Summary

This House of Commons debate pack briefing provides information and material in anticipation of the debate, entitled “School Funding in the North East of England” and sponsored by Mrs Sharon Hodgson, which will take place on Wednesday 26th April at 9.30am in Westminster Hall.

The Government is planning to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) to calculate the amount of core revenue funding that mainstream schools in England will attract in respect of primary and secondary (but not sixth form) pupils. There will be separate formulas to calculate early years funding and high need funding (largely this is for high-cost provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities), as well as for some services still centrally provided by local authorities. The NFF is due to be introduced in as a ‘soft’ format in 2018-19 and a ‘hard’ format from 2019-20. The Government has consulted on the weightings in the NFF, and its phased introduction. The second round of consultations closed on 22 March 2017.

According to Government figures, schools in most constituencies in the North East of England are expected to see relatively small increases in funding under the consultation proposals. The main exceptions are South Shields, the Newcastle constituencies and Jarrow which would see increases of more than 2.5%. Overall five constituencies would see falls under the proposals, the largest of which is Hartlepool at 1.4%.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.
1. Background

1.1 School funding reform in England – a planned national funding formula

The Government is planning to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) to calculate the amount of core revenue funding that mainstream schools in England will attract in respect of primary and secondary (but not sixth form) pupils.

Currently, local authority areas get different amounts of money per pupil in the Schools Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant. They then draw up their own local funding formulas to share the money out between schools, although they have to do this following Department for Education guidance.

The briefing paper School funding in England. Current system and proposals for ‘fairer school funding’, SN 06702, gives much more background to the proposed changes.

1.2 What is the national funding formula (NFF) and how will it work?

This is the formula that will be used to calculate and distribute core revenue funding for mainstream schools in England.

There will be separate formulas to calculate early years funding and high need funding (largely this is for high-cost provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities), as well as for some services still centrally provided by local authorities.

As well as money from the NFF, schools will also get income from other sources, including: the Pupil Premium which will remain outside of the NFF; 16-19 funding if they have a sixth form; early years funding if they have nursery classes; voluntary contributions and fundraising, to varying degrees; and capital funding for maintenance, renovations and new places, where appropriate.

1.3 When is the formula due to be introduced?

The NFF is due to be introduced in as a ‘soft’ format in 2018-19 and a ‘hard’ format from 2019-20. In 2018-19, the formula will be used to work out how much funding a school should attract. This will then be aggregated up to local authority level and distributed according to a local authority-determined funding formula, as now. From 2019-20 the
formula would be used to calculate schools’ core revenue funding directly, and the role of the local authority in deciding how funding is shared out would be significantly reduced.

The Government has consulted on the weightings in the NFF, and its phased introduction. The second round of consultations closed on 22 March 2017.

The schools Minister, Nick Gibb, has stated that the final formula will be announced in the summer.¹

1.4 Potential impact of the NFF

The DfE says that as a result of its proposals:

- 54% of schools would be funded at a higher level than in 2016-17. Around three quarters of those gaining would see an increase of up to 5.5% per pupil.
- The remaining quarter of ‘gainers’ are due greater increases and consequently would take longer to attain their ‘target rates’.
- 46% of all schools would be funded at a lower level. For the majority of these schools, the reduction would be between 1-3% per pupil.

Groups of schools the DfE says are more likely to gain are:

- Schools with low prior attainment.
- Schools with pupils who live in areas with above average levels of deprivation but who have not been heavily targeted through historic funding decisions.
- Schools in areas where funding levels have historically been low – but not every school in historically ‘low funded’ areas and not every ‘low funded’ area.
- Small rural schools.

The DfE says that the main group of schools likely to see reductions are:

Those in Inner London and some other urban areas that have particularly benefitted from historic funding decisions and where underlying levels of deprivation have fallen over recent years […]

The main reason that this formula would reduce funding to schools in these areas is that we are using the most recent data about relative levels of socio-economic deprivation.²

1.5 Cost pressures and the wider school funding context

On 14 December 2016, the National Audit Office (NAO) published a report on the financial sustainability of schools in England.

This said that mainstream schools, overall, would need to find £3 billion of efficiency savings by 2019-20. This equated to a net real-terms reduction in per-pupil funding of around 8% for mainstream schools between 2014-15 and 2019-20. The NAO reported that:

¹ PQ 69731, 18 April 2017
² Department for Education, Schools national funding formula. Government consultation - stage 2, 14 December 2016, p52
• The overall schools budget overall is protected in real terms between 2015-16 and 2019-20, but this does not provide for funding per pupil to increase in line with inflation.
• This is partly because pupil numbers will rise significantly over the same period, and partly because schools are facing cumulative cost pressures from things such as pay rises, increased pension and national insurance contributions, and inflation.

Speaking in response to a debate on 25 January 2017, Schools' Minister Nick Gibb said that core schools funding was being protected for the duration of the Parliament. The Government accepted schools were facing cost pressures.

