



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# **Schools block funding formulae 2018-19**

**Analysis of local authorities' schools  
block funding formulae**

**July 2018**

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## Introduction

In January 2018, local authorities in England submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) their local formulae for allocating their dedicated schools grant (DSG) schools block funding for 2018-19 to schools in their area. This document summarises the information on these local formulae.

2018-19 saw the introduction of the national funding formula (NFF). This reform means that for the first time, school funding is being distributed according to a formula based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country. In order to provide stability for schools during the transition to the NFF, we have previously confirmed that local authorities continue to be responsible for distributing money between schools in their area in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Detailed information about the NFF can be found in [the national funding formula for schools and high needs: executive summary](#), which was published in September 2017.

For 2018-19, each local authorities' schools block DSG allocation was calculated based on the notional NFF allocations for schools in their area. Local authorities then set their own funding formula in order to distribute their schools block allocation. This document provides an overview of the 2018-19 formula factor values chosen by local authorities as at 23 March 2018. For 2018-19, schools are funded using a maximum of 14 clearly defined factors.

The data in this document shows that many authorities have moved towards the values in the NFF when setting their 2018-19 funding formula. When allowing for the area cost adjustments (ACA)<sup>1</sup> which are applied to each of the factors in the NFF it shows, 73 LAs have moved every one of their factor values in their local formulae closer to the NFF, with 41 mirroring the NFF factor values almost exactly. Sixty two LAs have set their minimum funding guarantee at 0.5% or above, meaning all schools in that area will gain in cash terms compared to 2017-18, and 112 LAs have brought in a minimum per pupil funding factor, mirroring its introduction in the NFF. In light of this significant progress in the first year of the NFF, and to continue to support a smooth transition, local authorities will continue to determine local formulae in 2020-21.

This document provides charts and brief commentary on the ranges of unit funding amounts authorities have selected in 2018-19, and the proportions of schools block funding distributed under each of the permitted factors. This document is accompanied by a data file, more details about which can be found in the "Information about the data

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<sup>1</sup> The NFF applies an area cost adjustment (ACA) to each of the individual factors. The data shown in this document does not include the ACA adjustment. When comparing the factors used by each authority against the NFF the ACA adjustment, where applicable, should to be taken into account.

file” section at the end of this document. Small details of funding formulae may change subsequently compared to the figures presented here as a result of late amendments.

Note that in the charts shown throughout the document the range of values along the x-axis include the value at the lower end and exclude the maximum value. So for example a band labelled 4% to 6% will include values of exactly 4% but will exclude values of exactly 6%. The charts are colour coded throughout the document:

- charts showing percentages are black/grey
- all other charts are blue.

A similar summary about [local authorities' funding formulae for 2017-18](#) was published by the DfE last year.

## Commentary

This chapter looks at each of the principal formula factors in turn. It sets out the values that local authorities have chosen for those factors in their local formulae for 2018-19, how these have changed from previous years and, where relevant, how they compare to the values in the NFF, as set out in the [NFF technical note](#). It should be noted that these comparisons to the NFF are not precise, due to the effect of the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA), which reflects variation in local costs. Individual factor values in the NFF do not include the impact of the ACA, which is applied (at a rate of 1 - 1.18) as a separate element within the overall NFF calculation. By contrast, the values of factors in individual local authorities' local formulae implicitly include the effect of the ACA. It also sets out the proportion of funding allocated through each factor<sup>2</sup>.

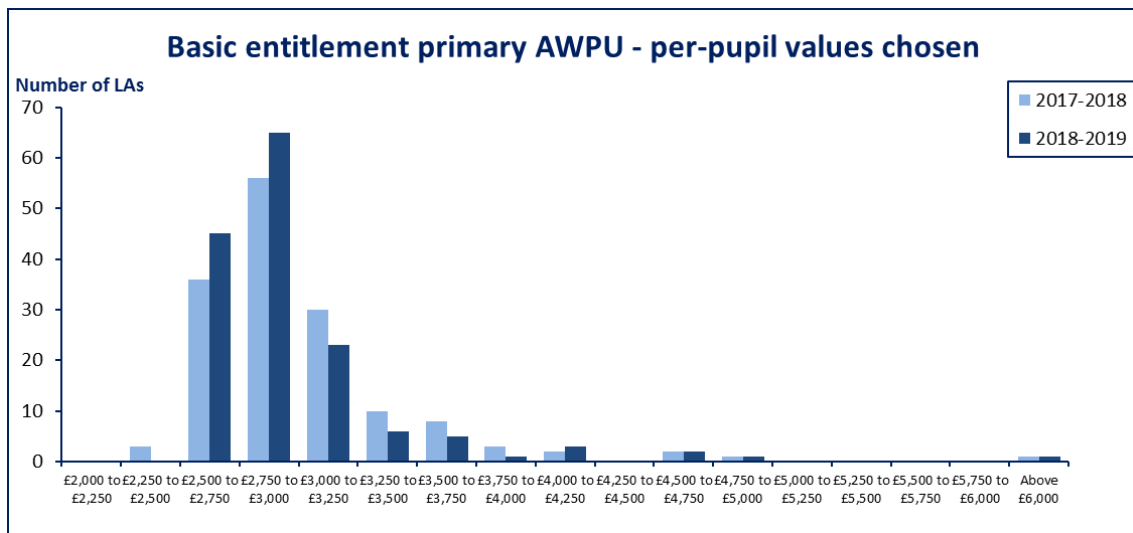
### Basic per-pupil entitlement

This is a mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2018-19 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; but they must specify a primary AWPU of at least £2,000, and key stage 3 and key stage 4 AWPU values of at least £3,000.

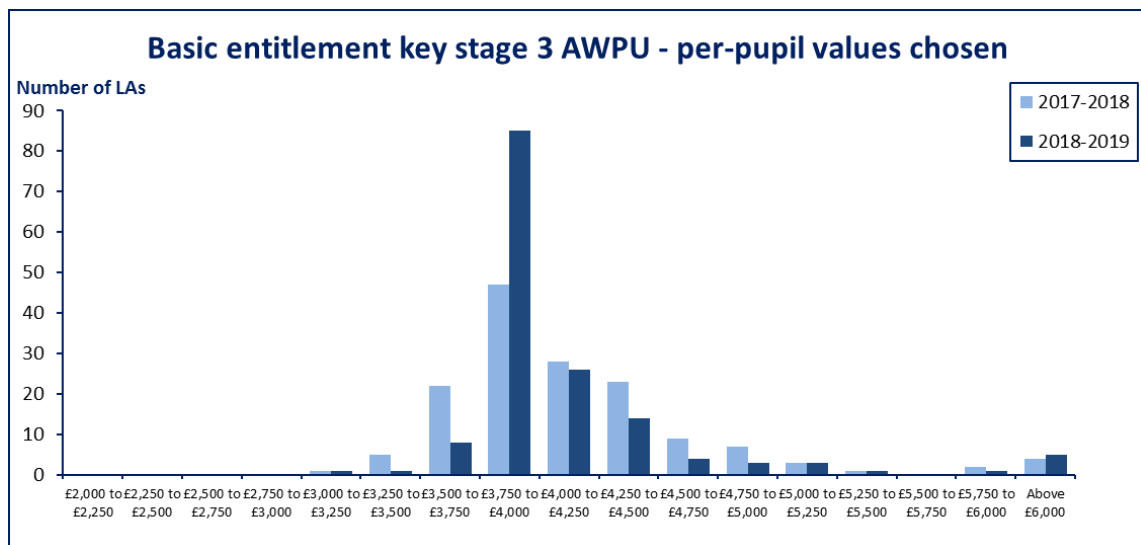
The majority (88%) of primary AWPU values selected by local authorities are in the range of £2,500 to £3,250, although there are a few significant outliers of over £4,000. Seventeen of the 20 local authorities with the highest primary AWPU values are in London. The AWPU values are very similar to last year although the distribution of the primary rate shows a move towards the rate of £2,746.99 stated in the [NFF technical note](#).

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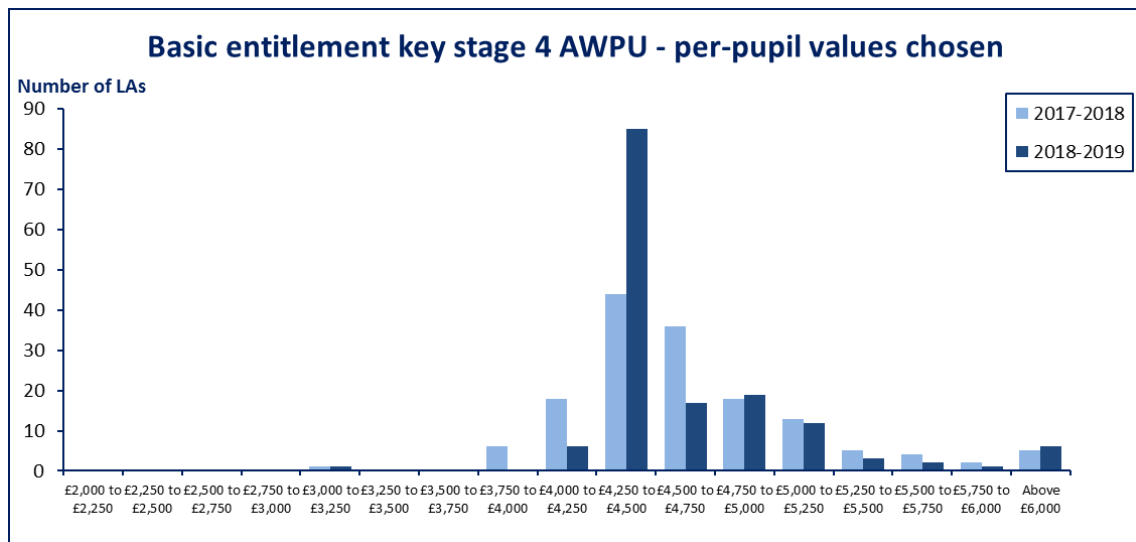
<sup>2</sup> In the charts showing the ranges of unit funding amounts local authorities have used for the formula factors, only those authorities which have chosen to use that factor in their formula in each year are shown. However, in the charts showing the proportion of funding allocated using the factors, all local authorities are displayed, with those not choosing to use the factor (where its use is not mandatory) shown as allocating 0%.



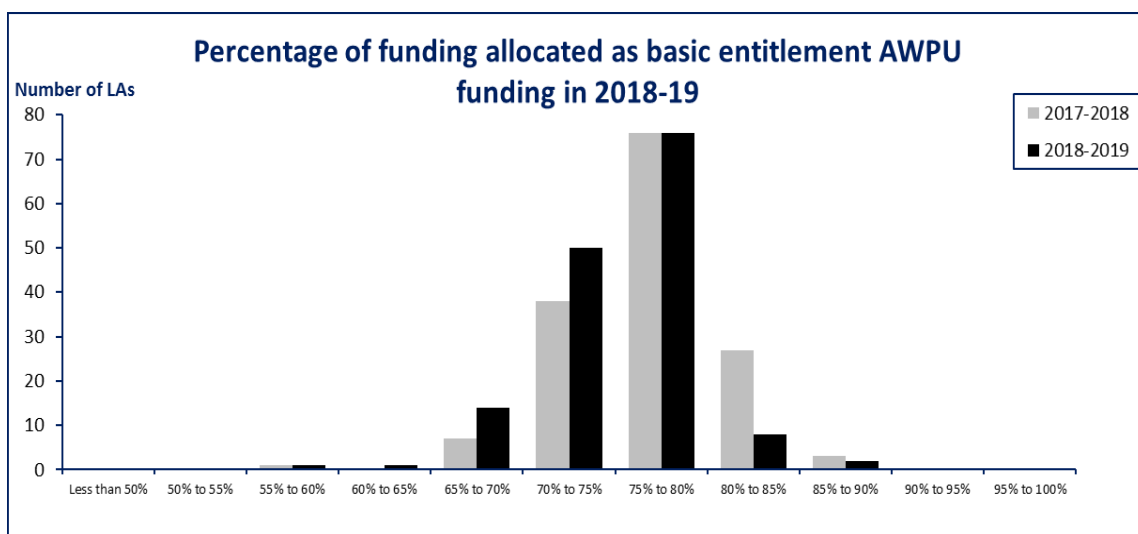
The distribution of the KS3 and KS4 rates show a move towards the NFF rates of £3,862.65 and £4,385.81 given in the [NFF technical note](#). For key stage 3 AWPU, 88% of local authorities are allocating between £3,500 and £4,500 per pupil, and for key stage 4, the majority (84%) are allocating between £4,000 and £5,000 per pupil. Again, the authorities with the largest secondary AWPU are mostly in London<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>3</sup> City of London have a value of £3,000 for their key stage 3 and key stage 4 AWPU in 2017-18 and 2018-19, which is shown on the chart; however they do not have any key stage 3 or key stage 4 pupils at their sole school so allocate no funding through these indicators.



