**Primary School Budget Shares 2023/24**

**Explanatory Notes**

***These notes should be read in conjunction with your budget share pack for 2023/24 to ensure that you fully understand the funding information provided for your school.***

**Foreword**

This guidance is aimed at providing School Business Managers, Head Teachers and Governors with an understanding of 2023/24 school budget shares. It also includes additional information on funding changes and cost pressures that schools should be aware of when planning their budget for 2023/24.

Covered in this guidance note:

* [Schools funding formula approach in 2023/24](#_Schools_funding_formula)
* [Key changes for 2023/24](#_Key_changes_for)
* [Cost pressures: pay and price inflation](#_Cost_pressures:_pay_1)
* [The budget share pack – a sheet by sheet explanation](#_The_budget_share)
* [Early years funding](#_Early_years_funding)
* [The growth fund](#_The_growth_fund)
* [Top-up funding for pupils with high needs](#_Top-up_funding_for)
* [Pupil premium grant](#_Pupil_premium_grant)
* [Other grants paid by the LA](#_Other_grants_paid)
* [The fair funding scheme of delegation](#_The_fair_funding)

I would also like to draw your attention to the Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation[[1]](#footnote-1) to which all schools must adhere; it sets out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the schools it maintains.

I hope this guidance provides all the information you need, but please contact our funding team if you have any further questions about your budget share or grant funding. You can also contact your School Finance Officer or the Schools Helpdesk on 024 7683 3500.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success for the year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hammond

**Lead Accountant**

**Schools Finance Team**

# Schools funding formula approach in 2023/24

The National Funding Formula (NFF) is currently in a ‘soft’ phase, meaning that the Department for Education (DFE) will run the NFF for each school, and then the total of the Coventry schools’ allocations will become the Schools Block DSG allocation for Coventry to use in its own formula.

As set out in the 2023/24 Fair Funding Consultation[[2]](#footnote-2) and following dialogue with Head Teacher groups and the Schools Forum, the LA has taken the decision to continue to mirror the NFF allocation levels and protection arrangements as closely as possible. This aims to ensure that all schools receive at least a 0.5% per pupil increase in their pupil led funding compared with 2022/23 funding levels (in line with the 0.5% ‘funding floor’). It also ensures that the £4,405 minimum per pupil funding level is delivered, as well as higher levels of increase for schools who were on or near to the pure-NFF funding level.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), a mechanism that protects a school’s funding (per pupil) against its previous year’s allocation has been set at 0.5% to ensure the +0.5% funding floor can be delivered. This has reduced from 2% in 2022/23.

For many schools the level of protection built into 2022/23 budget shares remains very significant. We wish to highlight that a pure national funding formula (without protection) would deliver significantly less funding to Coventry schools than in previous years – we strongly encourage you to identify your school’s level of Minimum Funding Guarantee protection from the ‘Budget Share Statement’ sheet in order to understand the *potential* future impact on your school if the protection was to be reduced.

To be clear, there is no detail yet on the level of funding available for schools from 2024/25. This means that there is also no detail on the level of protection that will be applied to school budgets post 2023/24; as any decisions related to this are closely linked to how the DFE utilises the future funding awarded to schools.

There is no finalised timescale for when the ‘hard’ NFF will be implemented. However, in the most recent DFE communication on the ‘hard’ NFF, a consultation issued in June, the DFE expect to have moved to the ‘hard’ NFF within the next five years – that is, by the 2027/28 funding year.

We will of course update you as further information on this becomes available.

# Key changes for 2023/24

The main changes that will affect primary school funding for 2023/24 are:

**School funding formula**

There are a number of formula changes set out below, however it is important to understand that for schools on the funding floor, the overriding mechanism for determining their 2023/24 funding level is the Minimum Funding Guarantee. This is because their protection level is higher than their pure formula allocation, and so changes to the formula factors or unit rates are unlikely to alter their protected allocation level.

You can identify if your school is on the funding floor as you will have a positive value on ‘MFG Protection’ line on your Budget Share Statement sheet. Schools who are not on the funding floor will have seen per pupil funding increases in excess of MFG level.