He went on to say that the funding reforms were not about the overall level of school funding or the cost pressures that schools were facing, but about ending the "postcode lottery" and making funding fairer. Some of the cost pressures had “already materialised” and the DfE was providing high-quality advice to schools on better procurement, and budget management.3

1.6 Impact on North East England

Alongside the consultation the Government published illustrative figures showing how schools and local authorities might fare in two hypothetical scenarios under the proposals:

• If the NFF had been implemented in full this year, 2016-17, without any transitional protections, with funding estimated using 2016-17 pupil data (2016/17 data for academies). The illustrative figure is then compared to a 2016-17 funding baseline. Figures are expressed in cash terms.
• If the NFF were implemented with transitional arrangements (maximum increase of 3% and maximum cut of 1.5% per pupil) as is planned, in the first year of transition, in 2018-19. Again, the figures are based on 2016-17 pupil data (2016/17 for academies). Results are then compared to 2016-17 baseline funding, and again, figures are expressed in cash terms.

These illustrative figures don’t show what any school will get in any particular year, but are intended to inform the consultation and give an idea of how the formula might work.

The maps on the next two pages summarise the overall change data for constituencies under the first scenario (without transitional protection) nationally and for the North East. These are entirely based on the Government’s illustrations and hence all the limitations of these figures (set out in the briefing paper) need to be considered when interpreting this data.

They show that schools in most of the North East constituencies are expected to see relatively small increases in funding under the consultation proposals. The main exceptions are South Shields, the Newcastle constituencies and Jarrow which would see increases of more than 2.5%. Overall five constituencies would see falls under the

3 HC Deb 25 January 2017 cc403-4
proposals, the largest of which is Hartlepool at 1.4%. There is much variation within constituencies with all seeing some schools gaining and some losing out.

Overall schools in the North East a 1.0% increase in funding under scenario 1 compared to a national increase of 0.9%, average increases of more than 2.0% in the East Midlands, the South East and the South West and a 2.4% cut in inner London.

**Change in funding by Parliamentary Constituency**

Illustrative NFF funding compared to baseline if formula implemented in full in 2016-17, without transitional protections
The consultation lists the following broad types of schools that are due to be funded at a higher level under the NFF:

- Schools with low prior attainment.
- Schools with pupils who live in areas with above average levels of deprivation but who have not been heavily targeted through historic funding decisions.
- Schools in areas where funding levels have historically been low.
- Small rural schools.

Those types due to be funded at lower levels are:

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4. [Schools national funding formula Government consultation - stage 2, DfE](#)
- Schools in Inner London and some other urban areas that have particularly benefited from historic funding decisions.
- Some smaller schools in urban rather than rural areas.

The following table includes the overall change in funding for each scenario for each North East local authority as well as the number of schools receiving more or less funding.

### National funding formula consultation: Illustrative NFF funding for schools - North East local authority summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding received in 2016-17 (£ million)</th>
<th>Baseline funding</th>
<th>Illustrative total NFF funding (£ million)</th>
<th>% change compared to baseline</th>
<th>Illustrative NFF year 1 funding (£ million)</th>
<th>% change compared to baseline</th>
<th>Schools with more funding than baseline</th>
<th>Schools with the same or less funding as baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Darlington</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>+1.0%</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>+0.7%</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Durham</td>
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<td>289.9</td>
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<td>288.1</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gateshead</td>
<td>104.7</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>+2.0%</td>
<td>106.4</td>
<td>+1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hartlepool</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>95.0</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>+0.1%</td>
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<td>+2.8%</td>
<td>151.8</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>113.4</td>
<td>+0.6%</td>
<td>113.1</td>
<td>+0.3%</td>
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<td>175.6</td>
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<td>+0.7%</td>
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<td>Redcar and Cleveland</td>
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<td>+0.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Tyneside</td>
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<td>+3.2%</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>+1.6%</td>
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<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton-on-Tees</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>+1.0%</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunderland</td>
<td>161.7</td>
<td>161.3</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>161.9</td>
<td>+0.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North East</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,510</strong></td>
<td><strong>+1.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,504</strong></td>
<td><strong>+0.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>621</strong></td>
<td><strong>427</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>England</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,635</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,915</strong></td>
<td><strong>+0.9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,785</strong></td>
<td><strong>+0.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>621</strong></td>
<td><strong>427</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National funding formula consultation: Illustrative NFF funding, DfE
2. Parliamentary material

2.1 Select Committees
Education Committee, School funding reform inquiry, ongoing
Education Committee, Fairer Schools Funding 2015-16, one-off session
Public Accounts Committee, Financial sustainability of schools, 28 March 2017

2.2 Written Parliamentary Questions

- Schools: Finance

  Asked by: Rayner, Angela | Party: Labour Party

  To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 29 March 2017 to Question 68547, how the funds remaining after the £200 million set to be spent on the National Funding Formula in 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been allocated; and how much of that funding is allocated to spending beyond 2020.

  Answering member: Nick Gibb | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Department for Education

  We have protected school funding in order that the amount per pupil remains the same during this Parliament. We will be spending an additional £500 million over and above this amount as we introduce the national funding formula. Of this, we will spend an extra £200 million a year in 2018-19 and 2019-20 on schools. The remaining funding will be spent on pupils with a high level of special educational needs in 2018-19 and 2019-20. These funds will provide stability, ensuring that no local authority will lose funding for high needs. Budgets beyond 2020 will be set in the next spending review.

