

SCHOOL FORUM

Item

Members of the School Forum are requested to consider and make a decision on
proposal of this report

At the March 2008 Schools Forum meeting, Education Walsall presented proposed plans for the Harnessing Technology ICT standards fund.

Following that agreement, and the calculation and allocation of funding to schools, further guidance was received from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the summer that academies should also receive funding at the same calculation.

Following receipt of pupil numbers from Walsall Academy, we therefore need to allocate an amount of £10,955.44 to them.

As all funding for 2008-09 has already been allocated, it is proposed that the amount for the academy is funded by a reduction in the e-safety project that was previously agreed.

Due to a number of new regional and national initiatives that have been announced since the March meeting of Schools Forum, we have been able to obtain e-safety materials from other sources at lower cost than expected.

On the same basis, we would also like to propose that a further £40k of the funding allocated to e-safety is reallocated for the replacement of Proxy Servers within Primary, Nursery and Special schools.

The existing servers are now approaching 5 years old, are out of warranty and the supply of replacement parts has now become scarce and expensive. These devices would previously have been replaced using the Broadband standards fund, as happened with the equivalent in Secondary schools, but all ICT funding has now been amalgamated into Harnessing Technology funding. An alternative would be to fund through increases in the cost of the traded service to schools.

Recommendation

The funding is approved as above.

It is currently anticipated that the grant in year 2 and 3 will be allocated to schools using the same basis as for 2008/2009 and the centrally retained element will continue to be 25% plus additional for specific projects. These projects will enable us to respond to initiatives as they develop.