Funding factor changes

* + - The Minimum Per Pupil funding level increased by £140 to £4,405
    - Most formula factor values increased by 2.4% against 2022/23 levels whilst deprivation factors increased by 4.3% against 2022/23 levels
    - Premises factors remain at the same levels as in 2022/23.
    - The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection rate has been set at +0.5% per pupil (a decrease of 1.5% compared to 2022/23 levels)

**Schools Supplementary Grant**

From 2023/24 the baseline core funding has been increased for each school to represent the funding paid through the schools supplementary grant in 2022/23.

**Maintained Schools Additional Grant**

The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023 to 2024 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.

This funding is not included in school budget share figures and individual school allocations will be notified to schools once published by the DfE.

**Growth Fund changes**

In 2022/23 eligibility thresholds were increased back to 2020/21 levels for In-year admissions funding and Class Size funding. This was due to an increase in the LA’s Growth Fund allocation.

For 2023/24 the thresholds have remained the same. Details of the Growth fund are in the Schools Forum report[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation (FFSD) changes**

The FFSD is a contract setting out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the schools it maintains. Following consultation with all schools, updates/additions to the scheme were made for 2023/24 to Section 3.6.4 (Borrowing by Schools). Full details of the change are set out in the Schools Forum report3

**Pay & price increases**

There are also further pay and price inflationary pressures on school costs for the 2023/24 financial year. Details are set out in the cost pressures section 3.2

**Business Rates**

We have previously communicated via Schools Forum that in 2023/24 there would be a change to how schools business rates bills would be paid. It was proposed that the DfE would act as paying agent for schools and pay the Local Authority directly. This has now been confirmed, as such schools will not have to do anything in relation to payment of Business Rates. Schools will find the value of their business rates bill on the school’s budget share statement; Schools will not receive this funding as the DfE will deduct it from the local authority’s DSG allocation. This deduction is also shown on the school’s budget share statement. As such schools will not have to show the income received for business rates or the corresponding expenditure in their finance system. School Finance Officers will support with this change.

# Cost pressures: pay & price inflation

**Teachers’ Pay & Pensions**

Current estimates for the September 2023 Teachers pay awards are for increases between 3%-7.1% across the pay bands.

There is no anticipated increase to the Teachers’ Pension Scheme contribution rate for 2023/24.

**Officers’ Pay and Pensions**

The Local authority is assuming a 4% increase from April 2023

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) employer contribution rate is changing to 21.2% with effect from April 2023.

**Non-pay inflation**

The largest part of a school’s expenditure is staffing, so changes within that area of expenditure are by far the most significant, however the general inflation level will also affect other areas of expenditure within schools. For your information please note that the Retail Price Index All Items Excluding Mortgage Interest (RPIX) is currently running at 12.6%.

Even though non-staffing costs represent a smaller proportion of school expenditure, the levels of inflation currently being seen are a significant pressure, especially when considered against potential income increases on a per pupil level of 0.5% (could be higher if the school is on the NFF)

**Energy Inflation**

There has also been a significant increase in energy inflation. Gas is set to increase by 400% in March 2023.

# The budget share pack

The budget share pack aims to set out your school’s share of Coventry’s Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for the forthcoming 2023/24 year. The pack consists of several sheets that provide details about how your share is calculated, along with some funding information about other grant funding provided by the Local Authority.

It is important to note that some of the figures within the budget share pack are shown as ‘indicative’ because they are expected to change during the year, mainly as a result of activity (i.e. delivery of Early Years entitlements, High Needs Top-up etc). These figures will be updated during the year as new data is available – an email will be sent to schools to inform of any changes.

The Summary of Funding sheet

This sheet brings together all the funding information within the other sheets in the pack (see below) as well as including additional information about expected grant funding. Not all grant allocations can be included here, but you will find the most significant ones as well as some provided directly by the LA (i.e. Growth Fund).

Budget Share Statement sheet

This sheet is the representation of the Fair Funding Formula which the LA uses to generate your funding allocation. The formula consists of 15 factors (such as Free School Meal Eligibility, Prior Attainment, IDACI etc) which have a set £ unit rate for all Coventry Schools for the financial year.