  The additional funding for schools in 2018-19 and 2019-20 forms part of the overall school block allocation, within the dedicated schools grant (DSG), for those years. The DSG will provide for all the costs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 associated with the introduction of the national funding formula, including increases of up to 5.5% per pupil for schools due to gain funding, and significant protection for those due to lose.

  19 Apr 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 70123

- Schools: Finance

  Asked by: Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey | Party: Conservative Party

  To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to publish the results of the national funding formula consultation.

  Answering member: Nick Gibb | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Department for Education

  We expect to announce the final formula in the summer.
School Funding in the North East of England

18 Apr 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 69731

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Rayner, Angela | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to paragraph 3.6 of her Department’s consultation, Schools national funding formula, Government consultation - stage 2, what the evidential basis is for the assessment of cost pressures on schools.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

School funding is at its highest level on record at more than £40bn in 2016-17 - and that is set to rise, as pupil numbers rise over the next two years, to £42 billion by 2019-20. Analysis by the Institute for Financial Studies (IFS) has also shown that spending per pupil almost doubled in real terms between 1997 and 2016.

We recognise that schools are facing cost pressures, and we estimate that, nationally, they amount to approximately an 8% cumulative pressure, per pupil, between the start of 2016-17 and 2019-20. It is important to note that some of these pressures have already materialised; 8% is not an estimate of pressures still to come. Over the next three years, per pupil pressures will, on average, be between 1.5-1.6%, each year.


We will continue to provide advice and support to help them use their funding in cost effective ways, and improve the way they buy goods and services, so they get the best possible value for their pupils. We have produced tools, information and guidance for schools financial health and efficiency, which can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/schools-financial-health-and-efficiency](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/schools-financial-health-and-efficiency).

29 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 69024

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Rayner, Angela | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget Statement, 16 March 2016, Official Report, column 963, on a fair national funding formula, how £500 million of funding has been allocated to date; and how much is allocated for future spending.
We have protected school funding so the amount per pupil remains the same during this Parliament. We will be spending an additional £500 million over and above this amount as we introduce the national funding formula. Of this £500 million, we are spending an extra £200 million a year in 2018-19 and 2019-20 on schools. This allows us to combine increases in funding of up to 5.5% in the first two years of the national funding formula with significant protection for those schools due to lose funding. Funding for pupils with a high level of special educational needs is also increasing, which allows us to provide increases of up to 6% in the first two years of the funding formula and protection so that no local authority loses any funding for high needs.

29 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 68547

The Department for Education will invest over £24 billion on school buildings between 2016-17 and 2020-21 financial years, which includes funding for new school places, including the free schools programme, and funding to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate, including the Priority School Building Programme. The Department confirms annual funding allocations for specific programmes in the spring for the financial year ahead, based on the latest forecasts of programme delivery.

The Department’s Supplementary Estimate Memorandum for 2016-17 financial year sets the budget for the Priority School Building Programme as £1,030 million and that for Free Schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools as £1,116 million. Spending plans for 2017-18 will be published alongside the forthcoming 2017-18 Main Estimate. The Memorandum is available here:


Detailed spending plans for future financial years will be set out in future Main and Supplementary Estimates. This will include the Department’s plans for the £216 million funding for school maintenance referred to in table 2.1 of the Spring Budget 2017.[1]
The £230 million referred to in item 3 of the table includes Barnett consequentials.

29 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 68192

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Lord Ouseley | **Party:** Crossbench

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of the warning from the Local Government Association that reductions in the central government-provided education services grant may result in some local authorities potentially being unable to meet legal obligations to schools, such as checking staff for criminal records and ensuring that buildings are free of asbestos, what recourse is available to affected pupils, parents, school staff and other local residents if those legal obligations are not met.

**Answering member:** Lord Nash | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

As announced at the Spending Review, we will be removing the Education Services Grant general funding rate from 2017-18. We recognise that local authorities will need support with this change, which is why we have introduced a new transitional grant worth £125m in 2017-18. We have also amended regulations to allow local authorities to use other sources of funding to pay for education services for maintained schools once the ESG is removed from September 2017. Local authorities are allowed to retain some of their maintained schools’ Dedicated Schools Grant so that they can continue to deliver the statutory duties they carry out on behalf of maintained schools previously funded through the Education Services Grant general funding rate.

If local authorities cannot agree with their maintained schools on the level of funding to retain, local authorities have recourse to the Secretary of State.

Funding delivered through the ESG retained duties rate, which funds duties that local authorities hold in respect of all schools, is not being removed. In 2017-18, this funding has been moved into the Dedicated Schools Grant and paid to local authorities on a per-pupil basis. From 2018-19, this funding will be allocated to local authorities through the central school services block.