The final chart in this section shows the proportions of schools block funding that local authorities are allocating through the basic entitlement factor. Overall, the proportion of funding being spent on the AWPU ranges from 59% to 87%, with 50% of local authorities allocating between 75% and 80%. Across all authorities, 74.9% of funding is being allocated through basic entitlement, compared to 76.9% of funding in the 2017-18 formulae.



## Deprivation

This is another mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2018-19 formula. Local authorities can distribute their deprivation funding using any combination of the three indicators: children eligible for free school meals, children eligible for free school meals in any of the last 6 years or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data.

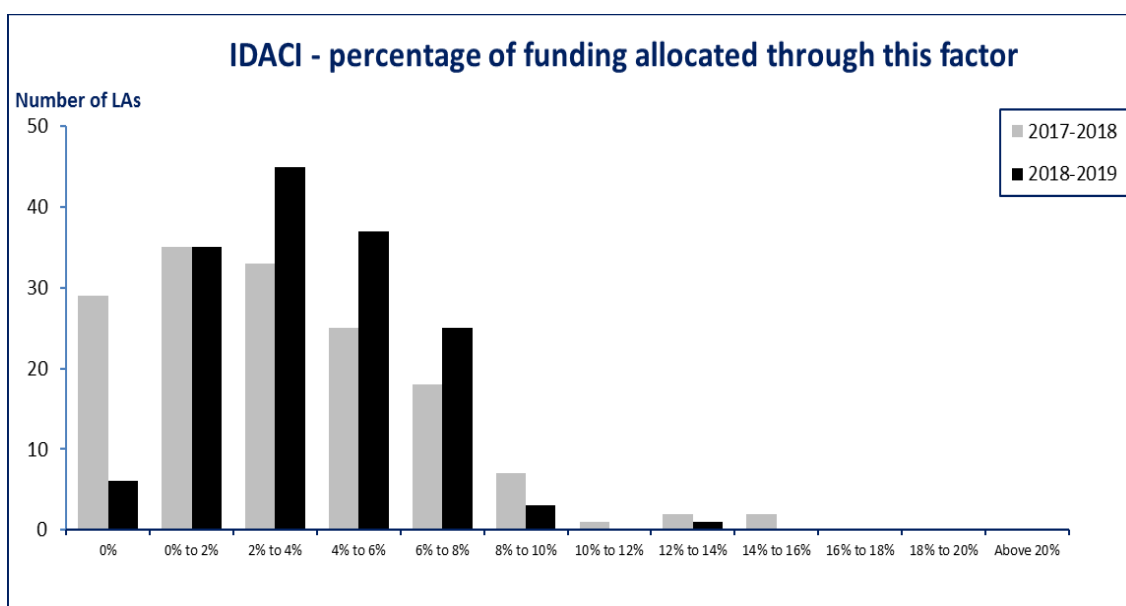
IDACI scores are taken from the English Indices of Deprivation (IMD) published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. IDACI is a measure of income

deprivation and identifies the proportion of children in out-of-work households or on low incomes.

The IDACI scores are grouped into 7 bands as per the table below:

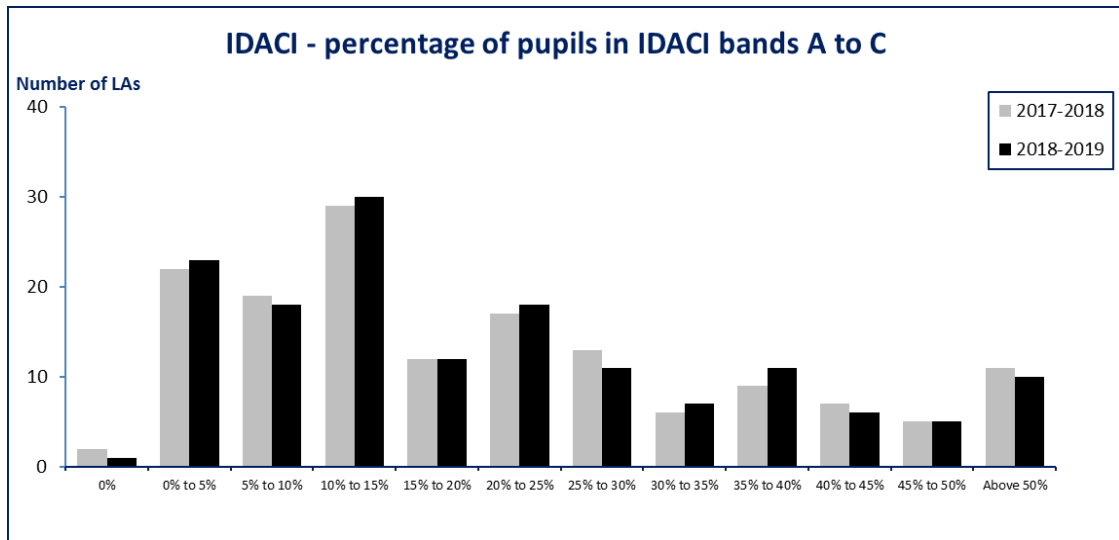
IDACI score	IDACI band value
$x < 0.20$	G
$0.20 \leq x < 0.25$	F
$0.25 \leq x < 0.30$	E
$0.30 \leq x < 0.35$	D
$0.35 \leq x < 0.40$	C
$0.40 \leq x < 0.50$	B
$x \geq 0.50$	A

The first chart in this section indicates that there is some variation between local authorities in the amount of funding allocated through this element of the factor. Of the 146 authorities using IDACI in their deprivation factor 19% are using it to allocate more than 6% of their total funding compared to 20% in 2017-18.



In 2018-19 33% of authorities have more than 25% of their pupils in IDACI bands A to C (compared to 34% in bands A to C in 2017-18) and 10 authorities have more than 50% of pupils in bands A to C in 2018-19 (compared to 11 authorities in 2017-18).

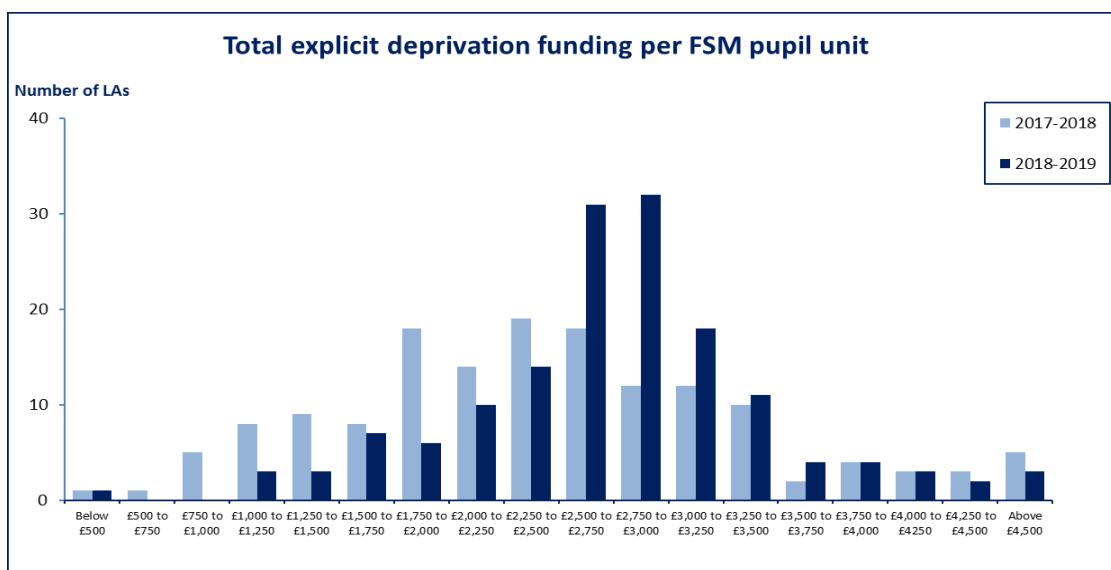




Because of the different permutations of deprivation indicator selections available for local authorities to use for this factor, it is not immediately straightforward to calculate per-pupil funding amounts on a comparable basis. For the purpose of this analysis, total funding allocated through the deprivation factors is divided by the number of FSM pupils, to obtain an estimate of the deprivation funding per FSM pupil, as below.

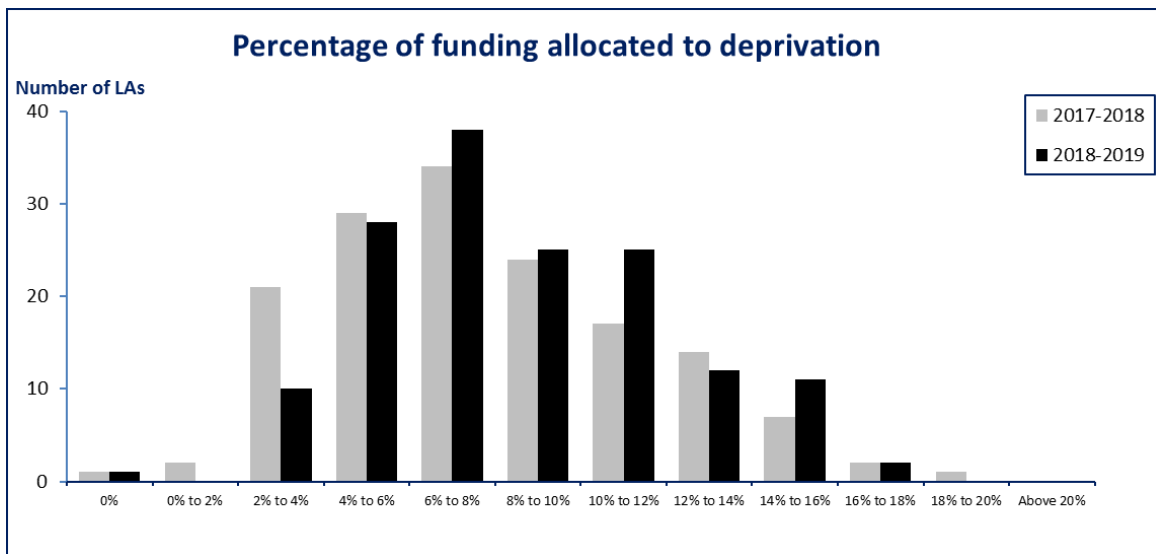
$$\text{Total deprivation per FSM pupil for each LA} = \left( \frac{\text{Total Deprivation funding in FSM+IDACI}}{\text{Number of FSM pupils}} \right)$$

The chart below indicates that there is some variation between local authorities in the amount of funding allocated per FSM pupil. 66% are allocating between £1,500 and £3,000 per FSM pupil.



There is considerable variation in the proportion of schools block funding which local authorities are allocating to schools through the deprivation factor, ranging from 0% to 18%, as illustrated by the chart below. While the deprivation factor is mandatory, the Isles of Scilly this year have no money allocated to it as no pupils meet the criteria for any of the deprivation categories used.

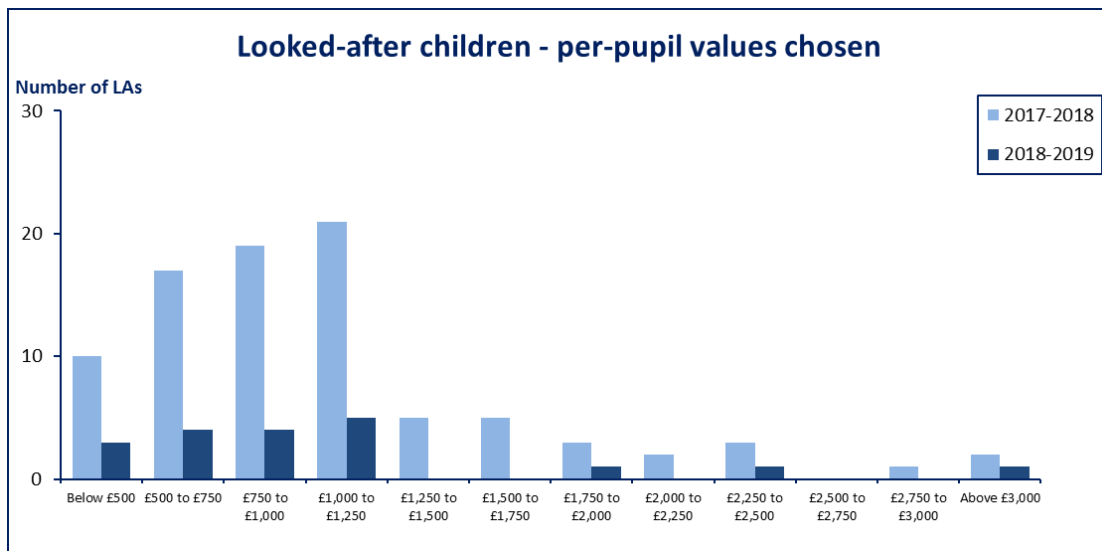
There is some variation in allocation within authorities from last year (as highlighted in the graph below), but across all authorities, the allocation has increased to 8.2% in 2018-19 compared to 7.7% in 2017-18.



