

## Schools Forum

### School Specific Contingencies

23 January 2007

**Members of the Schools Forum are requested to reach a decision on the issues contained in this paper**

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the Schools Forum to use school specific contingency funds in relation to Woodlands Primary School.

#### 2. Woodlands Primary School

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the chair of Woodlands Primary Schools finance committee wrote to Education Walsall pointing out a mistake on the 2006 PLASC return. The number of children taking free school meals (FSM) had been recorded as 2, whereas the actual figure was 51.

The use of FSM as an indicator in Walsall's funding formula influences the amount of money schools receive in deprivation funding. The discrepancy in the figures for the school sums to £14k.

Plasc returns are made by schools, not by Education Walsall. Initial returns are checked, before they are passed on to the DfES. Schools normally prepare several versions of the PLASC return before a final version is agreed. Investigation of the AVCO transfer log has shown that version 10 was filed to DfES for the 2006 PLASC.

Version 10 contained inaccurate information about FSM uptake. The school did submit version 12 by the due date and version 12 contained accurate information. Unfortunately version 12 was not submitted to DfES.

#### 3. Recommendation

Members of the Schools Forum are recommended to approve a payment of £14,000 to Woodlands School. Funding for the payment can be contained within original estimates.