28 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL6216

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Timms, Stephen | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what criteria were used to set a weighting of 0.1 per cent for the mobility factor in the most recent
proposal for the Schools National Funding Formula; and what criteria will be used to determine that weighting in the longer term.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

In the second stage of the national funding formula consultation, we set out how we will calculate the weighting given to the mobility factor in the first year of implementation. In 2018-19, we will allocate funding to local authorities on a historic basis, reflecting the amount they put through the mobility factor in the previous year.

In the second stage consultation document, we also confirmed our intention to work with stakeholders to develop a more sophisticated mobility factor for use from 2019-20 onwards. That will include consideration of the appropriate weighting for the factor in the longer term.

23 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 68272

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Allen, Heidi | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of recent changes to the National Funding Formula on the deprivation attainment gap in schools.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

The Government is committed to creating a country that works for everyone, regardless of their background. We want all children to reach their full potential and to succeed in adult life.

Disadvantage has a significant impact on pupils’ attainment. This impact is seen throughout the school system and compounded in areas of disadvantage. In recognition of that, our formula recognises educational disadvantage in its widest sense, using different indicators within the deprivation factor into target funding widely. We want, in particular, to include those pupils who are not necessarily eligible for free school meals, but whose families are still struggling to get by.

23 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 68232

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Sheerman, Mr Barry

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that schools’ increased income through the National Funding Formula will not be outweighed by real-term changes to their funding over the next three years.
School funding is at its highest level on record at more than £40bn in 2016-17 - and that is set to rise, as pupil numbers rise over the next two years, to £42 billion by 2019-20. Analysis by the Institute for Financial Studies (IFS) has also shown that spending per pupil almost doubled in real terms between 1997 and 2016.

The recent National Audit Office report on the Financial Sustainability of Schools is clear that it is reasonable to look to schools to make efficiencies, and that – based on variations in spending across schools with similar levels of challenge and achieving similar outcomes – the necessary savings are achievable without affecting educational outcomes.

We recognise that schools are facing cost pressures, which is why we will continue to provide support to help them use their funding in cost effective ways, including improving the way they buy goods and services, so they get the best possible value.

We have produced tools, information and guidance for schools financial health and efficiency, which can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/schools-financial-health-and-efficiency

14 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 66872

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Timms, Stephen | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the illustrative funding allocations for 2016-17, published alongside the Stage 2 consultation on the schools national funding formula, December 2016, which local authorities were allocated funding in respect of the mobility factor; and how much such funding was allocated to each local authority.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

67 local authorities were allocated funding under the mobility factor. The funding levels for these local authorities can be found on the schools block tab of the NFF summary table published as part of the consultation, and is shown below:

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<tr>
<th>LA</th>
<th>Illustrative NFF mobility factor funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barking and Dagenham</td>
<td>£686,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnet</td>
<td>£288,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath and North East Somerset</td>
<td>£21,169</td>
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<td>Birmingham</td>
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<td>Bournemouth</td>
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16 Number CPD-2017-0121, 21 April 2017

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14 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 67259

- **Schools: North East**
  
  **Asked by:** Onwurah, Chi | **Party:** Labour Party

  To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2017 to Question 64973, whether the Schools Funding Formula reflects the higher labour market costs of attracting labour to hard to access areas.

  **Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
  **Department:** Department for Education

  The second stage consultation on the national funding formula for schools confirms that we will use a ‘hybrid’ area cost adjustment to reflect the variation in labour market costs. The hybrid methodology takes into account both general labour market trends and the particular salary variations in the teaching profession. This methodology received strong support in the first stage consultation.

  More information about how the area cost adjustment is calculated can be found in the technical note, at:
  [https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/).

  06 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 66260

- **Schools: North East**
  
  **Asked by:** Elliott, Julie | **Party:** Labour Party

  To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effects of the introduction of the National Funding Formula on funding for schools in the North East.

  **Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
  **Department:** Department for Education

  Since 2010, this Government has protected the core schools budget. This year, it is the largest ever on record, totalling over £40 billion. It will continue to rise for the rest of this Parliament, as pupil numbers rise.

  We are currently consulting on a national funding formula for schools, which will be implemented from 2018-19. Our proposals for funding
reform will mean that schools will, for the first time, receive a consistent and fair share of the schools budget, so that they can give every child the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Schools in the North East would overall gain 1.0% per-pupil as a result of our proposals and 60% (622) of schools in the region would see an increase in funding.

Schools that are due to gain funding will do so quickly, with increases of up to 3% per pupil in 2018-19 and 2.5% in 2019-20.

To ensure stability for schools, we have proposed substantial protections to limit reductions to any individual school’s budget to manageable levels. No school will face a reduction of more than 1.5% per pupil per year or 3% per pupil overall.

We are also supporting schools to improve their financial health and efficiency. We have produced a collection of tools, information and guidance, which can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/schools-financial-health-and-efficiency.

This collection includes benchmarking tools and the recently published Schools’ Buying Strategy which will help schools make significant savings, over £1 billion a year by 2019-20, in non-pay and procurement costs.

06 Mar 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 65888

- Teachers

**Asked by:** Jones, Helen

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect on teacher numbers of the proposed school funding formula.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Department:** Department for Education

The Government has protected the core schools budget in real terms. We are introducing a fair funding formula so children across the country are funded according to their needs, not where they happen to live. We are currently consulting on the proposals and the consultation closes on 22 March. Overall, based on projections of rising pupil numbers, we would expect numbers of teachers to go up.