Your school’s allocation for each factor is determined by multiplying the unit rate by the number of units your schools had at the previous October census. i.e. 197 pupils eligible for Free School Meals x £482. In the case of factors with no unit rate (such as Lump Sum, Rates etc) your school’s allocation will be shown. All of these elements are summed to give the school’s ‘total formula factor funding’.

Once this total formula factor funding is known, two protection mechanisms are applied; ‘minimum funding level’ and the ‘minimum funding guarantee’ and then ‘de-delegation’ is removed (see below). This gives the School’s ‘Budget Share’ funding allocation.

If you have chosen to join the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement, the value of your 22/23 charge has been deducted from your budget share. This will be updated to the 23/24 charge when it is known.

In addition, for 23/24 the Business Rates funding allocation is deducted from your budget share to reflect that the DfE will be paying the local authority rates department directly and no funding will be received in the DSG allocation.

Minimum Funding Level sheet

The ‘minimum per pupil (MPP) funding level factor’ ensures that the school’s total funding is at least £4,405 per pupil. Where it is calculated that the school’s formula factor funding is less than this, an additional level of funding is provided to the school to fund the minimum funding level MFL shortfall.

Minimum Funding Guarantee sheet

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a protection mechanism which ensures a school’s per pupil funding is protected (on a % basis) from one year to the next. As this protection is per pupil, schools with falling/rising pupil numbers may still see overall decreases/increases in funding level. The MFG can also act to reduce a school’s budget share where they have seen an increase in funding and some of this needs to be top-sliced to afford the MFG protection of other schools.

For the past few years the MFG% has been a positive figure, meaning that schools must see at least that set % increase in per pupil funding. Previous to this there have been negative MFG% rates, which meant schools did not see deceases in per pupil funding by more than a set %.

The MFG sheet sets out the calculation that is performed to identify whether the school’s per pupil funding has changed by less than the specified ‘minimum funding guarantee protection level’. Where the schools per pupil funding is too low the value of additional funding is shown on the MFG Protection line (a positive figure). If a school has seen their increase top-sliced to support other schools, this is also shown on the MFG Protection line (a negative figure – which is shown in brackets).

De-delegation sheet

All maintained schools have the ability to pass back some of their delegated budget share to the Local Authority in order for them to provide a service centrally on behalf of all maintained schools. This pooling of funds is called de-delegation, and the decision on whether to do this is made each year by maintained representatives of the Schools Forum who vote on this. This decision applies to all maintained schools.

This sheet shows the funding that your school is contributing to de-delegated budgets, and shows the service that the delegation is for, as well as the basis for the deduction (i.e. £4 per pupil).

Further delegation info sheet

This sheet shows the total value of the budgets originally delegated to schools from the LA’s central budget in 2013-14, as well as the current total value of the de-delegation decisions agreed for this financial year.

EYSFF statement sheet

Where applicable, this sheet estimates the total Early Years funding that your school may receive during the year. The statement is a representation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula which calculates funding based on universal funding rates and the number of children and hours provided.

As Early Years funding is based on actual delivery the budget can never be finalised until the end of the financial year. This sheet is updated continually throughout the year once new take-up data is available. Your School Finance Officer will support you in making provision for any estimated increase or decrease in funding as the year progresses.

# Early years funding

Your indicative Early Years budget has initially been calculated based on the census information for 2022/23. This will be updated in March to reflect the current January census data as well as the Funding rates for the new financial year.

Your actual early years funding level will be based on the census count in each of these terms and schools will be notified of their updated early years budget once each termly count is finalised. This means that for schools with nursery provision, your overall budget share is likely to change during the year and will not be finalised until the end of the financial year.

Your School Finance Officer will support you in making provision for any estimated increase or decrease in funding as the year progresses.

The split in the number of term weeks for each financial year is calculated in line with term dates.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Summer** | **Autumn** | **Spring** |
| **2022/23** | 12 | 14 | 12 |
| **2023/24** | 12 | 15 | 11 |

The DFE have announced that LAs’ early years DSG funding rates for 2023/24 are set to increase by 27p per hour for 2 year olds and 35p per hour for 3&4 year olds. We are currently working on the early years budget setting process for 2023/24 so cannot publish the new year hourly funding rates for providers until this has been completed and been approved at Schools Forum. We will publish the new rates by the end of March 2023.

