

# eNewsletter

• Issue 9 • October 2024 •

# Lancashire

Schools  
Forum



## Schools Forum October 2024

*Welcome to Issue 9, a post-Forum Edition of the Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter.*

### Scheme for Financing Schools in Lancashire

Following a consultation with all schools, the Scheme for Financing Schools in Lancashire has been finalised by Schools Forum on 16 October 2024 and is published [here](#). The main changes to the scheme from previous years reflect the introduction of the International Financial Reporting Standard 16 by DfE. The Authority has also streamlined the document and made a small number of amendments.

### Comparing Maintained and Academy Budgets

Funding for maintained schools and academies are calculated using the same National Funding Formula. The local authority does not retain any amount from individual school's budget allocations ("top slicing").

The key difference between maintained and academy schools' budgets are de-delegations, which all mainstream maintained schools are consulted on and then agreed by the Schools Forum annually. To note, de-delegations, as outlined below, are not available for academies, who may need to consider the costs of funding these services through their academy funding.

### National News

Due to the timing of the general election, the publication of the notional schools and high needs national funding formula (NFF) allocations for 2025 to 2026 has been delayed. In recent announcements, the ESFA aim to publish notional NFF allocations for schools and all supporting documents on the NFF (including the schools operational guide and NFF technical note) for 2025 to 2026 as soon as possible following the budget announcement on 30 October 2024. The dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations will then be published in December 2024.

### De-delegations Consultation 2025/26

Due to the delayed ESFA funding announcements, the Schools Funding Arrangements and De-delegation Consultation is postponed. The proposed service de-delegations are as follows:



- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions
- Heritage Learning Service (Museum Service) - Primary Schools Only
- Schools Requiring additional Support
- Primary Inclusion Hubs - Primary Schools Only
- Children's Champions

There are no changes to the service offers since 2024/25. The consultation will be issued to all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools once the ESFA have finalised the Core Schools Budget.

## Local News

Starting in the autumn, the Schools Financial Service will be offering a series of short webinars, briefing on a wide variety of topics.

The outline for the autumn term is shown below.

- Thursday 31st October, 10:00-10:30 - Overview of Schools Funding
- Tuesday 26th November, 10:00-10:30 - Managing Balances

Please use this link to book a place [Schools Finance Webinar Series - Autumn Term 2024 \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](#)

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Clawback at March 2025

In July 2024, the Lancashire Schools Forum voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2025.

The Clawback Policy can be found on the [Schools Forum Website](#).

## Forum Membership October 2024

The latest membership list can be found [here](#).

## School Forum Meetings

Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 October are now available [here](#).

The meeting schedule is published on the Schools Forum website and can be found [here](#). If you wish to attend as an observer, please contact the Schools Forum Officer by email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk).

## Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Millie Parkinson, Forum Officer, 01772 534844, or email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk)