We recognise that schools will need to make efficiency savings in response to budgetary pressures. We have set a target for savings from better procurement and we have produced tools, information and guidance to support schools to make savings, including workforce planning guidance. This guidance contains links to advice and case studies, as well as lists of options and questions for school leaders to consider when reviewing their staff structures.
27 Feb 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 65033

- **Schools: Finance**

**Asked by:** Lynch, Holly

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much additional funding her Department would require in order to ensure that no school saw a cut in its budget for 2017-18 as part of the Schools National Funding Formula.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Department:** Department for Education


In 2017-18, individual schools’ funding is decided at a local authority level. The Department allocates funding to each local authority, who then allocate this funding to their schools using their local formulae. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) ensures that the maximum any individual school can lose is 1.5% per pupil. Local authorities are now finalising and will shortly be confirming their 2017-18 funding to schools. Further information is available at [https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/school-revenue-funding-settlement-for-2017-to-2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/school-revenue-funding-settlement-for-2017-to-2018).

We are currently consulting on our proposals for a National Funding Formula, which will come into force in 2018-19. The consultation will run until March 22nd and is available at [https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/).

27 Feb 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 64913

- **Schools: North East**

**Asked by:** Onwurah, Chi | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of the area cost adjustment on the level of school funding in the North East.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

Our proposals for a national funding formula include an area cost adjustment to reflect the different labour market costs across the country. Schools in the North East would not receive an uplift through...
the area cost adjustment, as it is only applied to areas where labour market costs are particularly high. Our proposed national funding formula would increase funding for 622 schools in the North East, with funding for schools in the region as a whole increasing by 1%.

The consultation on the national funding formula will conclude on 22 March. We will confirm final arrangements in the summer, and introduce the formula from April 2018.

28 Feb 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 64973

- **Schools: North Tyneside**

**Asked by:** Campbell, Mr Alan | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the total cost was to the public purse of rebuilding schools in North Tyneside in 2016.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

North Tyneside Schools received approximately £4.8m in Devolved Formula Capital and School Condition Allocations for 2016/17.

Under the Priority School Building Programme which targets funding to rebuild and refurbish those schools in the worst condition across the country, there are 4 schools in North Tyneside that are receiving investment of £46.8m and a further school due to receive investment.

Under the Condition Improvement Fund, which is an annual bidding round to which academies and sixth-form colleges can apply for capital funding for building works, 2 schools were allocated funds in excess of £1.7m in 2016/17.

22 Feb 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 63119

- **Schools: North Tyneside**

**Asked by:** Campbell, Mr Alan | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to increase funding for schools with a high concentration of students with special educational needs in North Tyneside.

**Answering member:** Edward Timpson | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

Schools are currently funded through the formula set by their local authority, which often uses factors such as low prior attainment and free school meals to give an estimate of the number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) a school is likely to have. Where the cost of additional support for a child with SEN in the mainstream schools exceeds £6,000, the local authority also provides top-up funding to the school from its high needs budget. Local authorities can also give
additional funding from their high needs budgets to schools that have a high concentration of pupils with SEN.

We are currently consulting on proposals for new national funding formulae for both schools and high needs, which will be introduced in 2018-19. These proposals will not change the flexibility that local authorities have to move funding from their high needs budgets to schools.

As a result of our proposals, North Tyneside Council’s funding for high needs pupils would increase by 1.8% and schools in the area would see, on average, a 0.6% increase in their funding.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Asked by: Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the forecast reduction in funding per pupil in real terms for mainstream schools between 2014–15 and 2019–20.

Answering member: Lord Nash | Department: Department for Education

We want schools to have the resources they need so that every child has access to an education that enables their potential. That is why we have protected the core schools budget in real terms overall. In 2016-17 it will be the largest ever on record, totalling over £40 billion.

We are introducing a national fair funding formula so schools are funded according to their pupils’ needs.

The proposals we are currently consulting on will mean an end to the postcode lottery in school funding and will help to create a system that funds schools according to the needs of their pupils, rather than where they happen to live. Under the proposed national schools funding formula, more than half of England’s schools will receive a cash boost in 2018-19. The new formula will also give head teachers certainty over their future budgets, helping them make long term plans and secure further efficiencies.

We recognise that schools, as with other public services, are facing cost pressures. These will include salary increases, increases to employers’ National Insurance and Teachers’ Pension Scheme contributions, and general inflation.

On a per pupil basis, these pressures are estimated at around 8% between 2016-17 and 2019-20. It is important to note that this is not an estimate of pressures still to come – over the next three years, per pupil pressures will average 1.5-1.6%, a year.

In response to this we have produced tools, information and guidance for schools financial health and efficiency, which can be found at:
We are increasingly tailoring and targeting our offer to ensure the schools who are most in need of our support receive it.

