



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# **Schools block funding allocations 2017 to 2018**

**Publication of schools block funding  
allocations to schools and academies**

**October 2017**

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## Introduction

In April 2017, the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published details of local authorities' [schools block funding formulae for the 2017 to 2018 financial year](#).

This new report presents data giving the schools block allocations to each individual maintained school for financial year 2017 to 2018, and academy for academic year 2017 to 2018, under these funding formulae. A detailed data file accompanies this report and contains these figures. The schools included in this dataset are all maintained schools and academies in England funded through the schools block. Schools not funded through the schools block, including special schools, special academies, alternative provision and hospital schools, are not included.

The allocations shown relate only to schools block funding, and don't include funding that maintained schools and academies may additionally receive for early years pupils, pupils in high needs units or resourced provision, or post-16 funding. For academies the data also doesn't include some additional funding they receive direct from ESFA, such as start-up grants. Academies shown are as at 31 March 2017.

## Other related publications

The statistical release '[planned local authority and school expenditure: 2017 to 2018 financial year](#)' was published on 21 September.

This provides a summary of the planned expenditure by local authorities on a range of services relating to schools, education, children and young people's services and social care for the financial year 2017 to 2018. The figures in that release include information from all 152 local authorities in England. The data is returned to the Department for Education by local authorities via the well established section 251 budget return, part of local authorities' requirements under the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

It includes aggregate information on the funding of local authority maintained schools as well as Individual School Budget figures for recoupment academies. The funding to mainstream schools shown in the two publications doesn't match exactly, for a number of reasons. Primarily, this is due to the data being collected at different times, and that the Section 251 data relates to the financial year whereas the academy data shown in this publication is for the academic year. Also, the Section 251 data covers the budgets that academies would have received were they maintained schools, while this publication shows the budgets they actually received.

We've also recently released '[national funding formula tables for schools and high needs](#)'. It should be noted that the figures published here may not match the 2017 to 2018 school level baselines. When calculating 2017 to 2018 school level baselines for the national funding formula (NFF), we made adjustments to schools' actual 2017 to

2018 funding allocations. A technical adjustment was made to reflect how funding for pupils in special units or resourced provision in mainstream schools will be counted under the new NFF arrangements. The adjustment ensured funding is added to the school's baseline where there are pupils at the school in special units or resourced provision. Also, an adjustment was made to remove any one-off funding that the relevant local authority confirmed is included in the school's baseline (such as funding from the authority's reserves). We received this information from local authorities through the 2017 to 2018 baselines exercise.

ESFA is also publishing figures providing information on funding allocated to colleges, providers, schools and academies for [16-19 education for academic year 2017 to 2018](#).

## Information about the data file

This document describes the information contained in each column of the accompanying data file. Please note that the funding amounts shown for maintained schools relate to financial year 2017 to 2018, while for academies they relate to the academic year 2017 to 2018.

### Front sheet page

The “front sheet” page allows the schools block funding given to a single maintained school in financial year 2017 to 2018, or academy in the academic year 2017 to 2018 (these two funding periods are collectively referred to as 2017 to 2018 in the rest of this document), to be displayed on the screen, broken down by the main elements comprising that funding amount. Click on the shaded cell C3 near the top of the page, and then type in the LAEtab number of a school or academy to see its schools block funding total and breakdown.

### “ISB Aggregation data” page

The “ISB Aggregation data” page gives the funding values for each mainstream maintained school and academy with schools block pupils. This section provides a description of all the columns displayed. You can read more detailed information about the [formula factors that local authorities can use for distributing their schools block](#).

The information shown in the column “Academy?” indicates academy status as at 31 March 2017.

### Basic entitlement total funding

Basic entitlement is a mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2017 to 2018 formula. Local authorities are permitted to choose different age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) rates for primary pupils, for key stage 3 pupils and for key stage 4 pupils. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the basic entitlement factor.

### Deprivation total funding

This is another mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2017 to 2018 formula. Local authorities can use two deprivation indicators: children eligible for free school meals (FSM) (FSM which could be either straight FSM or Ever 6) or Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) data, or both. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the deprivation factor.

## **Looked after children (LAC) total funding**

Use of the LAC factor in funding formulae is optional, and 87 local authorities have chosen to use it. For the 2017 to 2018, the indicator used is the number of children looked after for any period of time as at the March 2016 SSDA903 data collection. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the looked-after children factor.

## **English as an additional language (EAL) total funding**

Use of the EAL factor is optional and 139 local authorities have chosen to use it. Local authorities could choose one of three indicators for this factor: the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in either the last one, two or three years. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under this factor.

## **Mobility total funding**

This is another optional factor, and 67 of the 152 local authorities have chosen to use it in their schools block funding formula. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under this factor.

## **Prior attainment total funding**

Use of this factor is optional. Some 144 local authorities use the indicator for primary pupils and 149 use the indicator for secondary pupils. **3** are not using this factor at all.

For primary pupils, the indicator is the number of children in year 1 to 4 assessed under the new early years foundation stage profile as not achieving a good level of development, and the number in years 5 to 6 not achieving 73 points or more or 78 points or more (authorities could pick between whether to use the 73 or 78-point indicator) under the old profile.

