



Schools Forum January 2025

Welcome to Issue 10, a pre-Forum Edition of the Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter.

School Funding Arrangements 2025/26

Following the publication of the [Schools Operational Guide for 2025/26](#) on 28 November, the DFE have announced key changes to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2025/26, which are detailed below:

- Rolling the 2024 to 2025 teachers' pay additional grant, the teachers' pensions employer contribution grant 2024, and the core schools budget grant (CSBG) into the NFF.
- Increases to NFF factor values (on top of the amounts added for the TPAG, TPECG and annualised CSBG), as can be afforded following the settlement of the core schools budget for 2025 to 2026.
- Amendments to the private finance initiative (PFI) factor.
- Technical changes to the split sites factor.
- The High Needs Block funding floor is set at 7%.
- The High Needs Block gains limit is set at 10%.

Minimum pupil funding (MPF) levels for primary and secondary schools for 2025/26 are also confirmed as the following:

- For primary schools, the MPF level will be £4,955 per pupil in 2025/26 compared to £4,610 per pupil in 2024/25.
- For secondary schools, the MPF level will be £6,465 per pupil from 2025/26 compared to £5,995 per pupil in 2024/25.

Minimum Funding Guarantee and De-delegations Consultation 2025/26

The autumn term consultation also sought views on the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to be applied in Lancashire for 2025/26.

Consultation responses favoured the proposal to provide the maximum level of protection allowable by the DfE from April 2025 and supported the MFG being set at 0.0%. The MFG figure will be used in the finalising 2025/26 school budgets in Lancashire, which will be issued in February 2025.

Additionally, following the consultation process, the Schools Forum decided that the following services would continue to be de-delegated in 2025/26 in primary and secondary schools:



- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions; (in line with consultation responses, this de-delegation will continue using the same policy as 2024/25)
- Heritage Learning Service (Primary Schools Only)
- Schools Requiring additional Support
- Inclusion Hubs (Primary Schools Only)
- Children's Champions

These services will be offered as group buy backs to schools in other phases, as appropriate.

167 responses were received in the recent de-delegation and MFG consultation. The Schools Forum would like to pass on a big thank you to all the schools that responded, as these views are crucial in assisting the Forum in making de-delegation decisions.

Local News

The Schools Financial Service are offering a series of short webinars, briefing on a wide variety of topics. The outline and Teams links for the Spring term is shown below.

- [Wednesday 29th January, 10:00-10:30](#) – Year End/Budget Setting Responsibilities and Expectations
- [Tuesday 4th February, 13:30-14:30](#) – Introduction to Schools Finance for Headteachers
- [Thursday 6th February, 10:00-11:00](#) – Introduction to Schools Finance for School Bursars/School Business Managers
- [Thursday 27th February, 10:00-10:30](#) – What is Schools Forum?
- [Tuesday 18th March, 10:00-10:30](#) – Financial Management System: Good Practice

Clawback at March 2025

In July 2024, the Lancashire Schools Forum voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2025. The deadline for requesting clawback exemptions has now passed.

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

Forum Membership January 2025

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



School Forum Meetings

The next Schools Forum meeting is to be held on 10 January, the agenda and items 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 by email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk.

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