We also know there is significant scope for savings in non-pay and procurement costs. We have launched a school buying strategy to support schools to save over £1bn a year by 2019-20 on their non-staff spend. In practice, this means schools can invest more of their resources in the classroom, making even more of a difference to the children that need it most.

09 Feb 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL4826

**Schools: Finance**

*Asked by:* Timms, Stephen

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what evidence she used to calculate the weighting given to the pupil mobility factor in proposals for the school funding formula.

**Answering member:** Nick Gibb | **Department:** Department for Education

In the second stage of the national funding formula consultation, we set out how we will calculate the weighting given to the mobility factor in the first year of implementation. In 2018-19, we will allocate funding to local authorities on an historic basis, reflecting the amount they put through the mobility factor in the previous year.

In the second stage consultation document, we also confirmed our intention to work with stakeholders to develop a more sophisticated mobility factor for use from 2019-20 onwards. This will include consideration of the appropriate weighting for the factor in the longer term.

30 Jan 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 61642

### 2.3 Oral Parliamentary Questions

**School Funding**

*Asked by:* Helen Hayes | **Party:** Labour Party

The 2015 Conservative manifesto promised that “the amount of money following your child into school will be protected”.

However, the National Audit Office found that schools face a real-terms cut of 8% per pupil by 2019-20, even before the cuts the new national funding formula will bring to more than 9,000 schools in England. Will the Government therefore confirm that the Tory manifesto pledge on per pupil funding is now in tatters?
Answered by: Mr Gauke | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Treasury

Not at all. We are protecting the total schools budget in real terms and implementing our manifesto commitment to introduce fairer funding. It is right that we do so.

18 Apr 2017 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 624 c524

School Funding

Asked by: Helen Hayes (Dulwich and West Norwood) (Lab) | Party: Labour Party

What discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education to ensure the protection of money following each child under the proposed new Schools Funding Formula.

Answered by: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke) | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Treasury

The Government are protecting the total core schools budget in real terms. That is possible only through careful management of the economy. As a result, school funding is at its highest ever level, at almost £41 billion in 2017-18. Spending will increase to £42 billion in 2019-20 as pupils numbers rise. We are also delivering our manifesto commitment to implement fairer schools funding. The recent national funding formula consultation includes generous transitional protections for schools that would see a reduction in their funding. The Government are carefully considering replies to the consultation and will respond in the summer.

18 Apr 2017 | Oral questions - Lead | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 909618 | 624 cc523-4

School Budgets

Asked by: Derek Thomas | Party: Conservative Party

The majority of schools in my constituency are rated good or outstanding, due to the hard work and determination of teaching staff and their heads. However, Government funding for schools has not kept up with increasing costs, which, according to the House of Commons Library, increased by 3.4% in 2016-17 and will increase by 8.7% by 2020. What message can I take back to my schools, which tell me they cannot maintain those standards if school funding does not keep up with these increased costs?

Answered by: Mr Gauke | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Treasury

The Government do recognise that schools, like other organisations, face additional costs, such as salary increases. That is why the Department for Education is supporting schools to become more
efficient, including with over £1 billion of savings from better procurement by 2019-20. It is also worth pointing out that, by protecting the total schools budget in real terms, as pupil numbers increase, so will the amount of money in our schools.

18 Apr 2017 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 624 c521

• Engagements

Asked by: Jeremy Corbyn | Party: Labour Party

Today, the Public Accounts Committee says of the Department for Education:

“The Department does not seem to understand the pressures that schools are already under.”

It goes on to say that

“Funding per pupil is reducing in real terms”,

and that school budgets will be cut by £3 billion—equivalent to 8%—by 2020. Is the Public Accounts Committee wrong?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Prime Minister

What we will see over the course of this Parliament is £230 billion going into our schools, but what matters is the quality of education in schools. An additional 1.8 million children are in good or outstanding schools, and this Government’s policy is to ensure that every child gets a good school place.

29 Mar 2017 | Prime Minister’s questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 624 c245

• Engagements

Asked by: Jeremy Corbyn | Party: Labour Party

The daily experience of many parents who have children in school is that they receive letters asking for money. One parent, Elizabeth, wrote to me to say that she has received a letter from her daughter’s school asking for a monthly donation to top up the reduced funds that it is receiving. This Government’s cuts to schools are betraying a generation of our children. If the Prime Minister is right, the parents are wrong, the teachers are wrong, the Institute for Fiscal Studies is wrong, the National Audit Office is wrong, and the Education Policy Institute is wrong. Now the Public Accounts Committee, which includes eight Conservative Members, is also wrong. Which organisation does back the Prime Minister’s view on education spending in our schools?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Prime Minister
As I have just said to the right hon. Gentleman, we said that we would protect school funding, and we have; there is a real-terms protection for the schools budget. We said that we would protect the money following children into schools, and we have; the schools budget reaches £42 billion, as pupil numbers rise, in 2019-20. But I also have to say to him that it is about the quality of education that children are receiving, with 1.8 million more children in good or outstanding schools than there were under the Labour Government.