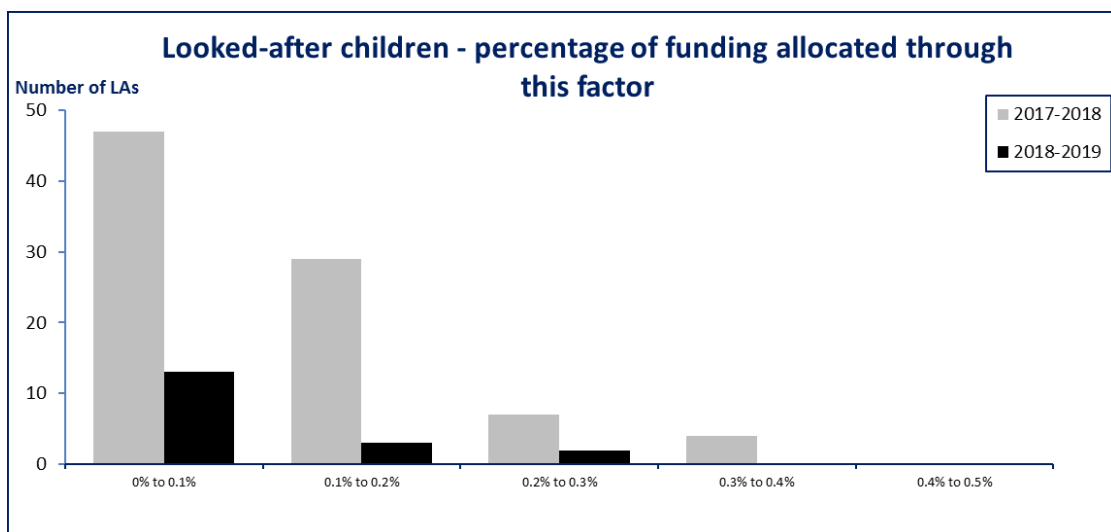
## Looked-after children

Use of this factor in funding formulae is optional, and only 19 local authorities have chosen to use it, compared to 88 in 2017-18. The factor is not included in the NFF and this may be the reason for the large decrease in the number of local authorities using it in their 2018-19 formula.

As in 2017-18, the indicator authorities can use for this factor is children looked after for any period of time as at the end of March 2017 (as recorded on the March 2017 SSDA903 collection). Of the authorities that are using the factor 84% are allocating less than £1,250 per pupil. The chart below shows for those authorities using the factor the amount allocated per pupil.



Across all local authorities (including those not using the factor), a total of 0.01% of schools block funding is being allocated through the looked-after children factor.



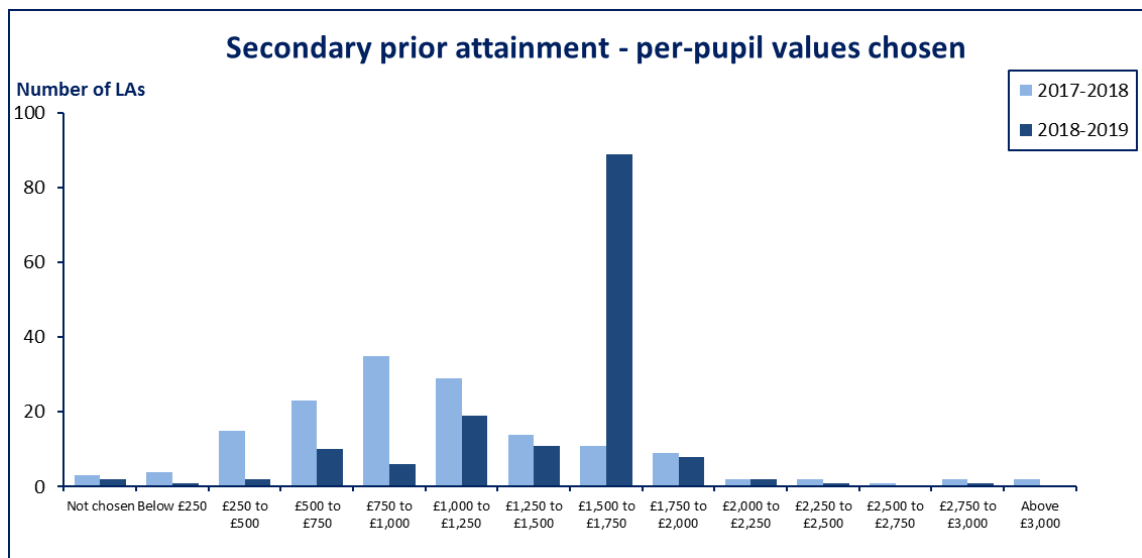
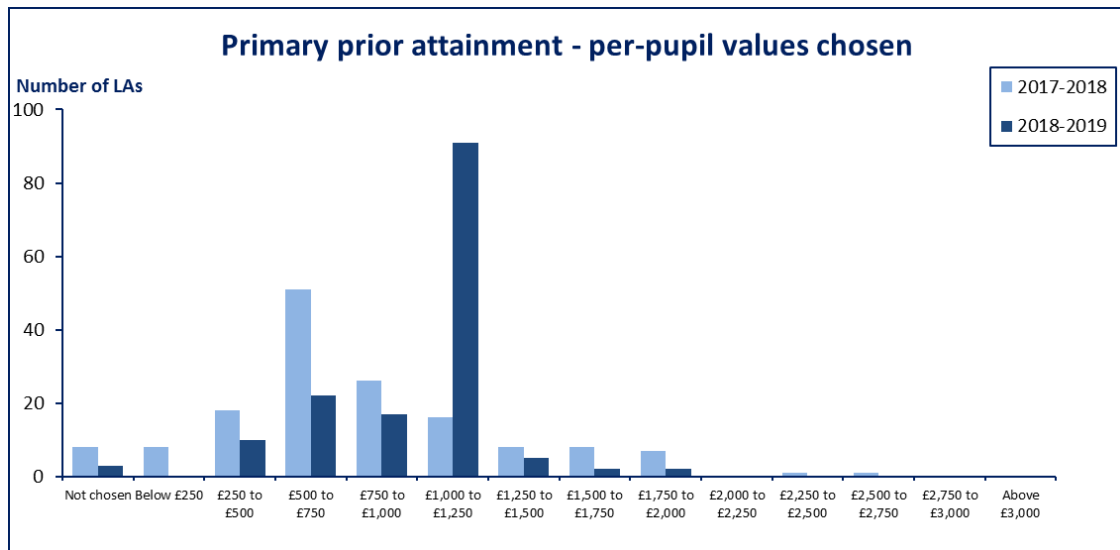
## Prior attainment

Use of this factor is optional, but the factor is included in the NFF. 149 local authorities are using the indicator for primary pupils (compared to 144 in the 2017-18 formulae) and 150 are using the indicator for secondary pupils (149 last year). Two authorities have not included this factor in their formula.

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

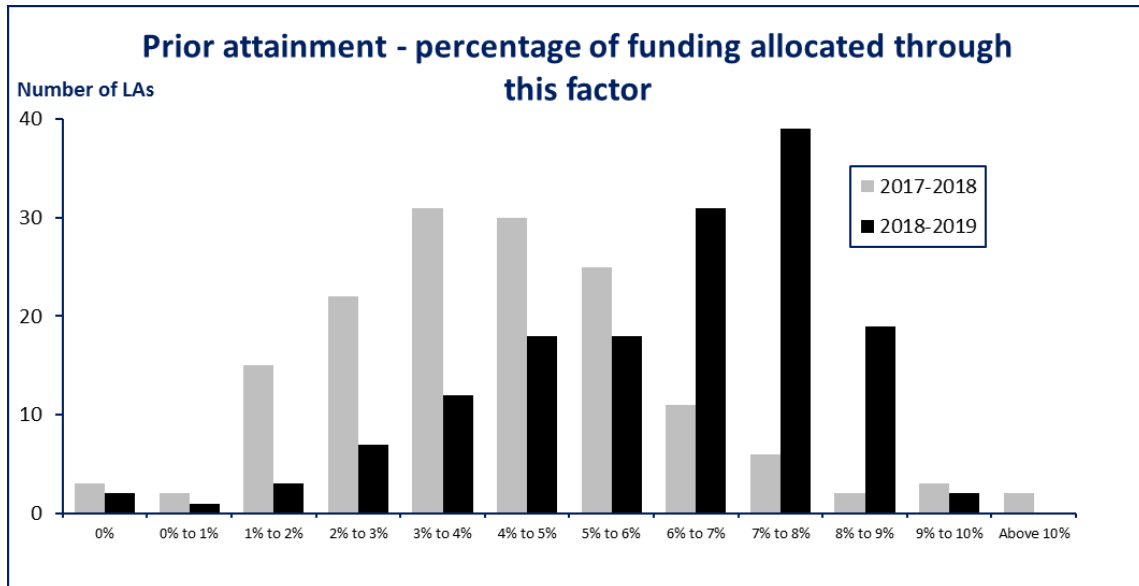
point indicator). In their formula local authorities can scale back the proportion of years 1 to 5 pupils not meeting the 'good development' criterion.

For secondary pupils a new national curriculum and assessment was introduced in the 2015-16 academic year, which years 7 and 8 have been assessed under. The proportion of pupils who fall in the low prior attainment bracket is higher than the proportion in years 9-11, so a national weighting has been applied to each of these years to prevent them overly influencing the funding levels. Separate weightings have been applied to year 7 pupils and to year 8 pupils. Please see page 15 of the [schools revenue funding 2018-19: operational guide](#) for further details.



The distribution of the low prior attainment rates for both primary and secondary pupils shows a significant movement towards the NFF values of £1,050 and £1,550 respectively.

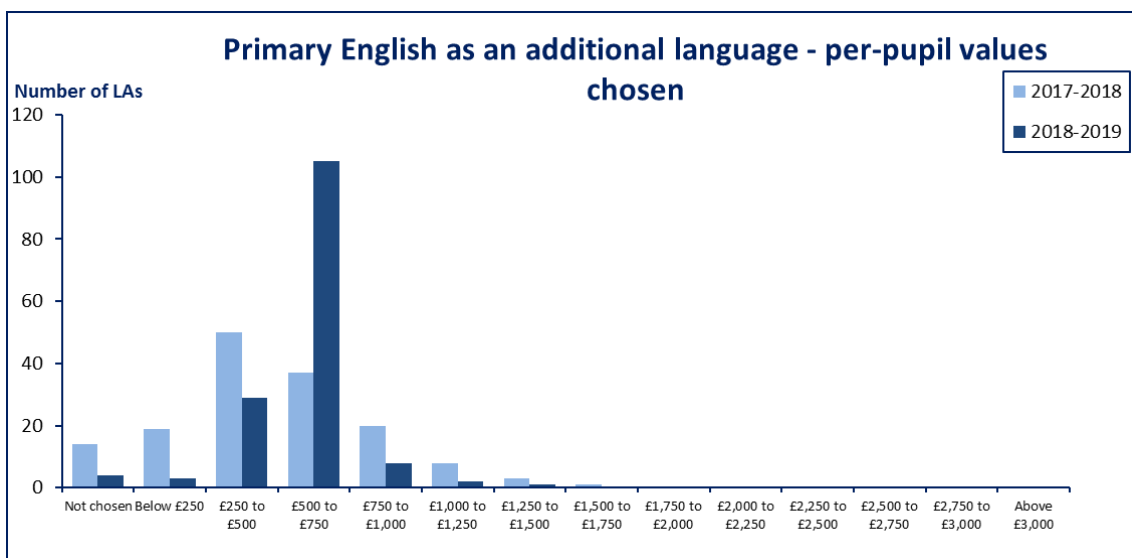
The NFF increased the amount of funding nationally that is allocated through the low prior attainment factor. This shift is being mirrored in local formulae. The chart below shows that 72% of local authorities are allocating between 5% and 10% of their schools block funding through this factor compared to only 31% last year. Across all authorities, 6.2% of funding is allocated through this factor compared to 4.3% last year.



