

Schools Funding Forum 18th January 2017

ITEM 4

Subject Heading:

Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium

Report Author:

David Allen – Strategic Finance Manager

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This item follows a request from a secondary academy to bring to the attention of the Schools Funding Forum the difficulties caused by the DFE's mechanism for allocating the Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium to secondary schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report and consider a response to the academy that raised the issue.

REPORT DETAIL

In previous years, secondary schools have been allocated the Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium based on the pupils on roll at the October school census and recorded in the most recent key stage 2 assessment data as not having achieved level 4, 5 or 6 in reading or mathematics. £500 was allocated for each eligible pupil.

In 2016 to 2017 schools will receive the same overall amount of year 7 catch-up premium funding they received in 2015 to 2016, adjusted to reflect the percentage change in the size of their year 7 cohort, based on the October 2016 census. For some schools the numbers of pupils meeting the criteria for catch up has increased considerably and they therefore have to provide for more pupils without an increase in funding.

To manage this situation some schools are therefore applying a lower threshold to ensure the grant is directed to pupils with the greatest need.

In terms of the main school formula funding, attainment at key stage 2 is taken into account in the prior attainment factor that allocates funding to schools.