



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday 15th March 2022

**Update: Schools Block and Central Services Schools Block Budget
2022/23**

Agenda Item 2

Open

Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment

Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: (All Wards); All

Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services

Report Authors:

Tony Burton

Head of Finance for Children's Services and Education

Purpose of the report

This report confirms the funding allocations proposed and agreed by Schools Forum in January 2022 have now been confirmed by the ESFA (24th February 2022) and formally approved by local authority cabinet decision on 7th March 2022.

This report proposes the allocation of the available falling rolls funding agreed by Schools Forum for all mainstream schools (maintained and academy/free schools) the 2022/23 budget of £200,000 in line with funding regulations following October 2021 census and expressions of interest in support.

The proposal also notes the Local Authorities proposed deployment of the Central Services Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2022/23.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Following Schools Forum approval of the 2022/23 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) in January 2021, the budget proposals were agreed by Hammersmith and Fulham and for formal approval by Cabinet on 7th March 2022. The ESFA confirmed their approval of the APT on 24th February 2022.
- 1.2. All mainstream schools had their delegated budgets for 2022/23 (April to March) financial year confirmed by 28th February 2022.
- 1.3. Academies and Free Schools were also informed of their APT budget shares for the April 2022 to March 2023 period which is subject to recoupment by the ESFA.

- 1.4. In section 2 this paper sets out the proposed allocations of falling rolls funding yet to be distributed to mainstream schools from the agreed 2022/23 £200,000 fund.
- 1.5. In section 3 this paper sets out the proposed 2022/23 budget for the Central Services Schools Block for approval.

2. Falling Rolls Allocations Proposed

- 2.1. There is a fund of £0.200m from the 2022/23 budget with respect to roll falls between October 2020 and 2021 census dates approved at the January 2022 Schools Forum.
- 2.2. ESFA guidance states that the local authority may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls where local planning data shows that surplus places will be needed within the next three years.
- 2.3. The ESFA advise that the allocation of falling rolls funding should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.
- 2.4. The criteria agreed for the 2022/23 falling rolls funds are detailed below:
 - The fund is available to all mainstream schools (maintained, Academy and Free Schools) subject to the points below
 - Key trigger point is reached for falling rolls support. The fall in roll is more than 3% year on year.
 - An Ofsted category of Good or Outstanding (Mandatory per the regulations)

Plus any of the following where the school can evidence the impact on the School and the actions taken to adjust to a lower role or clear plan to recover the roll based on clear planning data agreed by the LA:

- surplus capacity exceeds a minimum number of pupils, or a percentage of the published admission number
- local planning data shows a requirement for a minimum percentage of the surplus places within the next three years
- formula funding available to the school will not support provision of an appropriate curriculum for the existing cohort
- the school will need to make redundancies in order to contain spending within its formula budget

2.5. Schools were asked for applications for falling rolls funding as part of the November schools budget consultation. The following schools applied and meet the criteria in paragraph 2.4. and are shown in the table below with proposed allocations.

Falling Rolls allocation of available funding from 2022/23 Schools Block £200,000

Eligibility

OFSTED - good or outstanding

Fall in roll between October 2020 and October 2021 over 3%

Eligible Schools

	<u>loss over 3%</u>	<u>No of Pupils</u>	<u>allocation</u>
ADDISON PRIMARY SCHOOL	-7.95%	-21.78	21,362.37
ALL SAINTS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL	-5.54%	-11.03	10,818.50
Ark Bentworth Primary Academy	-0.87%	-1.57	1,539.90
Ark Swift Primary Academy	-6.79%	-13.18	12,927.27
BRACKENBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL	-5.24%	-19.72	19,341.87
Flora Gardens School	-6.29%	-11.51	11,289.29
HOLY CROSS RC PRIMARY	-1.40%	-8.27	8,111.42
Kenmont Primary School	-3.32%	-6.3	6,179.20
OLD OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL	-7.41%	-16.37	16,056.10
S. Johns Walham Green CE	-0.76%	-2.62	2,569.76
Sir John Lillie	-1.17%	-3.08	3,020.94
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	-4.18%	-7.57	7,424.84
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary Sc	-18.99%	-36.27	35,574.52
SULIVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL	-6.13%	-12.76	12,515.33
WENDELL PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	-6.49%	-23.93	23,471.14
WORMHOLT PARK SCHOOL	-2.37%	-7.95	7,797.56
Total		-203.91	200,000.00

2.6. The method used fully allocates the £200,000 budget with an amount per pupil for the pupil fall above the 3% threshold between October 2020 and October 2021 census points.

2.7. *Schools Forum are asked to agree the proposed allocations and agree payment of the allocations proposed in April 2022.*

3. Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) Budget 2022/23

3.1. In 2022/23 there is no change to the arrangements for Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) of the DSG. The CSSB allocation for 2022/23 provides funding for:

- The retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) for all schools

- Ongoing central statutory functions – for example Admissions – for maintained schools
- Ongoing historic commitments.

3.2. *Schools Forum are asked to approve the recommended Central Services Schools Block budget for 2022/23 totalling £2.817m below and as approved by Cabinet on 7th March 2022.*

Central Services Planned Expenditure 2022/23

Area of Expenditure	2022/23 Proposed
	£m
Copyright Licensing	0.110
Asset Management, Place Planning and Strategic Operations	0.165
Management, Support, Finance/Business Intelligence and SACRE	0.529
Virtual School	0.106
Professional Development Centre/Learning Partnership	0.060
Admissions and ACE	0.528
Contingency to support High Needs Transformation	1.319
Total Spend/Funding	2.817

3.3. The historic element of CSSB funding has reduced by £0.496m in the year to 2022/23. A balanced budget has been proposed for 2022/23. £1.319m of the Historic Allocation is proposed to support High Needs expenditure in 2022/23 as part of the Safety Valve agreement with the Department of Education (DfE). It is assumed that this contribution to the High Needs Block will reduce over the medium term as the historic CSSB funding continues to be wound down by the DfE.

3.4. The Education and Skills Funding Agency is expected to confirm further block funding reductions from 2023/24 late in the Summer Term 2022. The Hammersmith and Fulham Education Department will be exploring budget options for 2023/24 in order to mitigate expected further block reductions.

Report End