## English as an additional language (EAL)

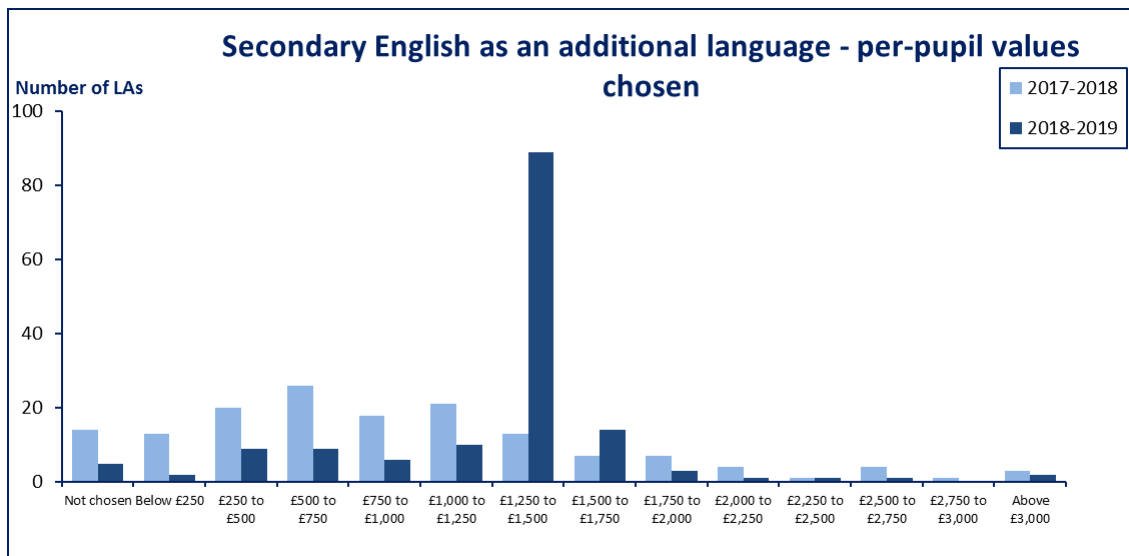
Use of this factor is optional, but the factor is included in the NFF. 148 local authorities have chosen to use it, compared with 139 in 2017-18.

Local authorities can 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.

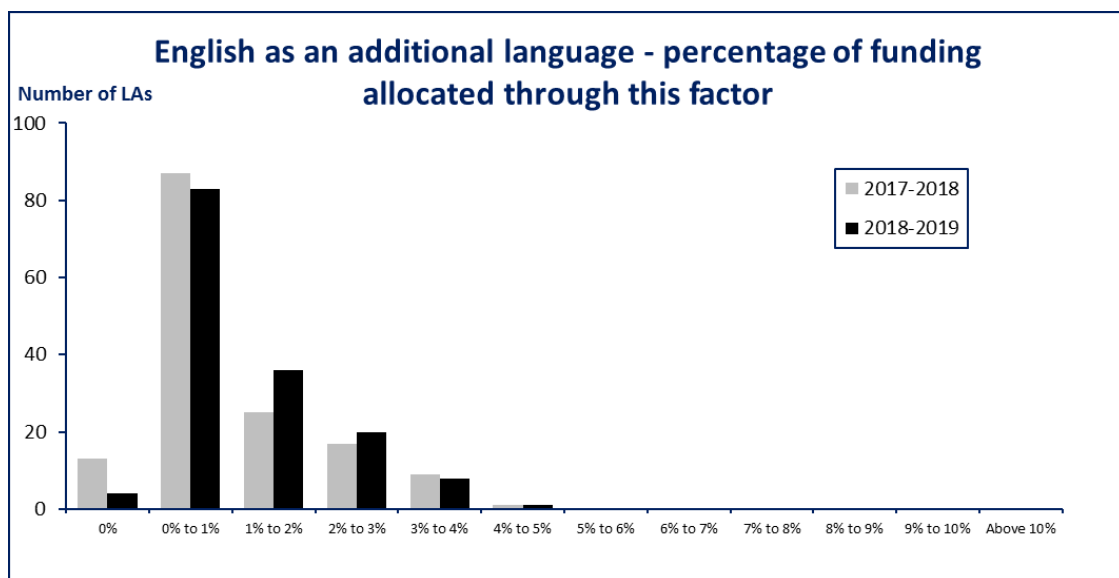


The distribution of the EAL rates for both primary and secondary pupils shows a significant movement towards the NFF values of £515 and £1,385. For the primary

indicator 69% of local authorities are allocating between £500 and £750 per pupil. For the secondary indicator 59% are allocating between £1,250 and £1,500 per pupil.

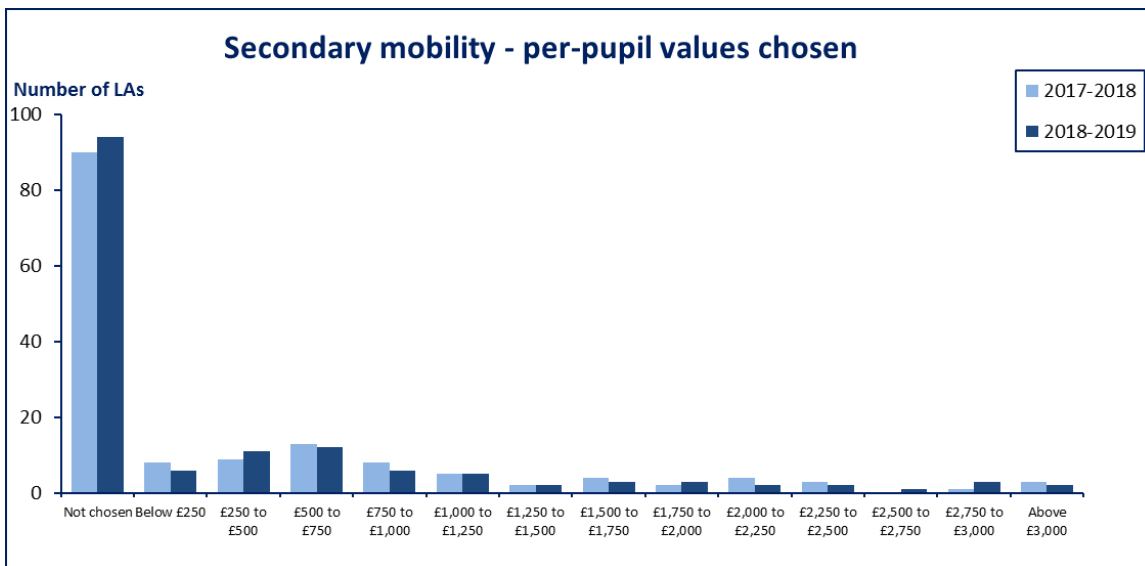
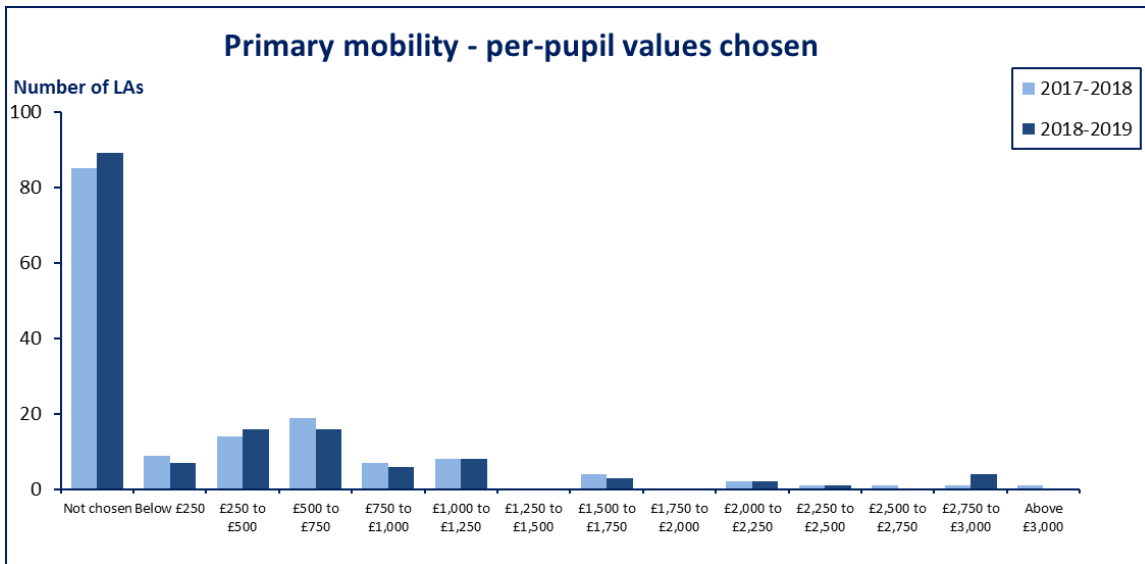


With pupils attracting funding through the EAL factor being smaller in number than those attracting funding through many other factors, across all local authorities 1.1% of funding is allocated through this factor, compared to 0.9% in 2017-18.

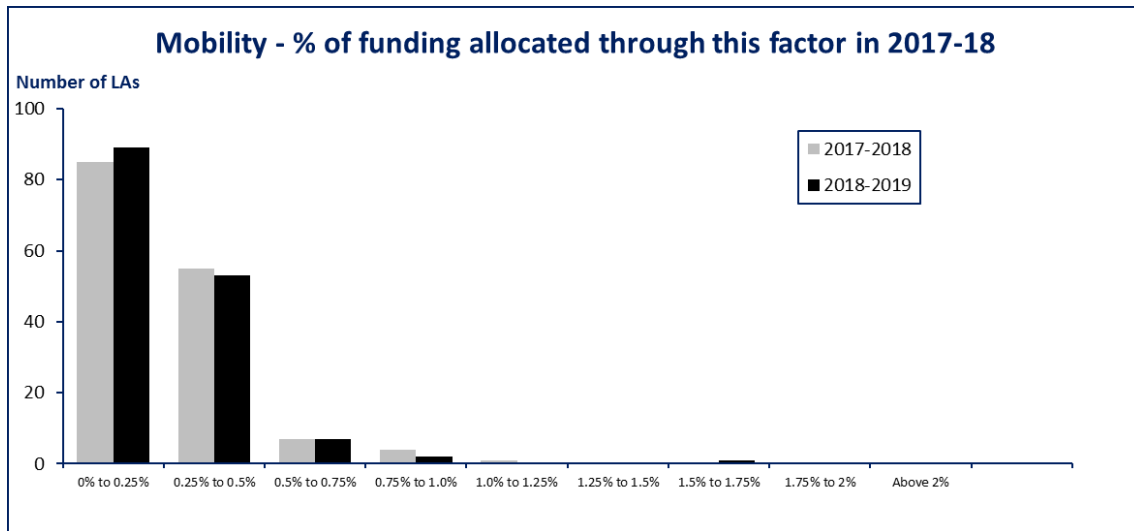


## Mobility

Use of this factor is optional, and only 63 of the 152 local authorities have chosen to use it compared to 67 in 2017-18. Mobility is included in the NFF, but is currently funded on a 'historic' basis – in other words only authorities that used the factor in their local formulae in 2017-18 received funding through this factor in their 2018-19 NFF allocations. This may explain why the proportion of authorities using the factor remained relatively stable. The indicator for this factor is the number of 'mobile' pupils in excess of 10% of pupils, and is payable on the number of pupils exceeding this cut off (for example if a school has 12% mobile pupils, funding is applied to 2%).



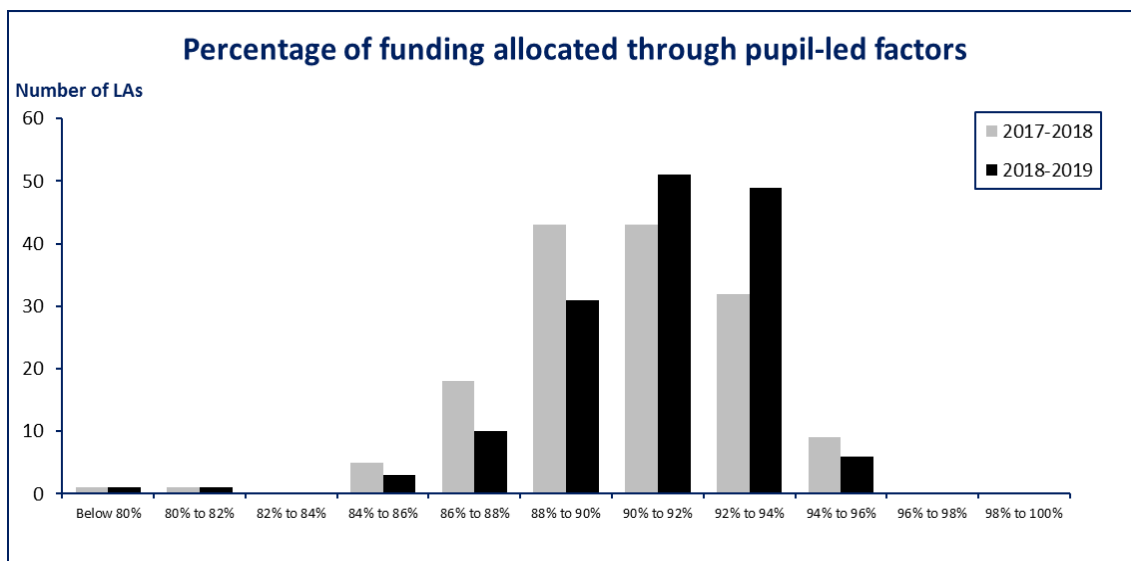
Primary per-pupil amounts range from £65 to £2,981, and the secondary per-pupil amounts from £14 to £18,826.



