



Guidance

Pension grants for schools, local authorities and music education hubs

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Contents

[Introduction](#)
[Funding for increase in pension costs before 2021 to 2022](#)
[Transition to the national funding formulae in 2021 to 2022](#)
[TPECG methodology](#)
[Paying the grant](#)
[How we calculated the rates](#)
[Rates](#)
[How we calculate allocations](#)
[Multi-academy trust pooling](#)


Introduction

We are providing £1.5 billion a year to schools and local authorities through the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) and supplementary fund. This funding covers the cost of the increase in the employer contribution rate of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) from 16.4% to 23.6%, from September 2019.

From 2021 to 2022 financial year, the majority of the funding for the increase in pension costs has been paid through the schools, high needs and central school services block (CSSB) national funding formulae (NFF), instead of as separate grants.

We have published allocations for financial years [2019 to 2020](#), [2020 to 2021](#) and [2021 to 2022](#).

Funding for increase in pension costs before 2021 to 2022

The TPS data does not give us information about individual schools' contributions to the scheme since most schools are part of a local authority or multi-academy

trust. Therefore, to match the funding as closely as we can to costs, we allocate the TPECG using a per-pupil formula. The methodology we use is explained in this document.

Schools and local authorities (on behalf of their high needs institutions) also continue to receive payments from the [supplementary fund](#), which supports schools that have faced unusually high pension costs. These are based on the claims, submitted and paid, for the academic year 2019 to 2020.

Local authorities continue to receive [pension funding for centrally employed teachers \(CETs\)](#), and music education hubs that are not part of a local authority continue receiving [funding for their directly employed teachers](#), based on the information they submitted on the total cost of the increase for their teachers in the academic year 2019 to 2020. We are not running a new claims process for the supplementary fund, centrally employed teachers or music education hubs.

Transition to the national funding formulae in 2021 to 2022

From 2021 to 2022, the majority of the funding for the increase in pension costs has been paid through the schools, high needs and central school services block (CSSB) national funding formulae (NFF), instead of as separate grants.

We have ensured that the additional funding schools will attract through the NFF is as close as possible to the funding they would have received if the funding was continuing as separate grants, without adding significant complexity to the formulae:

- in the schools NFF, we have added an amount to reflect the current TPECG funding onto the basic per-pupil units and the minimum per pupil funding levels - we have also added an amount, representing the funding schools receive through the TPECG and supplementary fund, for their reception to year 11 pupils onto the baselines used to calculate minimum increases in funding
- in the high needs NFF, we have increased the basic entitlement factor value for special schools and created an additional factor through which local authorities will receive the equivalent of their 2020 to 2021 TPECG for alternative provision settings and supplementary funding

It is our expectation that, in the 2021 to 2022 financial year, local authorities should pass on to individual schools the amount of additional funding they received through the 2020 to 2021 TPECG, as far as possible.

More details can be found in the [NFF policy document](#).

Therefore, maintained schools will continue to receive TPECG and supplementary funding until March 2021, as they will receive this funding through their 2021 to

2022 schools NFF allocations from April 2021. Local authorities will also continue to receive TPECG and supplementary funding for their high needs institutions, and pension funding for their centrally employed teachers until March 2021, when they will begin to receive their 2021 to 2022 high needs and CSSB NFF allocations.

Mainstream academies continued to receive TPECG for April to August 2021, as they did not receive their 2021 to 2022 NFF allocations until September 2021. This will avoid academies facing a 5-month funding gap.

The table summarises when schools and local authorities will receive their remaining allocations for TPECG, supplementary funding, and pension funding for centrally employed teachers (CETs).

Period covered by the allocation	Maintained schools and local authorities on behalf of their high needs institutions – month in which allocation will be paid	Mainstream academies – month in which allocation will be paid
September 2020 to March 2021	October 2020	November 2020
April to August 2021	n/a – funding incorporated into the NFF allocations	April 2021
From September 2021	n/a – funding incorporated into the NFF allocations	n/a – funding incorporated into the NFF allocations

Funding outside of the NFFs in 2021 to 2022

Maintained nursery schools, school nurseries, sixth forms, 16 to 19 maintained schools, non-maintained special schools, and new special and alternative provision free schools opened after September 2020 are not funded through the schools or high needs NFF. In the 2021 to 2022 financial year, we will continue to provide these settings with the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, paid separately to core allocations.

