

Schools Funding Forum 30th November 2023

ITEM 7

Subject Heading: Key Stage 2 – admission of additional nunils

Report Author:

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Eligibility to vote: All school and academy members

SUMMARY

This report outlines the position regarding funding for Key Stage 2 admissions that take a school above the Published Admission Number (PAN), and the permitted use of Dedicated Schools Grant funding received for growth

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

(i) notes the report

REPORT DETAIL

Background

In February 2018 the Schools Forum considered funding in respect of infant class sizes. Infant classes are restricted to 30 pupils except in limited circumstances. These include admitting children who move into the area outside of the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance.

The Forum agreed that where schools were required to admit additional pupils that would take them above 30 in a class they should receive funding to meet the cost of additional teaching assistant support across the year group concerned. This would

come from the funding received for growth and falling rolls. Currently if schools are asked by the School Admissions Team to admit an infant pupil and this takes them above PAN, and above 30 in a class, they receive £100 for each day that the year group is above PAN.

Permitted use of funding received for growth

The use of funding received for growth is restricted by the DfE. The permitted uses are:

- (i) supporting pupil number adjustments to meet basic need
- (ii) supporting the need to meet the infant class size regulation
- (iii) meeting the revenue costs of new schools

The current arrangement is justified as supporting the need to meet the infant class size regulation.

Funding for additional pupils at Key Stage 2

With a shortage of places in certain year groups in parts of the borough, schools are increasingly being asked to admit pupils above the level of PAN at Key Stage 2. The shortages of places is most acute in current Year 3.

A number of schools have queried why the funding given for infant years cannot be extended to Key Stage 2. This cannot be done as it does not meet any of the permitted uses of funding for growth shown above.