Only one of the local authorities which are incorporating the mobility factor into their 2018-19 funding formulae are using it to allocate more than 1% of their schools block funding, and only three are allocating more than 0.5%. Across all local authorities as a whole, some 0.1% of schools block funding is being allocated through this factor, the same as in the 2017-18 formulae.

## Total funding through the pupil-led factors

The factors highlighted above (that is basic per-pupil entitlement, deprivation, looked-after children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, and mobility) are pupil-led. Although there is considerable variation across local authorities in the choices of factors used, the per-pupil amounts, and the proportions of funding allocated through each one, overall there is strong consistency in the proportions of funding allocated through the pupil-led factors as a whole.



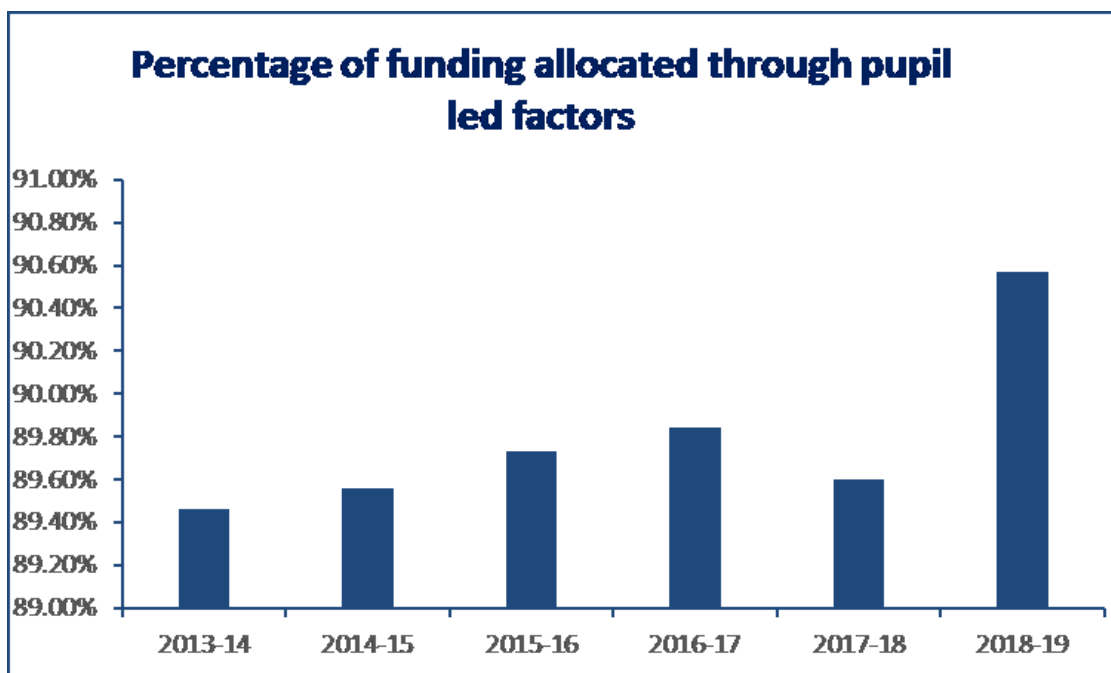
A requirement for the 2018-19 formulae is that across each local authority as a whole, a minimum of 80% of schools block funding must be allocated through these pupil-led factors. Note that the Isles of Scilly has only a single school, and does not formally receive DSG schools block funding in the same way as the other authorities, so the 80%



requirement, which is set out in the DSG conditions of grant, does not apply to them; they are the block on the chart above shown below the 80% level.

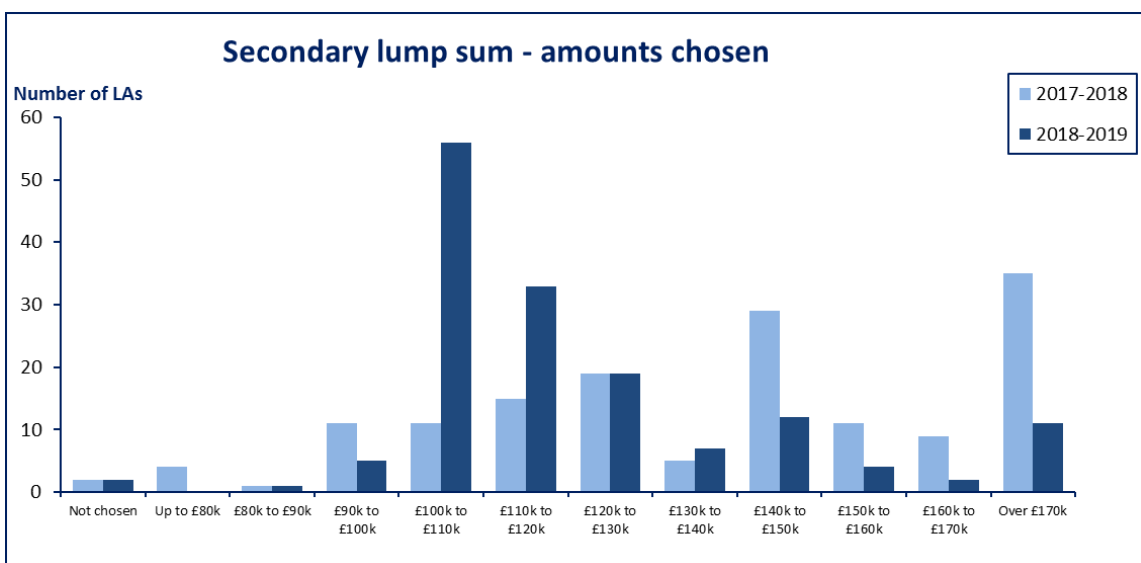
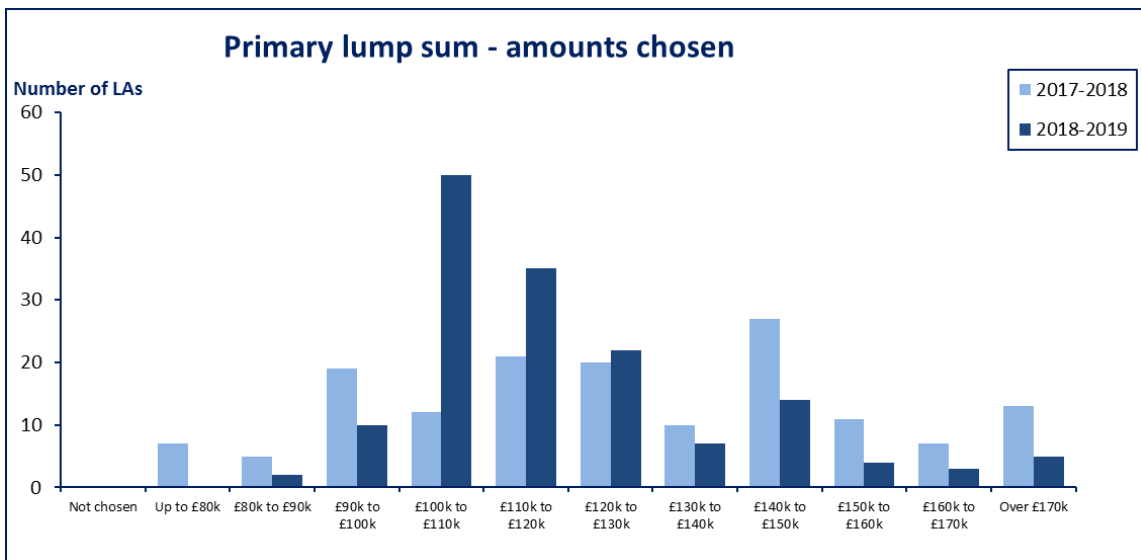
All other authorities are allocating more than 80% of their funding through a combination of the pupil-led factors, the lowest being 81.6%. In total 86% of authorities are allocating between 88% and 94% of their funding through these factors.

Across all authorities, a total of 90.57% of funding in 2018-19 formulae is being allocated through the pupil-led factors. This compares to 89.6% of funding in 2017-18, 89.84% in 2016-17, 89.73% in 2015-16, 89.56% in 2014-15 and 89.46% in 2013-14.



## Lump sum

In the 2018-19 formulae, local authorities can use this factor to allocate a lump sum of the same amount to all schools, up to a maximum of £175,000. Separate lump sums can be specified for primary schools and secondary schools. All-through schools receive the lump sum specified for secondary schools. Middle schools receive a weighted combination of the two, based on the number of year groups of each phase present at the school. For a school which amalgamated during the 2017-18 financial year, authorities must allocate it additional lump sum funding, so that it receives 85% of the combined lump sums that its predecessors would have received under the 2018-19 formula.



Although this is an optional factor, like last year all local authorities have chosen to include it in their 2018-19 funding formulae<sup>4</sup>.

There has been a large shift in the distribution of the lump sum values used with most LAs choosing to use the NFF amount of £110,000 or a value close to it. However there is still substantial variation in the value of the lump sums selected for both primary and secondary schools. The range has narrowed to values between £85,000 and £175,000 in 2018-19 compared to value between £48,480 and £175,000 in 2017-18. The maximum value of £175,000 was chosen by 5 authorities for their primary lump sum amount and 10 for their secondary lump sum. This is compared to 13 authorities using the maximum primary lump sum and 33 the secondary maximum lump sum in 2017-18.

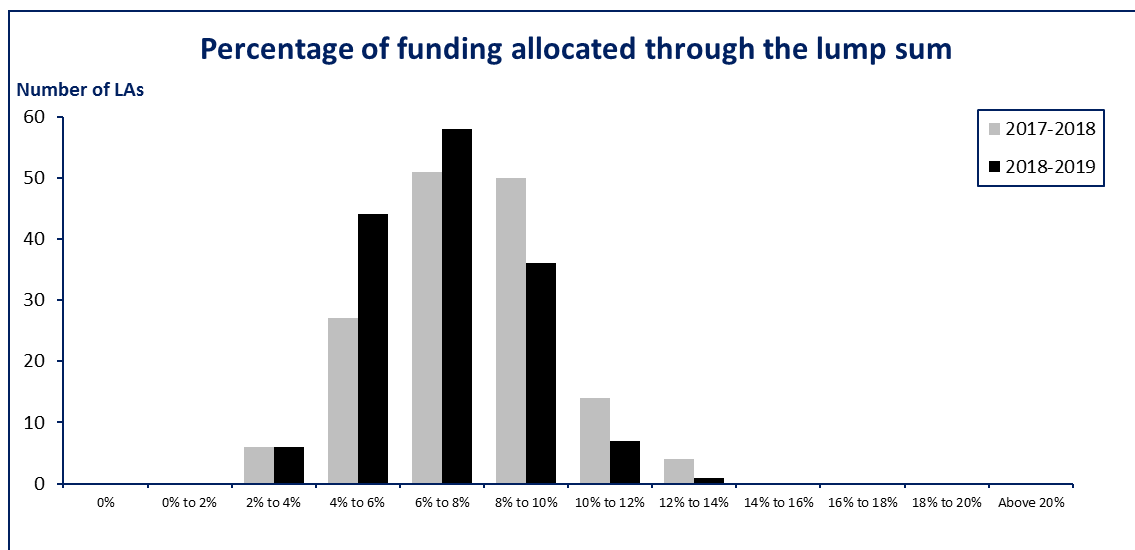
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<sup>4</sup> City of London and Haringey are the LAs represented by the “Not chosen” bar for 2018-19 secondary lump sum amounts.

There are 119 authorities that have selected equal primary and secondary lump sum amounts. Twenty two have selected a greater secondary lump sum than primary; and 11 authorities have selected a greater primary lump sum than secondary.

Note that in the lump sum - amounts chosen charts, lump sum choices of exactly a multiple of £10,000 are shown in the category for which that is the top of the band. For example the 2 local authorities with a primary lump sum of £140,000 are included in the “£130k to £140k” category.

Overall, local authorities are allocating a slightly lower proportion of their schools block funding through the lump sum factor than last year: 7.3% in 2018-19 compared to 8.1% in 2017-18.



