unchanged apart from a minor amendment to the primary Low Prior Attainment (LPA) definition.
- It will remain for the LA to decide how best to apply its local formulae to meet its circumstances.
- LAs in conjunction with their Schools Forums will need to agree any consultation aspects for 2016-17 financial year and will need to follow the normal consultation and approval process: -
 - Consideration of option(s) for potential change(s) (if any) to the local schools formula for 2016-17 (if any).
 - School consultation on the option(s) (if any).
 - Consideration of option(s) and outcome of consultation by the WSF.
 - Final approval of preferred option by Cabinet (15th October 2015).
- The detailed consultation requirements on LAs for any proposed changes to the local schools funding formula remain along with the timescales set for submissions to the Education Funding Agency (EFA).
- LAs are also required to **consult again** with schools for 2016-17 on decisions made in 2015-16 **for DSG Schools Block Centrally Retained Services** for: -
 - Delegation and de-delegation for maintained schools.
 - Central retention for maintained schools and academies.
- LAs will be required to seek approval from the DfE in specific circumstances to: -
 - Vary the pupil numbers used for calculating funding for specific schools from the October 2015 census to used estimated numbers where there is school re-organisation or a school is going to change its age range.
 - Request further exceptional premises factors.
 - Vary the operation of the MFG.

3. High Needs Block Issues

- On 16 July 2015, the DfE also published the external research report following their call for evidence in February 2015.
- The DfE Operational Guidance for Schools Revenue Funding 2016-17 makes minor reference to High Needs Funding and further guidance for 2016-17 was issued in September 2015. The key issues are: -
 - The indication is LAs will receive the same cash amount in 2016-17 as allocated in 2015-16. LAs will have to manage any changes within their existing allocations.
 - Flexibility is available at local level to make adjustments to individual institutions place funding in 2016-17.
- LAs will not be able to apply to the DfE for additional High Needs Funding and there will be no 'exceptional cases' process. However for 2016-17 LAs are able to make local place number changes for maintained schools and apply to the EFA for changes in place numbers for academies and Post 16 HN providers.
- Further policy guidance has also been issued for Non Maintained Special Schools (NMSS) and Alternative Provision (AP) Free Schools.

4. Early Years Block Issues

- The DfE call for evidence on funding closed on 10 August 2015 and there is no announcement yet.

5. Timeline

- Following confirmation by the DfE of their agreed policy for 2016-17 the timeline was agreed as **detailed below: -**

DETAIL	DATE
Meeting of the WSF to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider DfE current position• Discuss issues for consultation	2 July
DfE issue results of consultation and the national policy direction for 2015-16 together with issue of APT, MFLs, etc	16 July
SCHOOLS SUMMER BREAK	20 July to 3 September
Meeting of the WSF to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and agree consultation issues and options (if any)	9 September
Formal consultation starts	10 September
Formal consultation ends	1 October
Further Meeting of the WSF to consider the results of the consultation and to formulate recommendations to Cabinet	6 October
Report to Cabinet making recommendations for changes (if any) to the existing local schools funding formula for 2016-17	15 October
Submission of local schools funding formula APT 2016-17 by the LA to the Education Funding Agency (EFA)	By 30 October
Confirmation by the EFA of: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 2015 census data• Revised APT for 2016-17• Schools Block DSG 2016-17	Late December
LA to consider impact of the new October 2015 data sets on submitted October 2015 APT	Early January
Meeting of the WSF to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider impact of the new October 2015 data sets• Agree submission for the final APT 2016-17 to the EFA	13 January
LA to submit final data for Schools Budget DSG pro forma for 2016-17	By 21 January
LA to confirm school budget shares 2016-17 for their maintained schools	By 29 February
EFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) to academies	By 31 March

- As in previous years, this consultation process had to take place prior to the receipt of the October 2015 data sets and the issue of the final Schools Block DSG for 2016-17. This is not anticipated until late December 2015.
- **On this basis there will be changes between the consultation and the final budgets issued for individual schools for 2016-17 as in previous years. This will also take account of the effect of these changes on the statutory MFG requirements and local capping arrangements.**