

REPORT TO: School Forum
DATE: 29th January 203
REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer
SUBJECT: Pupil Growth Fund
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform School Forum of the decisions required for the new Pupil Growth Fund as per the Department for Education requirements. To seek agreement to the criteria and calculations to be used for 2013/2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) School Forum notes the report;**
- (2) School Forum agrees the criteria to be applied for the application of Pupil Growth Fund monies.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At our October meeting it was agreed that we would centrally retain a contingency fund for the purpose of meeting pupil growth. We now need to consider the criteria for such funding and the basis of allocating monies to qualifying schools in accordance with the guidance set out by the Department for Education.
- 3.2 LA's are allowed to create a growth fund from the Dedicated Schools Grant in advance of allocating school budget shares. Eligible expenditure on growth can include funding schools and Academies where very limited pupil growth nevertheless requires an additional class, as required by class size regulations.
- 3.3 The growth fund must be ring-fenced so it is only used for the purposes of supporting growth in pupil numbers to meet basic need. The fund will be for the benefit of maintained schools and Academies.
- 3.4 Any funds remaining at the end of the financial year must be added to the following year's DSG and re-allocated to maintained schools and Academies through the funding formula.
- 3.5 School Forum must agree criteria on which any growth funding is allocated which should be transparent and consistent although differences are permitted between phases. The criteria should set out

the circumstances in which a payment could be made and the basis for the calculation of the amount to be paid.

- 3.6 There are three phases that we should consider criteria for: Infants (which are governed by Infant class size regulations), Juniors and Secondary. Each phase has its specific criteria and will receive funding of $1/30^{\text{th}}$ of a Teacher at SCP M5 for the equivalent of each ghost pupil or additional pupil. Before funding is agreed, if the LMS carry forward balance for a school is more than double the pupil growth funding identified, the school will be expected to use its carry forward monies. We do acknowledge that a school may carry forward balances for specific purposes, or indeed hold monies for a cluster of schools. Where this occurs the school can put a request to School Forum for some of their LMS carry forward monies to be excluded from the calculation.

Infants

Infant class size regulations allow for no more than 30 pupils in a class. If a school has a total of 91 pupils in its infant classes, they are required to have four infant classes. Therefore the funding formula for 2012-13 funded 'ghost' pupils to take infant class numbers to the next multiple of 30 pupils by funding $1/30^{\text{th}}$ of a teacher for each 'ghost' pupil.

As we are no longer allowed to have a funding factor for 'ghost' pupils we now need to use the pupil growth fund. We are recommending that each March and October a report is presented to School Forum requesting agreement to all schools with infant classes that require ghost funding for the current academic year on a $5/12^{\text{th}}$ and $7/12^{\text{th}}$ basis.

Juniors

Currently we do not fund any increase in pupil numbers in junior classes. We are proposing to that increases in pupil numbers will be funded where the increase reaches 15 pupils or more.

Secondary

We currently devolve additional monies to secondary schools if their numbers increase by 15 pupils or more. We are proposing that this criteria remains in force.

- 3.7 School Forum must agree the total sum to be top-sliced from each phase and must be regularly updated on the use of the fund. Following the receipt of the DSG settlement we are currently calculating budgets and estimates for pupil growth funding. The cash total for the Pupil Growth Fund must be submitted to the Education Funding Agency by 22nd January prior to the date of this meeting. The proposed sum will therefore be circulated to Forum members in advance of the submission. School Forum members will then be asked to either ratify the submission and criteria or agree changes. This decision will be confirmed at the meeting on 29th January 2013.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The LA is required to consult the Schools Forum on the total to be top-sliced from each phase

5.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School Funding Reform: Arrangements for 2013-14	Kingsway House	Anne Jones