Some of this additional funding will make up part of the 5% of early years DSG that LAs can retain centrally. A decision will then be made as to whether any remaining amount will be used to raise the hourly funding rates for providers whilst maintaining the proportional split of deprivation to base rate funding for 3 & 4 year olds (as recommended by the 2018/19 Early Years review).

# The growth fund

The Growth Fund is a portion of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block which enables local authorities (LAs) to support schools with significant pupil growth which is not otherwise immediately recognised by the lagged funding system.

In Coventry the Schools Forum have chosen to use the Growth Fund to support schools to:

* + - Provide additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation. (i.e. Class Size funding)
    - Provide additional classes in agreement with the LA to meet pre-16 basic need growth. (i.e. Increasing Forms of Entry & Secondary Growth)
    - Take significant numbers of new pupils outside the usual admissions window process (i.e. In-year Admissions).

Statutorily the Growth Fund also funds any schools that are classed as ‘new & growing’ schools, whose funding allocations are then calculated based on estimated pupil numbers rather than actual pupil numbers on the previous October census.

There are three elements of Growth Fund that are relevant for primary schools:

1. **Increasing Form of Entry** funding is designed to support a school or academy that has agreed with the LA to provide an extra class from the next September to support basic need (either as a bulge class or as an on-going commitment). This funding is used in the primary sector to fund Reception & Key Stage 1 only, ensuring compliance with the Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) Regulations[[4]](#footnote-4).

Funding is allocated based on the costs of a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant from the point that the new class is required, until the school’s next budget share comes into effect.

1. **Class Size** funding is provided to a school or academy where overall pupil numbers in Reception and Key Stage 1 (as at the previous October Census) attract less funding through the budget share than is needed to notionally fund the number of classes required.

This is to ensure that schools can adhere to the Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) Regulations.

1. **In-year Admissions** funding is provided to a school or academy where it has received in-year admissions (admissions due to basic need pressure in the previous calendar year) in excess of 16.7% of its number of YR-Y11 pupils (as recorded on the most recent October census). Pupils admitted to schools through the intake of new year group classes in September shall not be classified as in-year admissions for the purposes of this fund

Funding will be provided for each in-year admission in excess of the 16.7% threshold as defined above. This allocation covers the whole financial year.

It is important to note that the operation of the individual elements of the growth fund is not guaranteed from year to year. The LA receives an allocation of growth funding from the DFE based on a formulaic approach that looks at pupil number growth in the previous year. As a result, it is possible in any year that the allocation given will not be sufficient to meet the demand.

In this case an approach has been agreed to increase various elements of the growth fund, in a specific order, so that priority is given to those elements of growth that are statutory, or where that type of growth drives the LA’s growth allocation from the DFE.

The detailed operation of each element of the growth fund, including the affordability methodology, is set out in the Schools Forum – Growth Fund report and its appendix[[5]](#footnote-5).

# Top-up funding for pupils with high needs

High Needs pupils are funded on a “Place-Plus” methodology. Under this approach schools are expected to fund the first £10k of the costs for high needs pupils from their budget share allocations – this is classed as the “Place” funding.

The Local Authority is required to fund the amount above the £10k from a centrally retained budget – this is classed as the “Plus” funding; it is referred to as High Needs top-up funding on your ‘Summary of Funding' sheet.

We are currently working on the High Needs budget setting process for 2023/24 so cannot publish the new year funding rates until this has been completed.

The funding is currently delivered through 2 banded models and is shown below at the 2022/23 funding levels:

1. A simple banded model that reflects 2 levels of need. Pupils with an EHCP equivalent to a band 5 or 6 statement are used as a proxy to delegate top-up funding to schools. The top-up funding rate for band 5 is £3,500 and for band 6 is £7,000. This is in place for pupils who were assessed prior to the revised banded model
2. A revised more sophisticated banded model which has 5 levels. New assessments will be placed on to the new model in 2023/24 along with pupils moving across at the point of annual reviews.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| M1 | £2,517 |
| M2 | £4,367 |
| M3 | £6,833 |
| M4 | £8,683 |
| M5 | £12,873 |

Top-up funding must follow real time pupil movements therefore the school’s indicative allocations will change if these pupils join/leave a school during the financial year.