For secondary pupils the indicator is the number of pupils in year 7 achieving a scaled score of 100 or more in reading and mathematics tests, and a teacher assessment outcome of 'reaching the expected standard' or 'working at a greater depth' in writing plus the number of pupils in years 8 to 11 who fail to achieve level 4 or above in either English or mathematics at key stage 2. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the prior attainment factor.

## **Lump sum total funding**

Local authorities could use this factor to allocate a lump sum to schools. Separate lump sums could be specified for primary schools and for secondary schools, up to a maximum of £175,000 in each case. Schools which were due to open or close during the

year received a proportion of the specified amount commensurate to the proportion of the year for which they were open. Schools which were formed from an amalgamation of two or more others during the previous year could be given additional lump sum funding up to 85% of the amount that would have been received in aggregate by its predecessors. The lump sum is an optional factor, but all have chosen to include this factor in their funding formula. This column shows the lump sum funding received by each school and academy.

## **Sparsity total funding**

This factor was introduced in the 2014 to 2015 funding formulae. Whether a school is deemed to be sparse depends on two considerations: its “sparsity distance” and its number of pupils. More information can be found in the [schools block funding formulae 2017 to 2018](#). An individual school can receive sparsity funding up to a maximum of £100,000. Some 25 local authorities chose to use sparsity in their formula. This column shows the sparsity funding received by each school and academy.

## **London fringe**

There are five local authorities (Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex) who have some, but not all, of their schools within the London fringe area. The London fringe factor gave them flexibility to reflect the higher teacher cost in these schools. This column shows the additional London fringe funding received by affected schools and academies.

## **Split site total funding**

Local authorities could specify a means of providing additional funding for schools that operate on split sites, which often face higher running costs as a result of, for example, the cost of travel between sites and the care and maintenance of two (or more) sites. This column shows the split site funding received by each school and academy.

## **Rates**

Schools and academies should be funded for rates based on the actual cost incurred. For maintained schools, this column shows the funding received by each school for the payment of rates. For academies, the amount of funding for rates is not known by the ESFA at this stage until all have submitted a claim, and so the figures are estimated. For academies, the figures shown are expected rates payments as provided to ESFA by local authorities.

## **PFI total funding**

This column shows the funding received by each school and academy for PFI charges.

## **Exceptional factors total funding**

ESFA has discretion to consider allowing local authorities to provide in their formulae funding under exceptional factors relating to premises such as listed buildings, buildings that are rented or boarding provision. They must apply to less than 5% of the schools in the local authority and account for more than 1% of the budget of the school or schools affected. This column shows the funding received by each school and academy under approved exceptional circumstances.

## **Total Schools Block Allocation (pre MFG)**

This column shows the total funding allocated to each school and academy purely under the formula factors listed above.

## **MFG protection (positive) or capping and scaling (negative)**

The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next and for 2017 to 2018 has been set at -1.5%. Some schools required additional funding, over and above the amounts derived through their basic schools block formula factors, to ensure this condition is met. In addition, local authorities are allowed to set capping and/or scaling factors to ensure that the amount of funding allocated through their formula (and including any additional funding to ensure the MFG is met) fits within the total schools block funding available to them.

A positive number in this column of the table indicates the amount of MFG funding received by a school or academy. A negative number indicates the reduction in funding applied to a school or academy, compared to the amount derived through their basic schools block formula factors, as a result of the application of capping and scaling.

Any school requiring further funding in addition to that specified by a local authority's basic formula in order to meet the MFG will not be subject to capping and scaling reductions; and capping and scaling reductions cannot take a school or academy's funding below the requirements of the MFG.

## **Total schools block allocation (post MFG)**

This column shows the total schools block funding allocated to each school and academy, after the addition of any MFG funding and the application of capping and scaling factors.

## **Total number of pupils**

This column shows each school and academy's number of schools block pupils. This excludes any early years pupils attending these institutions and pupils in high needs units, who are funded by the DSG early years block and high needs block respectively.



## **Allocation per pupil**

This column shows the total schools block funding allocated to each school and academy (as shown in the total schools block allocation (post MFG) column) divided by the total number of schools block pupils.

Those with a particularly low allocation per pupil will usually be primary schools with a low deprivation factor, low numbers of pupils with English as a second language and good levels of attainment.

Those with a high allocation per pupil are small schools with relatively few pupils. In this situation, the lump sum, which does not depend on the number of pupils attending, constitutes a large proportion of their schools block formula allocation, and so their per-pupil funding level is high as a result.

## Data suppression and rounding

For the pupil-led factors, funding allocation amounts to individual schools are suppressed where the factor is present in the relevant local authority's formula and the number of eligible pupils is small, to protect confidentiality. Suppressed values are shown in the accompanying data file by an asterisk, and the figures deducted from the totals so that they cannot be deduced. Specifically, the pupil counts where suppression has been applied for each factor are:

- deprivation: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils, and the local authority has used only the FSM or FSM Ever 6 indicators and not IDACI in their formula
- prior attainment: where funding is based on a count of fewer than three pupils
- looked-after children: where funding is based on a count of fewer than six pupils
- English as an additional language: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils
- mobility: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils

All unsuppressed values are rounded to the nearest £1,000, with all non-zero funding amounts below £1,000 rounded up to £1,000.



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