

FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (the 2003 Order) provides the legislative basis for the Common Funding Scheme and the use of a single formula for consistent and equitable distribution of funds to all grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland.
- 2 The application of formula funding through the Common Funding Scheme, and the delegation of financial and managerial responsibilities to Boards of Governors, are key elements in the Department's overall policy to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools by:
 - a) enabling Boards of Governors and principals to plan and use resources (including their most valuable resource - their staff) to maximum effect in accordance with their own needs and priorities; and
 - b) making schools more responsive to parents, pupils, the local community and employers.
- 3 Voluntary Grammar schools receive their budgets as calculated under the Common Funding Formula from the Department. In line with schools in other sectors, they have access to central funds for specified purposes, including access to a Contingency Fund to which they can bid to meet certain exceptional and unavoidable costs. Details of central funds available are provided at Section B Part 1.

PURPOSE OF BUDGET STATEMENT

- 4 The main purpose of the budget statement is to provide each school with clarity on the Department's planned spending provision, in its role as Funding Authority for Voluntary Grammar Schools, for the forthcoming financial year. Each school can therefore see the outcome of the formula for each Voluntary Grammar school; and how much the Department is proposing to retain centrally for these schools, for subsequent allocations to school budgets, other than by means of the common formula.
- 5 The publication of a matching outturn statement at the end of the financial year will let schools see what happened in practice - how actual expenditure compared with budgets at overall and individual school level, and whether there were any mid-year budget adjustments.

FORMAT AND CONTENT OF STATEMENT

- 6 The **Budget Statement** provides the following information for the 2016/17 financial year:

Part 1 : The total Spending by the Department on Voluntary Grammar schools under the Common Funding Scheme

- 7 Common Funding arrangements aim to ensure that schools of similar size and characteristics receive similar funding. Schools are expected to meet the same types of costs from their formula allocation. Schools also have access to funds held centrally for distribution to schools other than by the formula. These are distributed strictly in accordance with the rules contained within the LMS scheme (See Section B Part 1 for details of centrally held funds).

Part 2 : Summary of schools' budget shares

- 8 This part provides the following information in respect of each school:

a) full time equivalent enrolment, i.e. the number of pupils, as determined from the annual School Census return, attending school, full time each day. Figures are 'unweighted', that is before pupil data is weighted in accordance with specified year groups as determined under the Common Funding Scheme (see Part 3 of the scheme for further details);

b) overall budget share;

c) per capita share - the budget share for each school divided by the full time equivalent enrolment; and

d) for each school with a preparatory department:-

(i) the school's budget share, excluding the value of age-weighted pupil units relation to preparatory department pupils; and

(ii) the school's resultant per capita share, excluding preparatory department.

Part 3 : Summary of overall delegated budget by individual Common Funding Formula factor

- 9 This part of the budget statement provides a summary of the distribution of the total budget delegated to all Voluntary Grammar schools by factor.

Part 4: The calculation of each school's budget share

- 10 The aim of this part of the budget statement is to demonstrate in detail how each school's budget share has been calculated (ie, how funding allocations were determined for each Voluntary Grammar school's delegated budget share, under the various factors within the Common Funding Formula).