The school’s indicative high needs top-up allocation is included in the Summary of Funding sheet for your reference. This is based on the number of band 5 and 6 pupils at each school at the end of the previous autumn term. This budget will be updated at the end of each term during 2023/24 to reflect actual pupil movements during that term.

# Pupil premium grant

Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is separate government grant funding and is not part of the Coventry’s Dedicated Schools Grant which provides the majority of your funding. PPG allocations are based on the national 2023/24 allocation rates set out below, and apply to pupils in years R to 11.

* + 1. £1,455 per primary pupil in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 FSM. (Increase from £1,385 in 2022/23.)
    2. £1035 per secondary pupil in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM. (Increase from £985 in 2022/23.)
    3. £335 per pupil recorded in the in year groups reception to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. (Increase from £320 in 2022/23.)
    4. £2,530 per Looked after child (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority. (Increase from £2,410 in 2022/23.)
    5. £2,530 per child Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order. (Increase from £2,410 2022/23.)

The indicative Pupil Premium allocation on your ‘Summary of Funding’ sheet includes allocations for the FSM Ever 6, Service Child and Adopted from Care PPG elements at 2023/24 unit rates, using October 2022 data.

No funding information has been provided for the ‘looked after children’ element of the Pupil Premium (see point iv above) as this funding is provided directly to you by the Looked After Children’s Education Service (LACES).

Final allocations may be different from the indicative figure given in your budget share pack and will be based on 2023/24 data once it has been checked and finalised by the DfE.

We will update the PPG allocations as soon as these are communicated to us during 2023/24.

Further information can be found on the DFE’s PPG guidance webpage[[6]](#footnote-6).

# Other grants paid by the local authority

* **Maintained Schools Additional Grant**
  + The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023 to 2024 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.
  + In the 2023 to 2024 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to schools’ allocations through the schools national funding formula.
* **Early Years Pupil Premium Grant**
  + The early year’s pupil premium (EYPP) is additional funding for early years providers to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.
  + Further information can be found on the [EYPP\_Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2023-to-2024) .
* **Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant**
  + The grant is designed to support schools in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals, meeting the school food standards, to all their pupils in year groups’ reception, year 1 and year 2.
  + Further information can be found on the [UIFSM\_Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-infant-free-school-meals-uifsm-2022-to-2023) .
* **PE & Sports Funding**
  + The grant funding is to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles.
  + Further information can be found on the [PE & Sport guidance page](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools).
* **Schools Direct** 
  + This funding is provided to schools by the National College of Teaching and Learning (NCTL) to contribute towards the costs of training teachers on Schools Direct (salaried) courses.
  + Further information can be found on the [Schools Direct guidance page](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-direct-guidance-for-lead-schools).
* **National Tutoring Programme – School Led Tuition**
  + This funding is designed to extend the catch-up opportunity to pupils whose education was impacted the most by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing access to subsidised tutoring provision to 5-16 year olds
  + Further information can be found on the [School Led Tutoring page](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1031705/School-Led_Tutoring_Guidance.pdf).
* **Recovery Premium**
  + This funding provides additional funding to help schools to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting disadvantaged pupils
  + Further information can be found on the [Recovery Premium page](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovery-premium-funding/recovery-premium-funding).

# The fair funding scheme of delegation

The fair funding scheme of delegation (FFSD) is a contract document setting out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the schools it maintains.

It sets out the financial management requirements and responsibilities of Governing Bodies and their powers to delegate some of these responsibilities to the Head Teacher or to a governors sub-committee. It also sets out rules and arrangements that schools must abide by i.e. when agreeing contracts; planning changes to the school buildings; operation of community facilities etc.

It is important that Governors and schools are aware of the contents and requirements set out in the fair funding scheme of delegation. Any proposed changes to the scheme will be set out in the annual fair funding consultation before being ratified at Schools Forum in early Spring.

A copy of the scheme can be found at <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/3436/fair_funding_scheme_of_delegation>

1. <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/3436/fair_funding_scheme_of_delegation> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/fairfundingconsultation> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/530/schools-forum> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/10/pdfs/uksi_20120010_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/530/schools-forum> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)