The grant will be paid based on the per pupil rates set out in this document. Allocations for April to August 2021 were published in April 2021, and allocations for the second half of the financial year were published in October 2021.

TPECG methodology

This section sets out the eligibility criteria for the grant.

Mainstream institutions

The grant eligibility has been based on the number of pupils aged 2 to 19 in these categories:

- maintained nursery schools
- primary, secondary and all through maintained schools
- primary, secondary and all through academies and free schools
- 16 to 19 maintained schools
- 16 to 19 academies

In the 2021 to 2022 financial year institutions and age ranges funded outside of the schools NFF will continue to be eligible for the grant.

For mainstream institutions with fewer than 100 pupils, funding is allocated as if they had 100 pupils. This will account for all eligible pupils.

Specialist institutions

The grant eligibility has been based on the number of places in these categories:

- maintained special schools
- special academies and free schools
- pupil referral units
- alternative provision academies and free schools
- hospital schools
- non-maintained special schools

Specialist institutions not funded through the high needs NFF will continue to receive these grants separately in the 2021 to 2022 financial year.

For specialist institutions with fewer than 40 places, funding is allocated as if they had 40 places. This will account for all eligible pupils.

Independent settings

We have provided funding to local authorities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans, or SEN support, who are educated in independent settings, based on the number of such pupils for whom they commission places.

Paying the grant

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) pays the funding for maintained mainstream schools to local authorities, who are required to pay it to individual schools at the rates published.

ESFA pays funding at the published rates directly to mainstream academies.

ESFA pays funding to local authorities to distribute, according to local circumstance, for:

- institutions who provide for children with high needs
- pupils with EHC plans who are educated in independent settings

The exception to this is non-maintained special schools. ESFA allocates funding directly to non-maintained special schools.

How we calculated the rates

From September 2019 the employer contribution rate of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) increased from 16.4% to 23.6%.

We calculated the total cost of this increase to schools, and local authorities (for their centrally employed teachers), to be £848 million from September 2019 to March 2020 and made this amount of funding available. Before dividing this funding, we set aside £22 million, in order to provide money for the supplementary fund.

How we divided the funding between sectors

We divided the total amount between:

- primary schools (including early years provision in primary schools, and maintained nursery schools)
- secondary schools (including school sixth forms)
- high needs institutions
- local authority centrally employed teachers

We did this based on the size of the teacher wage bill for each sector. This is to account, for example, that high needs institutions generally spend more on staff per pupil.

We then divided the amount of funding for primary schools, secondary schools and high needs institutions between the number of pupils or places, to generate a

per-pupil or per-place rate.

We assumed that all:

- mainstream schools have at least 100 pupils
- high needs institutions have at least 40 places

We are also providing funding to local authorities for pupils, with EHC plans or SEN support, educated in independent settings, at the rate for special schools.

Pupil numbers used to calculate the rates

We used this data to calculate the rates ahead of the first set of allocations for the grant in autumn 2019.

Mainstream schools

For mainstream schools, we used the following data.

Age range	Data source	Explanation of date range
2- to 4-year-olds	Headcount of funded places from January 2019 census	Excluding 4-year-olds in school reception classes; 'funded places' means each 3- and 4-year-old pupil taking up the universal free entitlement, and recorded on the January 2019 school census, and each 2-year-old taking up the free entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and recorded on the January 2019 school census.
5- to 16-year-olds	Headcount from October 2018 census	Includes 4-year-olds in school reception classes.
16- to 19-year-olds	Pupil numbers from 2019 to 2020 academic year allocations	For 16- to 19-year-olds, we converted the data into a full-time equivalent (FTE) based on the number of hours each student attended the school. Band 1 students are shown on an FTE basis in the funding allocations, so we used this directly.

Band	Number of hours	FTE
7	725	1.208
6	625	1.042
5	540 to 600	1
4	450 to 539	0.825
3	360 to 449	0.675

High needs providers

When calculating the rates for high needs providers we used the following data.