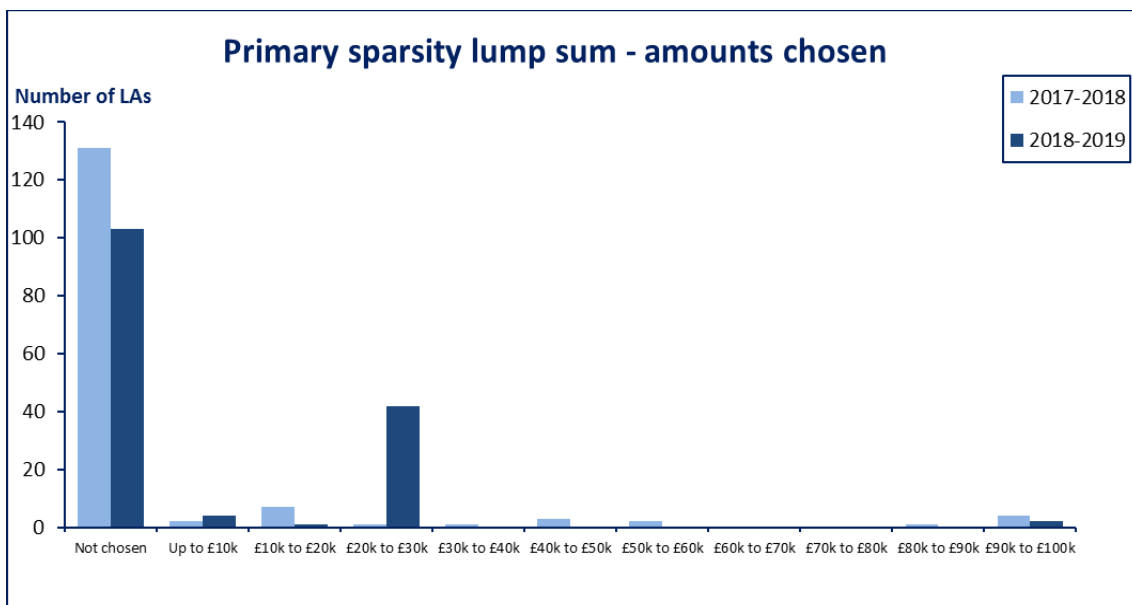
## Sparsity

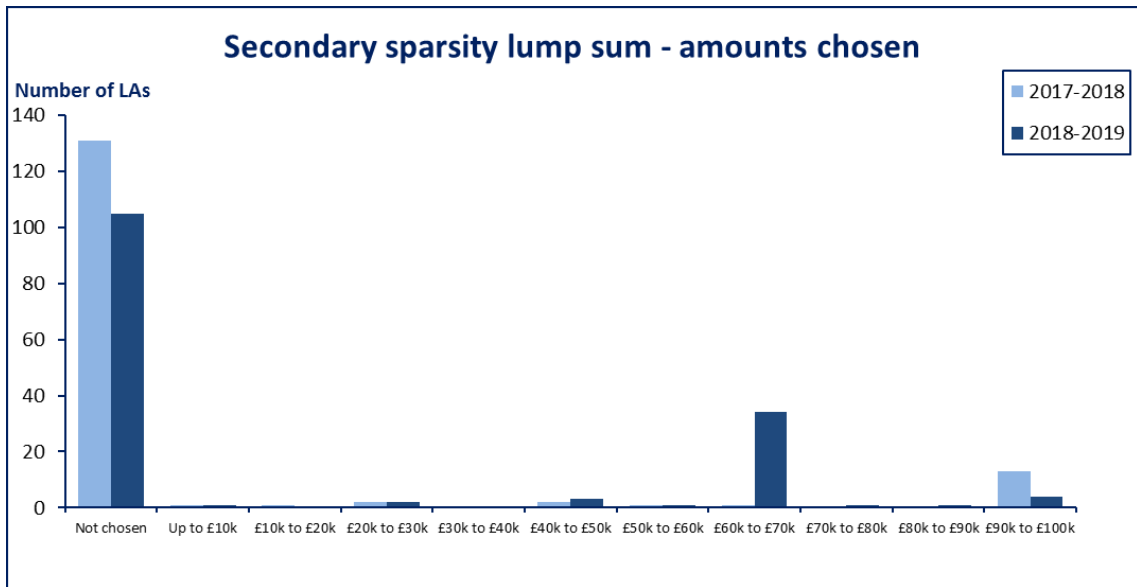
This factor was introduced into the funding formula arrangements in 2014-15. Whether a school is deemed to be sparse depends on two considerations: its “sparsity distance” and the average number of pupils per year group.

A school’s sparsity distance is derived from those pupils for whom it is their closest school (irrespective of whether they attend it). For all those pupils, the average distance to their second nearest school is calculated. Distances are calculated using the crow flies distance from a pupil’s postcode to a school’s postcode.

The sparsity factor may be applied to small schools where the average distance to pupils’ second nearest school is at least two miles (for primary schools, middle schools and all through schools) or three miles (for secondary schools). Schools must also have an average number of pupils per year group no larger than 21.4 pupils for primary schools, 120 pupils for secondary schools, 69.2 pupils for middle schools or 62.5 pupils for all-through schools. Local authorities can narrow the eligibility criteria for the factor, by increasing the average distance to the second nearest school and / or reducing the

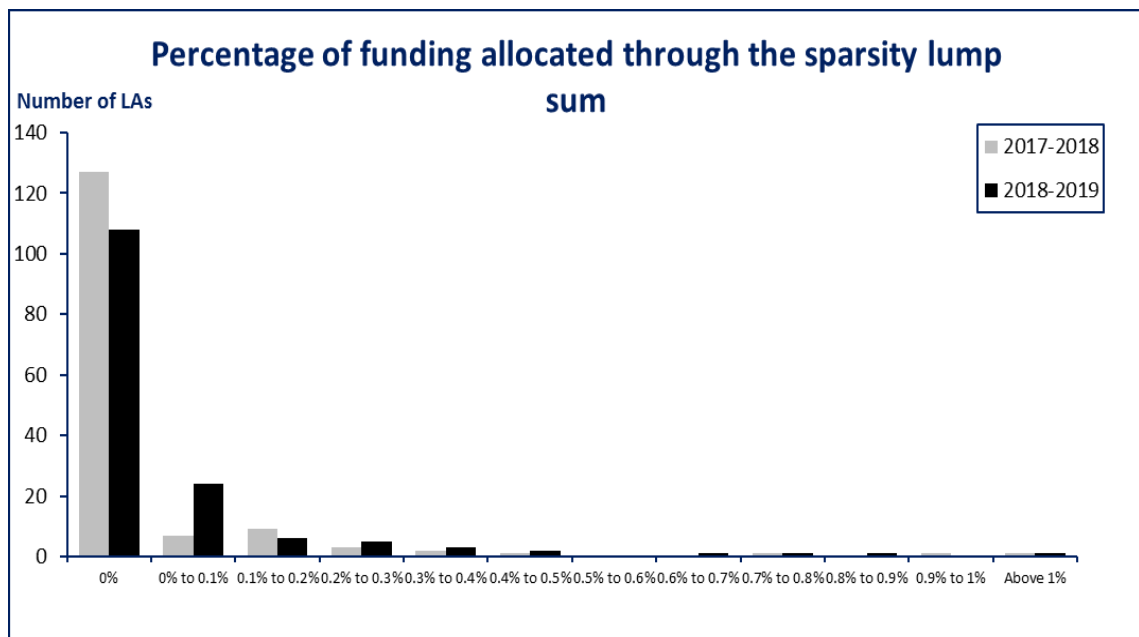
average pupil number maximum thresholds, but they cannot widen the eligibility criteria. Local authorities can set different sparsity lump sum amounts for each of these four phases of school, up to a maximum of £100,000 per school. They can also choose in each case whether to apply a ‘taper’ so that the funding given to a sparse school depends on how many pupils they have (so that the smaller schools receive higher sparsity funding) or that all sparse schools receive the same specified sparsity lump sum. Additional sparsity funding of £50,000 can also be allocated to very small, sparse secondary schools. In 2018-19 authorities were also allowed to apply to use the rules set out in the [NFF technical note](#). These rules allow for a lump sum of up to £25,000 for primary schools and £65,000 for secondary schools, middle school and all-through schools. Where the school has fewer pupils than half the year group threshold a weighting is applied to the lump sum amount meaning affected schools only receive a portion of the lump sum.





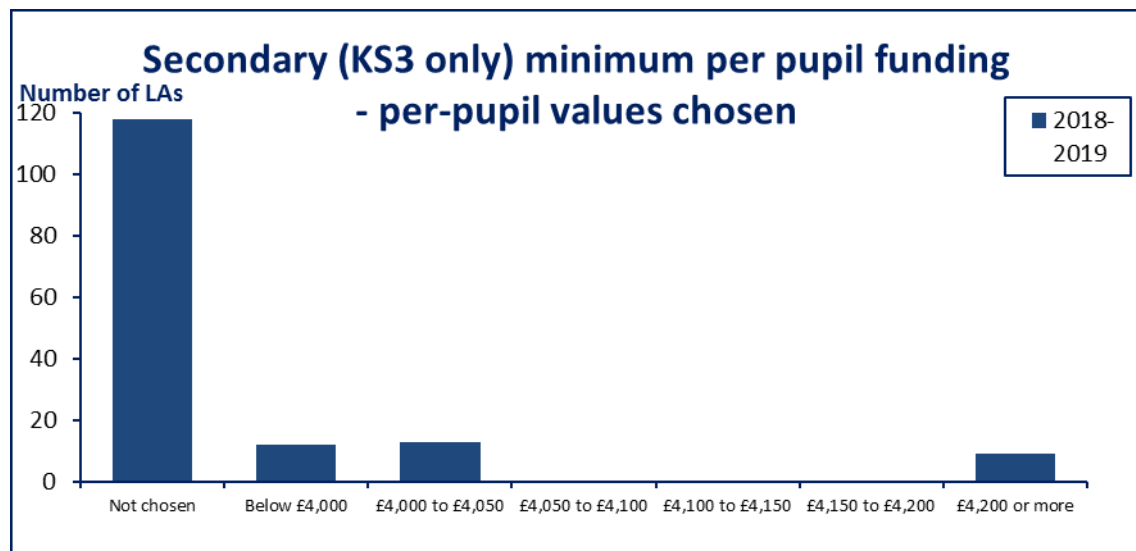
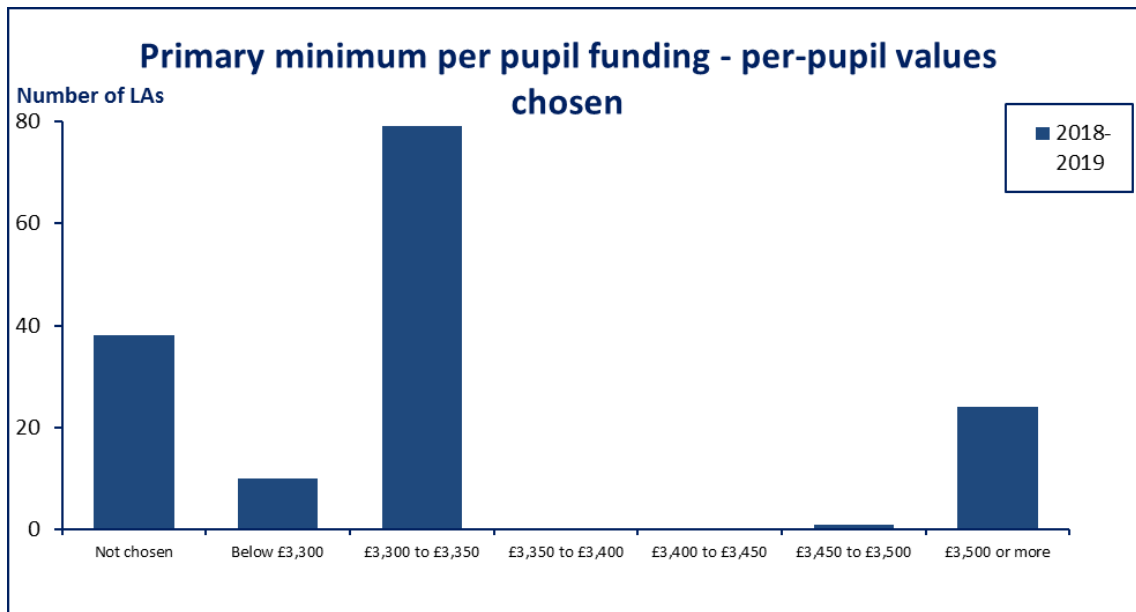
In 2018-19 50 authorities are using the sparsity factor compared to 25 in 2017-18. The increase in authority's using this factor reflects a number of authorities using the NFF rates. Many of those authorities not using the factor do not have any schools meeting the maximum permissible average year group size and minimum permissible distance thresholds for eligibility for funding through the factor, so do not have any sparse schools.