Time and again, the right hon. Gentleman stands up at Prime Minister’s questions and asks questions that would lead to more spending. Let us look at what he has said recently: on 11 January, more spending; on 8th February, more spending; on 22 February, more spending; on 1 and 8 March, more spending; and on 15 and 22 March, more spending. Barely a PMQs goes by that he does not call for more public spending. When it comes to spending money that it does not have, Labour simply cannot help itself. It is the same old Labour: spend today and give somebody else the bill tomorrow. Well, we will not do that to the next generation.

29 Mar 2017 | Prime Minister’s questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 624 c245

- **Engagements**

**Asked by:** Jeremy Corbyn | **Party:** Labour Party

The manifesto on which the Prime Minister fought the last election promised:

“Under a future Conservative Government, the amount of money following your child into school will be protected.”

No wonder even the editor of the London Evening Standard is up in arms about this. The cut to school funding equates to the loss of two teachers across all primary schools and six teachers across all secondary schools. So is the Prime Minister advocating larger class sizes, a shorter school day, or unqualified teachers? Which is it?

**Answered by:** The Prime Minister | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Prime Minister

We have, as I said, protected the schools budgets. We now see more teachers in our schools and more teachers with first-class degrees in our schools. As I say, we see 1.8 million more children in good or outstanding schools. That is a result of this Government’s policies of diversity in education: free schools, academies, comprehensives, faith schools, university schools, grammar schools. We believe in diversity in education and choice for parents; the right hon. Gentleman believes in a one-size-fits-all, take-it-or-leave-it model.

22 Mar 2017 | Prime Minister’s questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 623 c853
School Funding in the North East of England

•  **Schools: Funding Formula**

  **Asked by:** Baroness Massey of Darwen  
  To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their response to the Education Policy Institute report on the new funding formula for schools which indicates that primary schools may lose funding equivalent to two teachers and secondary schools may lose funding equivalent to six teachers.

  **Answered by:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education (Lord Nash) (Con)  
  My Lords, through our careful management of the economy, we have protected the core schools budget in real terms. In 2017-18, schools will have more funding than ever—over £40 billion—set to rise to £42 billion by 2020. The IFS analysis shows that per pupil funding in 2020 will be over 50% higher in real terms than in 2000. While we know schools are facing pressures, we know that there is scope for schools to become more efficient and we are supporting them to achieve this.

  21 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Lead | Answered | House of Lords | 782 cc149-151

•  **Schools: Funding Formula**

  **Asked by:** Lord Evans of Weardale (CB)  
  My Lords, while I welcome the additional efficiency and flexibility that come from the multi-academy trust system, and from trusts and free schools overall, does the Minister agree that a reduction in funding per pupil at a time when greater skills are needed to compete internationally, and when mental health problems among young people are increasing so rapidly and causing problems for many schools, is a bad allocation of money?

  **Answered by:** Lord Nash  
  I am grateful to the noble Lord for his comments about the efficiency of multi-academy trusts. One study shows that multi-academy trusts can achieve a saving of £146 per pupil. As I said, we are still recovering from the financial hole that we inherited in 2010 and we all have to adjust our resources. Schools have had a huge increase in money in recent years. We are trying very hard and have a lot of resources available on our government website to help them become more efficient.

  21 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Lords | 782 c151
• **Schools: Funding Formula**

**Asked by:** Lord Polak (Con)

Will the Minister join me in recognising that the current funding system for schools is fundamentally flawed? It is a postcode lottery, where resources provided to identical schools depend not on their needs but on location. This is unfair and needs to be addressed urgently.

**Answered by:** Lord Nash

I wholeheartedly agree with my noble friend. As I have already said, the EPI, to which the noble Baroness, Lady Massey, referred, has agreed with him that the system as it currently stands is broken, is unfair and must be addressed urgently. Underfunded schools do not have access to the same opportunities as others do, and this cannot be right. This is why we are introducing a much clearer, fairer and more transparent system.

21 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Lords | 782 c150

• **School Funding Formula**

**Asked by:** Ruth Cadbury (Brentford and Isleworth) (Lab)

Heads in my constituency have told me that they are already having to cut teachers, teaching assistants, key courses and even school hours, and from Friday’s EPI report we find that there are unlikely to be any schools in England that will avoid per-pupil funding cuts. Does the Minister recognise that the Government are breaking yet another manifesto promise?

**Answered by:** Mr Gibb | **Department:** Education

No; 54% of schools in this country will gain funding under the national funding formula. The hon. Lady will be aware that her local authority, Hounslow, will see overall funding for schools rise from £170.7 million to £171.2 million as a result of the national funding formula.

20 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 623 c632

• **School Funding Formula**

**Asked by:** Angela Rayner | **Party:** Labour Party

I do not think I heard an answer about the promise that the Conservative party made. At this rate, the Conservative manifesto will turn out to be the greatest work of fiction since Paul Nuttall last did his CV. We are in favour of fairer funding, but this is not fair and it is not funded, either. Will the Secretary of State finally tell us whether the Conservatives are going to keep the promise made by the last Prime Minister that not one pupil would lose one penny in school funding throughout this Parliament?
We made it clear that we would maintain the funding of schools, in real terms, and that is precisely what we are doing. At a time of fiscal constraint, when we have to tackle a £150 billion public sector budget deficit inherited from the Labour party, we have still protected school funding in real terms. At the same time, we are introducing a fairer funding system—something that the Labour party failed to do in all the years that it was in office.

