

SPECIFIC APPROVALS NEEDED FROM THE SCHOOLS FORUM

The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations require certain proposals by the Local Authority relating to the Schools Budget to be approved by the Schools Forum.

An indication of the specific proposals that have previously been considered and approved by the Forum is included together with proposals now put forward that require approval.

Function	LA proposals 2025/26	Proposed Expenditure: 2025/26 £m
Consultation on Formula Changes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No local formula factor changes are proposed for 2025/26 in any funding block, beyond incorporating the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) alterations into the local Schools Block formula 	The Forum have previously agreed to use the DfE's NFF as the Lancashire funding formula for the Schools Block budget, and NFF updates for 2025/26 introduced by the DfE are incorporated in the Schools Budget proposals for 2025/26	
De-delegation for mainstream schools	LA proposals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Requiring additional Support Museum service (primary only); Staff Costs Public duties/Suspensions; Primary Inclusion Hubs (primary only); Childrens Champions Approved by the Schools Forum on 3 December 2024	2.272
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	No Proposals currently	
Financial issues relating to:		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding 	Proposals contained in the High Needs Block Working Group recommendations report to the Forum and the Forum budget papers	139.959
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding 	Proposals contained in the High Needs Block Working Group recommendations report to the Forum and the Forum budget papers	13.927
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for early years provision 	Proposals contained in the Early Years Block Working Group report to the Forum and the Forum budget papers	199.904
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants 	No Proposals at this time beyond passporting DfE allocations to schools	
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Consultation responses on MFG reported to Forum on 3 December 2024 and recommended that the level of MFG to be used in the Lancashire funding formula for 2025/26 be set at +0.0%. This is incorporated into the Forum budget papers	
General Duties for maintained schools Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools	No Proposals at this time	
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy 	Policy previously agreed by the Schools Forum. Proposal to increase the growth fund unit values in line with increased NFF Minimum Pupil Funding levels each year Final budget proposals are contained in the Schools Budget 2025/26 report	1.5000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 	No Proposals at this time	
Central spend on:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early years block provision 	Final budget proposals are contained in the Schools Budget 2025/26 report	1.65
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • back-pay for equal pay claims 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • admissions 	Final budget proposals are contained in the Schools Budget 2025/26 report	0.868
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • servicing of schools forum 	Final budget proposals are contained in the Schools Budget 2025/26 report	0.188
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools 	No Proposals at this time	
Central spend on:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capital expenditure funded from revenue: projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribution to combined budgets: this is where the schools forum agreed prior to 	No Proposals at this time	

April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	No Proposals at this time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEN transport where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget (this is now treated as part of the high needs block but still requires schools forum approval as a historic commitment) 	No Proposals at this time	
Central spend on:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high needs block provision 	2025/26 funding level presented as part of the Schools Budget setting proposals	54.464
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	2025/26 funding level presented as part of the Schools Budget setting proposals	1.210
Funding of brought forward deficits	No Proposals at this time	