School type	Data source
Maintained	Place numbers from the 2019 to 2020 financial year budget returns (section 251)
Academy	The published high needs place numbers for the 2019 to 2020 academic year

Adjusting for location

We apply an area cost adjustment (ACA), which takes into account higher teacher wages in London.

The ACA uses 4 rates:

- inner London
- outer London
- London fringe
- the rest of England

Rates

The rates have remained the same since the grant was established in September 2019.

Per-pupil rates for primary schools

Region	September to March rate (£) (for 7 months)	April to August rate (£) (for 5 months)
Inner London	92.20	65.86
Outer London	85.29	60.92
London fringe	79.85	57.04
Rest of England	77.50	55.36

Per-pupil rates for secondary schools (applies to all 11- to 19-year-olds)

Region	September to March rate (£) (covering 7 months)	April to August rate (£) (covering 5 months)
Inner London	135.71	96.94
Outer London	125.55	89.68
London fringe	117.53	83.95
Rest of England	114.08	81.49

Per-place rates for special and alternative provision schools, and per-pupil rates for those with SEND in independent settings

Region	September to March rate (£) (covering 7 months)	April to August rate (£) (covering 5 months)
Inner London	336.53	240.38
Outer London	311.33	222.38
London fringe	291.44	208.17
Rest of England	282.89	202.06

Rates for the 5-month period from April to August have been calculated as five-sevenths of the 7-month rates for September to March.

How we calculate allocations

To calculate a school's grant, we take the relevant rate and multiply it by the school's pupil numbers from the latest version of the sources in the [rates section](#).

For maintained special schools and pupil referral units, as the local authority 2020 to 2021 financial year budget return (section 251) was cancelled due to

coronavirus (COVID-19). We have used place numbers from the 2019 to 2020 return for the September 2020 to March 2021 allocations, and the April to August 2021 allocations.

Example

For an inner London primary school with 100 pupils, the calculation for their September to March allocation would be $\text{£}92.20 \times 100 \text{ pupils} = \text{£}9,220$.

New and growing schools

Schools which open after September during an academic year will not appear on the census data used for the September to March allocations for that year. These schools will therefore receive funding allocations based on a minimum level of:

- 100 pupils for mainstream schools
- 40 places for high needs institutions

New schools will receive an update to their September to March allocation the following spring, based on their pupil numbers for that academic year.

Example

An inner London primary school, newly opened in September 2020:

- is funded based on having 100 pupils in the autumn 2020 allocations
- therefore receives an allocation of $\text{£}9,220$ ($100 \times \text{£}92.20$)
- the October 2020 census shows the school as having 120 pupils
- therefore receives an additional payment in the spring of $\text{£}1,844$ for the additional 20 pupils ($20 \times \text{£}92.20 = \text{£}1,844$)

Schools that are not fully open at the time of the September to March allocations, and are still growing by adding year groups, will also receive an update to their allocation in the spring to reflect that growth.

Example

A primary school eligible for the 'Rest of England' rate and opened in September 2015:

- has 120 pupils, in year groups R to 3, in the October 2019 census
- therefore allocated $\text{£}9,300$ in autumn 2019 ($120 \times \text{£}77.50$)

- adds a new year group, year 4, in the autumn term 2020, so is classified as a growing school
- records 150 pupils in the October 2020 census
- its allocation for September to March is therefore recalculated as £11,625 (150 x £77.50).
- the additional payment for September to March due in spring 2021 is, therefore, £2,325 (£11,625 minus £9,300)

Multi-academy trust pooling

As the TPECG and supplementary fund are intended to support costs which are normally funded through the general annual grant (GAG), a multi-academy trust (MAT) should treat the grant in the same way as they would GAG, in accordance with the [Academies Financial Handbook](#). This means they may amalgamate grant payments for its academies to form one central fund, on the same basis as GAG. This can be used to meet the running costs at any constituent academies within the trust.

As with GAG pooling, we would expect the MAT to consider the funding needs and allocations of each constituent academy, and to have an appeals mechanism. An appeals mechanism should allow an academy to appeal to the trust if a constituent academy's principal feels the academy has been unfairly treated. If the grievance is not resolved, then we would expect the mechanism to include the option of appealing to the Secretary of State, via ESFA, whose decision would be final.

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