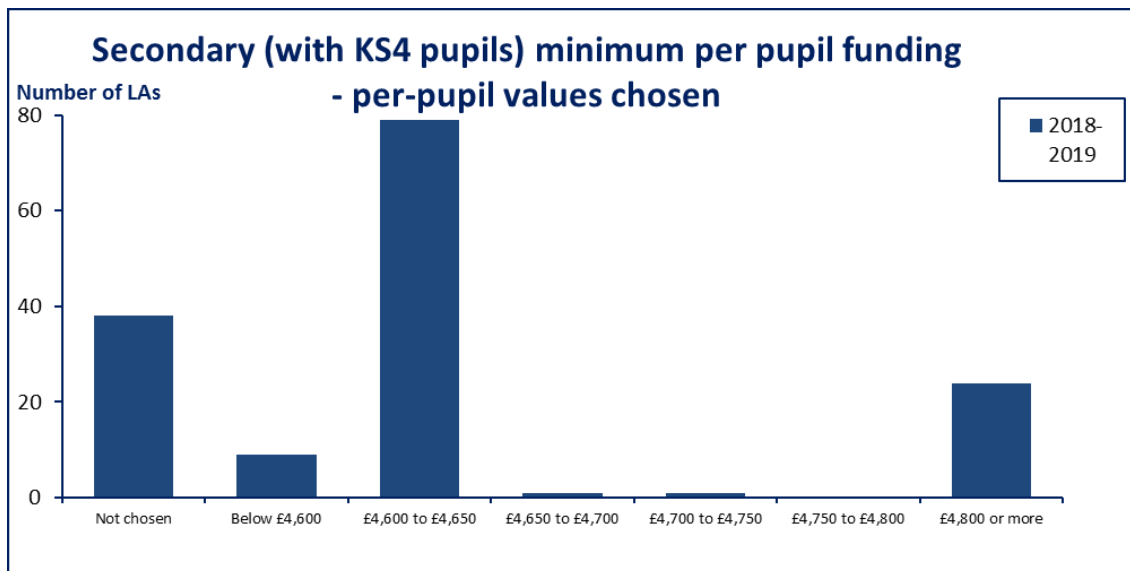
Of those that are using the factor, and excluding the Isles of Scilly (a notional 3.9%), the proportion of their schools block funding which they are allocating through this factor ranged from 0.01% to 0.86%. Across all authorities, 0.06% of funding has been allocated through this factor, compared to 0.05% in the 2017-18 formulae.



## Guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding

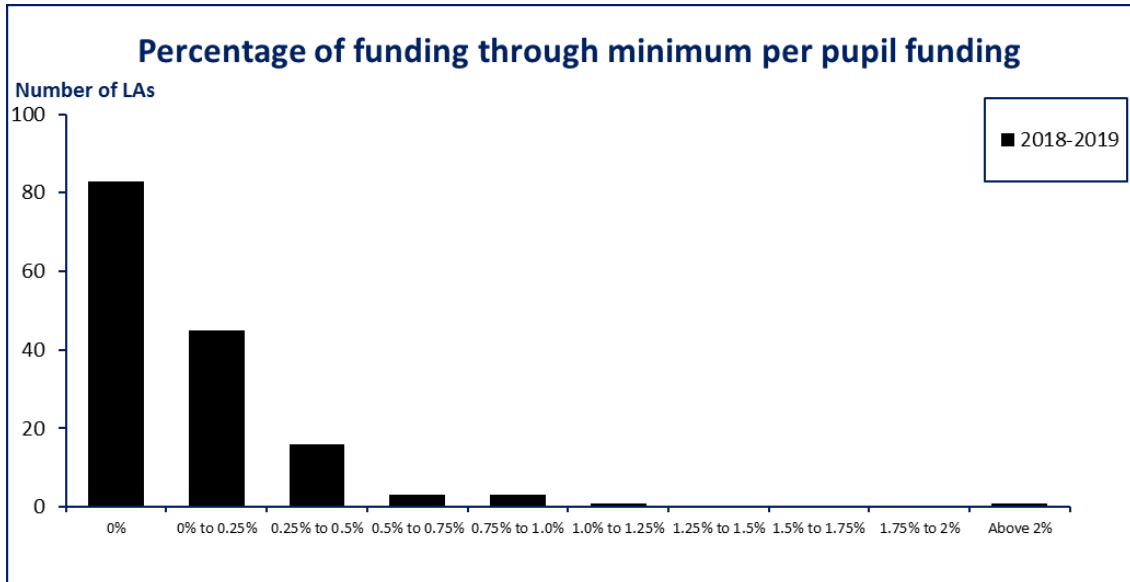
The national funding formula provides local authorities with a guaranteed minimum per-pupil funding of £3,300 for primary pupils and £4,800 for secondary pupils in 2018-19, based on the school's total core funding. In 2018-19 local authorities could use this factor in their local formulae for the first time. They were able to set minimum per pupil funding rates for primary and secondary pupils (for secondary pupils in middle schools with no key stage 4 pupils a KS3 only rate could also be set).





Of the 152 local authorities 114 used the factor in 2018-19 (although only 34 selected a rate for secondary schools with no key stage 4 pupils this is largely due to those local authorities having no qualifying middle schools).

Fifty-two percent of authorities used the 2018-19 NFF transitional primary per pupil rate of £3,300 and 52% of authorities also used the NFF transitional secondary per pupil rate of £4,600.



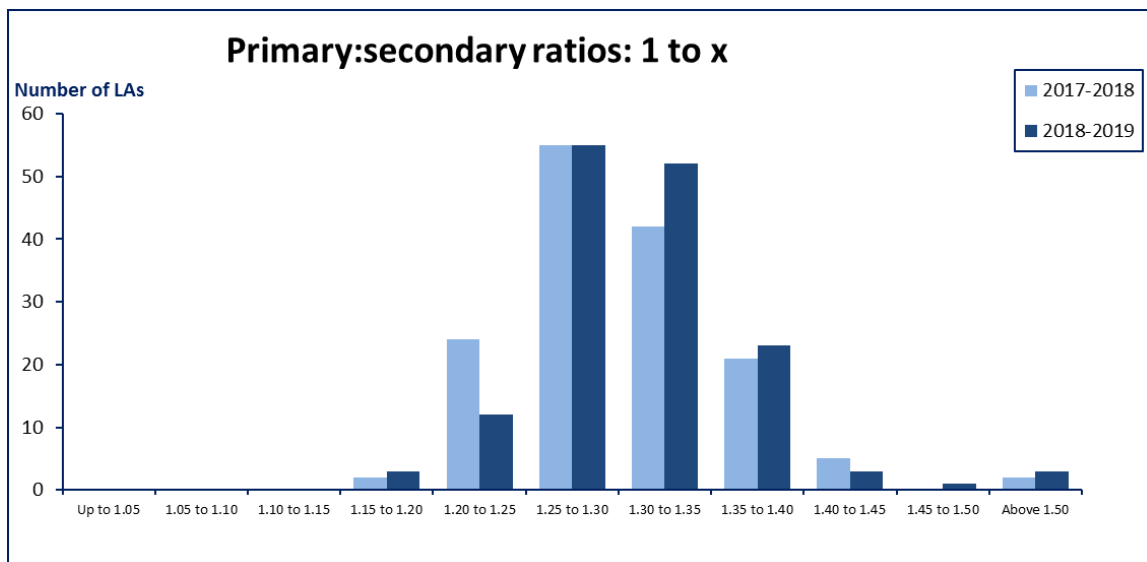
Although 114 authorities used the factor only 69 actually allocated funding through it. This is because all schools in the other 45 authorities were already receiving over the minimum level through the other funding factors. Only 2 authorities allocated more than 1% of their funding through the minimum per pupil level of funding.

## Other formula factors

Information for each local authority on the formula factors not discussed in this note (London fringe, split sites, rates, PFI funding, and exceptional circumstances) can be found in the accompanying data file.

## Primary:secondary funding ratios

Local authorities' 2018-19 schools block funding formulae have been used to calculate the relative differences in per-pupil funding allocated to secondary pupils compared to primary pupils. With the exception of the City of London, which has a single maintained primary school so does not have secondary pupils, the ratios of secondary to primary per-pupil funding under 2018-19 formulae are shown on the chart below. A ratio of 1 : 1.24, for instance, indicates that secondary-age pupils in a local authority receive, on average, 24% more funding per head than primary-age pupils.



The overall ratio nationally across all local authorities is 1 : 1.296, a slight increase from the 2017-18 formulae where it was 1 : 1.289. The average local authority ratio is 1 : 1.311, a slight increase on the ratio of 1 : 1.304 in 2017-18 formulae. For 42 authorities, their ratio in 2018-19 has decreased by more than 0.01 compared to last year, while for 60 authorities, their ratio has increased by more than 0.01. For the remaining 49 authorities, their ratio changed by less than 0.01 either way.

These ratios have been calculated for each local authority from the information they submitted to the ESFA as follows. The first step is to split funding for primary pupils and funding for secondary pupils. For the factors with separate primary and secondary indicators (for example, basic entitlement and deprivation), this split is simply the amount

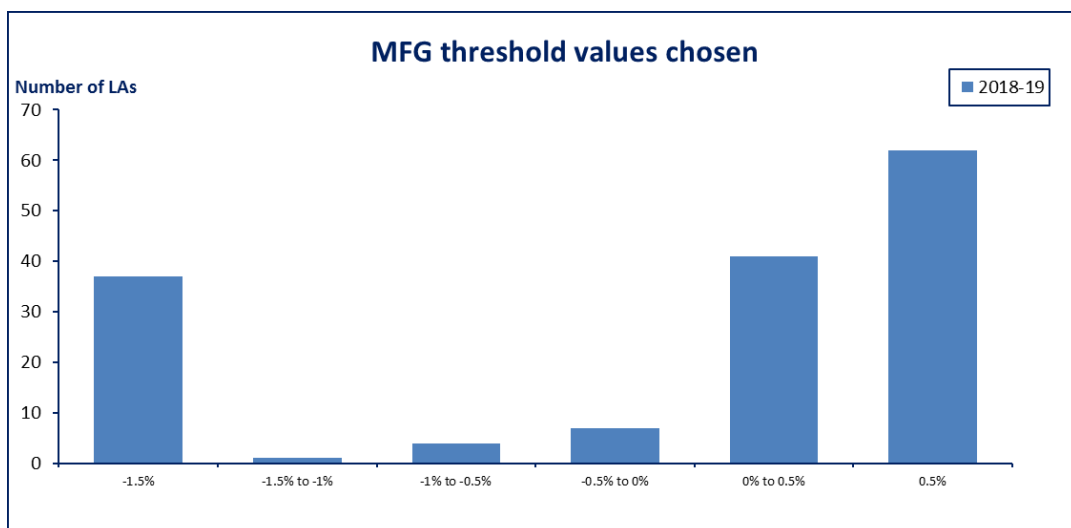


of funding allocated through each type of indicator. For the other factors (with the exception of historic commitments for sixth form funding, which is excluded), the amount of funding allocated to each school in the local authority area is split between primary and secondary in proportion to the number of pupils in each phase at the school. These amounts are aggregated to estimate the total funding for primary pupils and the total funding for secondary pupils. These amounts are then divided, respectively, by the number of primary schools block-funded pupils on roll and the number of secondary schools block-funded pupils on roll in the authority. This gives per pupil funding amounts for primary and secondary phases, and the ratio of the two is taken.

This calculation excludes the effects on schools' funding of applying the minimum funding guarantee (MFG), and excludes any further capping or scaling factors applied by local authorities to ensure that the total funding allocated through their formulae is affordable within the total DSG schools block they have been allocated for financial year 2018-19. For academies, the calculation is based on the amount of schools block funding they would receive in 2018-19 if they were a maintained school.

## Minimum funding guarantee

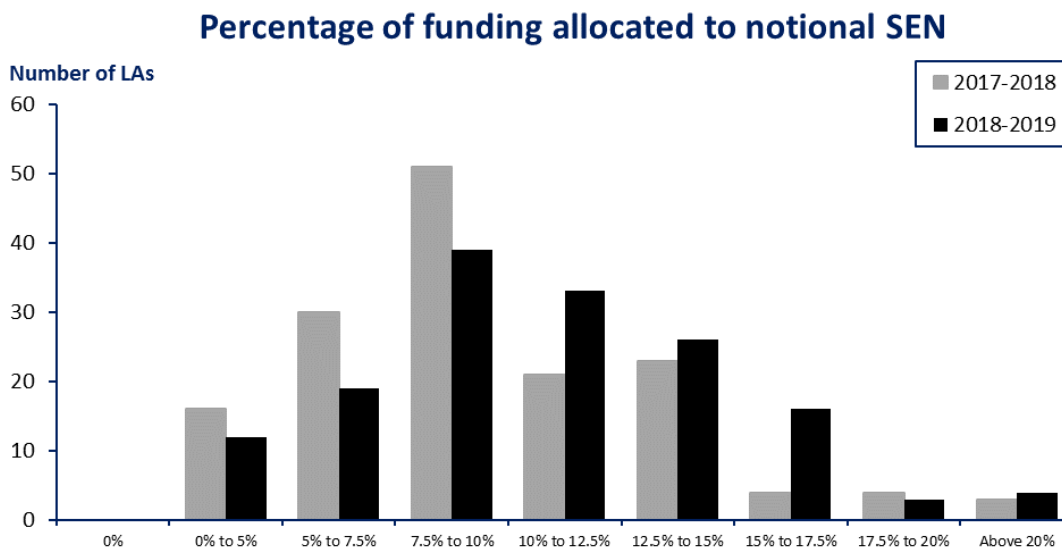
The MFG protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next. For 2018-19 authorities can choose to set a rate between -1.5% and 0.5% (in previous years the threshold was fixed at -1.5%). This change allows Local Authorities to mirror the 0.5% funding floor protection included in the NFF.



