

School Forum

11 October 2016

Review of Schools funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2016/17

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek agreement on the funding factors to be used in the Walsall Schools Funding Formula 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 In line with the discussion that took place at the Schools Forum meeting of 20 September 2016, Schools Forum are recommended to agree that the factors utilised within the local funding formula for mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2017/18 are not changed from those currently in place.
- 2.2 Schools Forum are asked to note that this recommendation will then be reported to Cabinet on 26 October 2016 to seek their approval.

3. Background

- 3.1 Historically all local authorities have been required to submit their Authority Pro-forma Tool to the Department for Education (DfE) by the 31st October each year. The pro-forma provides details on the funding formula the authority will use to allocate funding to its mainstream schools and academies in the next financial year. The October pro-forma is indicative only, in so far as the previous October's pupil data will be used initially, with the current census pupil data being used for the final January 2016 submission (once this is available).
- 3.2 It should be noted that although final allocations will be calculated using up to date data, that once the October submission has been returned no variations to the funding factors identified can be made i.e. no further optional factors can be added or removed.
- 3.3 The direction from the EFA is quite clear in that the local authority proposes and ultimately decides on the funding formula, however Schools Forum must be consulted (and the Department for Education can carry out checks to ensure that this consultation has taken place). Where there are any proposed changes to the local funding formula the Local Authority must consult with all maintained schools and academies in their area.
- 3.4 The DfE undertook a consultation in March 2016 regarding changes to the way that funding for Schools will be allocated nationally going forward, seeking to revise the factors that can be utilised when then allocating this funding locally, and seeking to move to funding being allocated directly to schools within the next 4 years (rather than via the local authority).

3.5 The detail on the consultation can be found at the following link:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula>

3.6 The consultation set out a planned implementation date for these changes of April 2017, however the DfE has since confirmed that, to allow it to consider fully the responses to the consultation, the implementation date would be moved back to April 2018.

3.7 As such, the Council believes that it would be unwise to make changes to the current local schools funding formula for 2017/18 given that further significant changes will then be required when the national funding formula commences in 2018/19.

3.8 It is therefore recommended that Schools Forum approve that a 2017/18 local Schools Funding Formula is prepared on the basis of no changes to the existing formula.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The exact financial impact on individual schools cannot be predicted at this time. This will become during the spring term once funding calculations have been modelled based on updated pupil data. However any overall impact will need to be contained within the funding that is available within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The review of the schools funding formula for primary and secondary schools should ensure that all requirements, as determined by The Schools and Early Years Funding regulations, are adhered to.

5.2 Where there are any proposed changes to the local funding formula the Local Authority must consult with all maintained schools and academies in their area.

6. School Improvement

6.1 As part of making any decisions regarding possible changes to the funding formula, Schools Forum should consider the potential impact on the desired outcomes of the Walsall school improvement programme.

7. Members eligible to vote

7.1 All elected members with voting rights are eligible to vote on this matter.

Detail of funding formula allocation factors for 2017/18 with current unit values

Factor		Indicator / Criteria / Data		£ Unit / multiplier	
Basic Entitlement (AWPU) excluding distribution of one off surpluses	mandatory	October 2016 census		Primary	2,913.09
				Secondary	4,387.70
Deprivation - Primary	mandatory	via Free School Meal %		1,241.85	
		The IDACI score has been matched, by DfE, to pupil records where the pupil's postcode is known and then placed into six bands. Only pupils with an IDACI score above 0.2 can be funded.	0.2 < 0.25	Band 1	222.82
			0.25 < 0.3	Band 2	272.34
			0.3 < 0.4	Band 3	346.61
			0.4 < 0.5	Band 4	445.64
			0.5 < 0.6	Band 5	544.67
			0.6 < 1	Band 6	792.25
Deprivation - Secondary	mandatory	via Free School Meal %		1,490.22	
		The IDACI score has been matched, by DfE, to pupil records where the pupil's postcode is known and then placed into six bands. Only pupils with an IDACI score above 0.2 can be funded.	0.2 < 0.25	Band 1	267.39
			0.25 < 0.3	Band 2	326.81
			0.3 < 0.4	Band 3	415.94
			0.4 < 0.5	Band 4	534.78
			0.5 < 0.6	Band 5	653.62
			0.6 < 1	Band 6	950.72
Lump Sum		Maximum allowable		175,000	
Low Attainment	optional	<p>EYFSP and Key Stage 2 results are used as indicators for low cost, high incidence SEN.</p> <p><i>In primary</i> – Total of EYFSP score mapped to census for pupils in years 1,2,3,4 & 5.</p> <p>Yrs 1-2 the % pupils not achieving good level of development</p> <p>Yrs 3-5 the % pupils scoring below 78 points on EYFSP</p> <p><i>In secondary</i> – Total of pupils achieving level 3 or below in either English or Maths</p>		214.9979	
Looked After Children	optional	Number of Looked After pupil as at March 2016 mapped to Jan '16 census.		1,406.00	

English as Second Language	optional	Pupils whose language is not English and who appear on the school census for the first, second or third year.	438.85
Business Rates	optional	Rateable value of premises as at Jan.'17, with discretionary relief applied where appropriate.	0.493
Split Site – fixed sum	optional	A separate site is recognised either where a single school occupies more than one building separated by a public highway or following an amalgamation of two schools where the new school continues to use the two former sites and have two entrances e.g. one for infant pupils and one for junior pupils, thus necessitating two reception & admin areas.	16,615
Premise Rental	exceptional circumstances	An exceptional factor approved by DfE to fund one primary school for the premise rental charged by the diocese of the school	38,000