20 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 623 c633

In our manifesto, we said that we would protect school funding in real terms. We have protected school funding in real terms. It is at £40 billion—the highest level on record—and it will rise to £42 billion by 2019-20, as school pupil numbers rise. Given the way in which the Labour party managed our economy in the past and the way in which it intends to do so in future, I do not believe that if the party ever got into power, it would be able to match that level of funding.

20 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 623 c633

My right hon. Friend knows how dealings with the Treasury work; one has to justify every penny. We managed to secure a very good deal with the Treasury, and we have the highest level of school funding—£40 billion.
billion, rising to £42 billion by 2019-20, as pupil numbers rise—at a time when we seek to continue to tackle the public sector deficit that we inherited from the Labour party.

20 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 623 c632

**Date answered:** 20 Mar 2017

- **School Funding Formula**
  
  **Asked by:** Rushanara Ali | **Party:** Labour Party

  The National Audit Office and the Education Policy Institute have both highlighted the risk of standards falling because of an 8% real-terms cut. In London, 70% of schools face cuts, yet we have the highest child poverty in the country. This is dangerous and divisive, and a cap on aspiration. Is it not time we had another U-turn this week?

  **Answered by:** Mr Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Education

  The EPI has said that the national funding formula is broadly welcome. David Laws, its executive chairman, said that “the department is right to pursue a formula which targets a significant proportion of funding to disadvantaged pupils”.

  The hon. Lady will know that inner London remains the highest-funded part of the country; it is 30% better funded on a per-pupil basis than the national average.

  20 Mar 2017 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 623 c631

- **School Funding Formula**

  **Asked by:** Rushanara Ali (Bethnal Green and Bow) (Lab) | **Party:** Labour Party

  What assessment she has made of the potential effect of the new national funding formula on the capacity of schools to provide high-quality education for all.

  **Answered by:** The Minister for School Standards (Mr Nick Gibb) | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Education

  My national funding formula proposals will mean that we will have a clear, relatively simple and transparent funding system that matches funding to children’s needs and to the schools they attend to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential regardless of where they live. We recognise that schools are facing cost pressures, which is why we will continue to provide support to help them use their funding in cost-effective ways without affecting educational outcomes.

Teacher Shortages

**Asked by:** Bridget Phillipson | **Party:** Labour Party

Good teaching depends on retaining good teachers in the profession. Does the Minister not accept that the consistent underfunding of schools in disadvantaged areas such as the north-east makes retaining teachers very difficult? Will he look again at the area cost adjustment of the national funding formula, which could well have the perverse effect of sending money away from disadvantaged areas and into more affluent ones?

**Answered by:** Mr Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Education

We have protected the core schools budget in real terms throughout this Parliament and the last. Moreover, we have grasped the nettle and introduced fair funding, which the Labour party failed to do throughout its time in office. One of the elements of that fair funding is ensuring that there are sufficient funds to tackle disadvantage and lower prior attainment.

19 Dec 2016 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 618 c1161

School Funding

**Asked by:** Catherine McKinnell (Newcastle upon Tyne North) (Lab) | **Party:** Labour Party

What would the Secretary of State say to Schools NorthEast, which represents 1,000 schools in my region and has said that “the Government risks fuelling the North-South divide in education by proposing to fund schools with similar characteristics differently, based on their location.”?

**Answered by:** Nicky Morgan | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Education

I would completely disagree with that assertion. I ask the hon. Lady to ensure that she and the schools in her area take part in the next stage of the consultation. She should not forget the funding that has already been allocated by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor as part of the northern powerhouse fund for schools.

04 Jul 2016 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 612 c591

2.4 Petitions

School Funding Model - [HC Deb 12 May 2016](#)
2.5 Debates

Schools: Funding Formula (HL Deb 21 March 2017 cc149-151)

School Funding Formula and Northern Schools (HC Deb 17 January cc232-239WH)

School Funding (HC Deb 25 January 2017 cc358-408)
3. Press articles

3.1 National

NUT demands funding formula response before election
Schools Week, 18 April 2017

Schools to be left in funding limbo until new government formed, DfE reveals
TES, 19 April 2017

‘Starved of resources’: School funding dominates first PMQs since election called
TES, 19 April 2017

Unions urge parents to turn education cuts into election battleground
The Guardian, 18 April 2017

Poorest pupils face bigger cuts per head under funding formula
Financial Times, 18 April 2017

School budgets: Unions boosted by parents’ concerns
BBC News, 17 April 2017

Revealed: how free schools boom helps England’s richest regions
The Guardian, 15 April 2017

NUT votes for one-day strike in the summer term
TES, 15 April 2017

Talk of a school funding “crisis” is overblown
The Economist, 8 April 2017

Schools funding row offers lesson in unfairness
Financial Times, 7 April 2017
School funding cuts to hit poorer areas harder, says Labour
The Guardian, 3 April 2017

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