The chart above shows that 67.8% of authorities have chosen either zero or a positive MFG threshold meaning that no schools in those authorities will see a decrease in their per pupil level of funding in 2018-19. It also shows that 41% have selected a threshold of 0.5% mirroring the funding floor protection as described in the [NFF technical note](#).

## Notional SEN

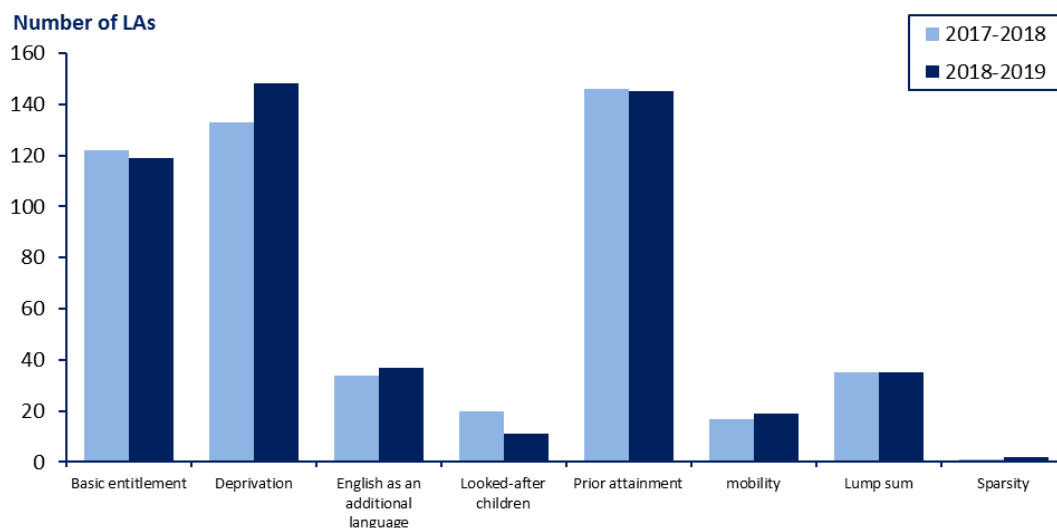
Funding for notional special educational needs (notional SEN) is not a separate formula factor. Rather, local authorities must specify how much of the schools block funding a school receives through the formula constitutes its notional SEN budget. In their funding formulae for 2018-19, local authorities specify what percentage of funding allocated through each factor contributes to the notional SEN budget.



The chart above shows how, at overall local authority level, the notional SEN budget in 2018-19 varies as a percentage of the total schools block formula allocation (before the application of MFG, capping and scaling). Some 117 (77%) of authorities are allocating between 5% and 15% of schools block funding as notional SEN.

The overall percentage of formula allocation which is designated as the notional SEN budget across all local authorities is 11.1%, an increase from 9.8% in each of the years 2014-15 through to 2017-18. The median notional SEN allocation is 10.4%. However, as the chart shows, like last year there is a wide variation across local authorities.

## Formula factors used to allocate notional SEN



The chart above shows the number of local authorities for which each factor is being used to determine schools' notional SEN budgets. In the 2018-19 formulae deprivation is the factor most commonly contributing to notional SEN with 148 authorities doing this.

The majority of authorities are also assigning a percentage of their basic entitlement and prior attainment funding into notional SEN. For the formula factors not displayed on the chart (such as split sites) only a few authorities are using these for notional SEN. Full details on the use of factors to calculate notional SEN in 2018-19 can be found in the accompanying data file.

Overall, the pattern of factors used to calculate notional SEN is similar to 2017-18 formulae.

## Growth fund

Subject to the approval of their schools forum, local authorities are able to retain some of their schools block funding centrally (that is, rather than allocate it to their individual schools) for a growth fund. This can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need pressures, to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation, and to meet the costs of new schools. Authorities must use the fund on the same basis for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies in their area.

Some 129 of the 152 authorities are retaining a growth fund in 2018-19, compared to 132 doing this in their 2017-18 formulae. The total value of these growth funds is £186.3m. Growth fund amounts for individual authorities range from £35,000 to £10.9m.

## **Falling rolls fund**

Local authorities were also able to retain funding centrally to support schools currently experiencing falling rolls to prepare for an expected future population bulge, again subject to the approval of their schools forum. The falling rolls fund should be restricted to population increases expected in two to three years in necessary schools which are classed by Ofsted as good or outstanding. The fund cannot be used by authorities to prop up unpopular or failing schools.

Only 27 authorities are retaining a falling rolls fund in their 2018-19 formulae (down from 28 in 2017-18), with a total value of £9m. Falling rolls fund amounts for individual authorities range from £50,000 to £1.8m.

## Information about the data file

Alongside this document, the DfE has published a detailed data file in Microsoft Excel format showing the 2018-19 funding formula used by each local authority, as they stood at 23 March 2018.

### “Proforma” sheet

The sheet entitled “Proforma” allows the full data for a single authority to be displayed on the screen. Click on the purple cell near the top of the page next to the LA Name label, then click on the drop-down arrow that appears alongside, to select a new local authority.

### “Final MI data 1819” sheet

The sheet entitled “Final MI data 1819” gives the proforma data values for each authority in a large table. This section provides a description of all the columns displayed here.

### Minimum level of per pupil funding

This section shows which local authorities have chosen to use the guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding introduced in 2018-19. The section includes details of the rates applied to each of the year groups as well as details of whether mobility and premises funding has been excluded from the allocation when calculating if additional funding is due under the factor.

### Reception Uplift

The “Reception Uplift” column indicates which local authorities have opted to increase the count of primary pupils to which the basic entitlement primary indicator applies, to include pupils with deferred entry into reception later in the year. The other column in this section indicates the number of pupils this applies to.

### Basic entitlement

This section shows the per-pupil funding amounts local authorities have chosen for the primary and secondary indicators in their 2018-19 formulae; the number of pupils in mainstream maintained schools and academies in the authority as a whole to which each indicator applies; the total amount of schools block funding allocated to maintained schools and academies through each factor; the proportion of schools block funding allocated through each factor; and the proportion of the factor’s funding which contributes towards notional SEN budgets.

## Deprivation, looked-after children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, mobility

These sections also show the per-pupil amounts chosen, the number of pupils, the total/proportion of funding allocated to schools through each factor, and contribution to notional SEN budgets. For the indicators where local authorities had a choice as to which specific measure to use for their formulae, columns indicate the selection. Explanations for the entries in these columns are given below. For each, the entry “N/A” means that a local authority has chosen not to use a particular factor or indicator.

English as an additional language – Primary (1/2/3/NA), Secondary (1/2/3/NA):

- EAL 1 Primary / EAL 1 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in the last year.
- EAL 2 Primary / EAL 2 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in either of the last 2 years.
- EAL 3 Primary / EAL 3 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in any of the last 3 years.

Prior attainment – Primary Low Attainment (73/78/NA):

- Low Attainment % old FSP 73: Indicator used is the number pupils in year 6 who did not achieve 73 points or more in the old early years foundation stage profile.
- Low Attainment % old FSP 78: Indicator used is the number pupils in year 6 who did not achieve 78 points or more in the old early years foundation stage profile.

## Lump sum

Lump sum funding is shown in two places in the data file. Most funding through the lump sum factor is shown in the group of columns entitled “Lump sum”. However there is also a small amount of lump sum funding displayed in the “Exceptional circumstances” section, in columns 2 to 5 of this group (all of which have a column title “Additional lump sum...”). The data here relates specifically to additional lump sum funding which authorities are allocating to schools which amalgamated during the 2017-18 financial year. As explained previously, authorities must allocate such schools additional lump sum funding, so that they receive 85% of the combined lump sums of its predecessors. Authorities could also apply to continue protection for schools which amalgamated during the 2016-17 financial year. The data are presented in this way because authorities recorded any additional lump sum funding for previous year amalgamations in a different section of their formula submission.

Therefore the total amount of funding that each authority is allocating through the lump sum factor is obtained by summing the values in the “Lump Sum total” and “Additional lump sum total” columns. Similarly, the proportion allocated through the lump sum factor

is obtained by summing the values in the “Lump Sum proportion” and “Additional lump sum proportion” columns.

## **Sparsity**

Sparsity funding is also shown in two places in the data file. Most funding through the sparsity factor is shown in the group of columns entitled “Sparsity”. However there is also a small amount of sparsity funding displayed in the “Exceptional circumstances” section, in the group of three columns (headed “Additional sparsity lump sum...”) following the additional lump sum data. The data here relates specifically to additional sparsity funding which authorities are allocating to very small, sparse secondary schools.

## **(London) fringe payments, split sites, rates, PFI funding, sixth form, exceptional circumstances**

These sections of the data file show the total funding and proportions of funding allocated to schools through each factor.

## **Schools block**

The “Total Funding Schools Block Formula Excl MFG Funding Total (£)” column gives the total amount of money allocated to mainstream maintained schools and academies in 2018-19 under local authorities’ basic funding formulae. This section also includes any additional funding allocated through the guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding.

## **Minimum funding guarantee**

The MFG protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next and for 2018-19 authorities can choose to set a rate between -1.5% and 0.5%. The column “Minimum Funding Guarantee (£)” is the total funding authorities are allocating to their schools, over and above the amounts derived through their basic formula, to ensure this condition is met.

In addition, local authorities are allowed to set capping and 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 DSG schools block available to them. Any change in the per-pupil funding amount in 2018-19 compared to 2017-18 for an individual school can be capped at a level specified by the local authority: these caps are given in the column “Capping Factor”. Any school which sees its per-pupil funding increase by more than the level of the cap will see any additional increase scaled back, to some extent (see next paragraph). For example, in this column a 0% cap means that the local authority will start scaling back any increase in per-pupil funding. A capping factor of 2% means that any rise in per-pupil funding of more than 2% will be scaled back. Where a local authority has set an MFG rate greater than zero then where a cap is applied it is

calculated from the MFG value (so if the authority chooses an MFG rate of 0.5% and a cap of 2.5% then gains exceeding 3% will be capped).

The column “Scaling Factor” indicates the amounts by which schools’ increases in per pupil funding over the level of the cap will be reduced. So, for example, a 100% scaling factor means that ALL increases in per-pupil funding above the level of the cap will be removed – in other words the cap is a strict limit on the increase in per-pupil funding in 2018-19 compared to 2017-18. Similarly, a 50% scaling factor means that schools will lose half of any per-pupil funding increase above the level of the cap. Authorities showing 0% values in both the “Capping Factor” column and the “Scaling Factor” column are not restricting per-pupil increases compared to 2017-18 in order to stay within their available funding.

The “Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied (£)” column shows the total amounts that have been taken off school budgets due to the application of the capping and scaling factors. Clearly, any school requiring additional funding in addition to that specified by a local authority’s basic formula in order to meet the MFG will not also be subject to capping and scaling reductions. Any entry of zero in this column means that capping and scaling has not led to any deductions in funding compared to the basic formula for any schools in the local authority area.

## Totals

The “Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (£)” column shows the total schools block funding allocated to mainstream maintained schools and academies in each local authority under their 2018-19 formulae, after additions for MFG funding and deductions from capping and scaling. The total funding figure is higher than the total schools block formula funding plus the net MFG total as it also includes any adjustments made to schools 2017-18 budgets in 2018-19 not included in this publication. Note that the totals will not exactly match the total DSG schools block funding for 2018-19 that has been allocated to each local authority. This is for a number of reasons. The funding formulae specify the funding allocated to individual schools, and so exclude authority level allocations such as the growth fund and falling rolls fund, which are shown in the correspondingly named columns. In addition to this in some cases local authorities can move funding to the high needs block and the funding formulae will reflect any brought forward over- and under-spends, and authorities supplementing DSG from other funding sources.

For the other columns in this section:

- % Distributed through Basic Entitlement – the proportion of schools block funding being allocated through the basic entitlement factor in each local authority, prior to MFG and capping and scaling.
- % Pupil Led Funding – the proportion of schools block funding being allocated through the pupil-led factors (i.e. basic entitlement, deprivation, looked-after



children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, and mobility), prior to MFG and capping and scaling.

- Primary/Secondary Ratio – the local authority’s primary:secondary funding ratio; a figure of 1.24, for example, denotes a ratio of 1 : 1.24, meaning that secondary age pupils in a local authority receive, on average, 24% more funding per head than primary-age pupils.



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