



## **Special Schools Budget Note 2023/24**

These notes set out the basis on which your budget has been estimated for 2023/24.

### **Basic Entitlement**

#### **Places**

The funding rate for each agreed place is set nationally by the DfE at £10,000 per agreed place. Maintained schools will receive their place funding direct from the local authority. Those maintained schools operating their own local bank account arrangements (typically known as cheque book schools) will receive their place funding in 13 instalments as per the present payment procedure. Academies and free schools will receive their funding direct from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Place funding for financial year 2023/24 is based on 5/12 of commissioned places from September 2022 (including current additional places), and 7/12 of commissioned places from September 2023.

#### **Top- Ups**

The process for assigning a funding band to each pupil has been agreed through the Gloucestershire Association of Special School Headteachers (GASSH). The top-up for each pupil on roll will be calculated on a daily basis and set out on a monthly statement.

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee Budget**

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) has been applied to ensure that no school loses more than 3% per pupil, compared to 2021/22 average per pupil funding.

For 2023 to 2024, the MFG is calculated based on a comparison of the per pupil funding in the 2021 to 2022 and 2023 to 2024 financial years. The top-up funding must be set at a rate to ensure a school's total budget is 3% higher per pupil than in 2021 to 2022.

### **Additional funding for 2023 to 2024**

An allocation of 3.4% per place, based on the place funding of £10,000 per commissioned place plus the average top-up funding they pay for a pupil placement in financial year 2022 to 2023.

This additional payment is to be excluded from MFG calculations.

It is a standalone one-off payment.

More information and an example of the funding calculation can be found in section 17.1: [High needs funding: 2023 to 2024 operational guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-needs-funding-2023-to-2024-operational-guide)

## **Capping Gains**

In line with Primary and Secondary schools, there is no capping in 2023/24.

## **Diseconomies of Scale**

The Diseconomies of Scale (DoS) methodology was removed in 2022/23. The minimum funding guarantee insured that no school lost out per pupil.

## **Payment of Monthly Top- Ups**

These top-ups will be based on *actual* occupancy of the agreed places and will be calculated on a daily rate. Therefore if a band 4 pupil only stays at a school for 4 days during April, the school will receive  $((£7,938/365)*4) = £86.99$ . Each school will receive a monthly monitoring sheet via email showing the breakdown of the payment.

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### 2023/24 Standard Top-Up Rates

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Band 3</b>      | £2,116                    |
| <b>Band 4</b>      | £7,938                    |
| <b>Band 5</b>      | £14,110                   |
| <b>Band 6</b>      | £24,693                   |
| <b>Band 7</b>      | Individually Commissioned |
| <b>Residential</b> | N/A                       |

Where a school admits above the agreed number of funded places then the additional allocation will normally be the top-up only, in line with DfE expectations. Top ups for Early Years pupil will be at 50% of the appropriate banding rate.

The Post 16 the top-up calculation is the same as for pre-16.

Top ups will be for Gloucestershire children only. For Looked After Children (LAC) from other Local Authorities (LA) and for children from Wales the actual top-up recouped from the other LA will be passed on.

## **Universal Banding System (UBS)**

A banded funding project was commissioned in 2021 to design and deliver a universal banded funding system for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to replace the current Resource Allocation System (RAS) and the existing Special School banding framework.

The system aims to support the delivery of tailored, child-focussed support, facilitate more creativity and flexibility and, in turn, equip children/young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to reach their full potential.

For each category of special educational need (Social, Emotional Mental Health; Cognition and Learning; Communication and Interaction; Sensory and Physical) a set of descriptors ranging from bands 1 to 6 have been developed which denote the increasing needs of children/young people.

The banding descriptors provide detailed guidance as to relevant SEN that a child/young person may display, and the recommended level of provision required to meet these needs. The [descriptors](#) will be cross-referenced with pupils' EHCPs to help assign an appropriate banding level. The development and testing of the descriptors were conducted in coproduction with partners including the Education Psychology Service, Advisory Teacher Service, EHCP Service, Gloucestershire Association of Special School Head Teachers (GASSH), healthcare professionals, Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum (PCF) and a working group of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCOs).

The school's forum agreed the implementation of the universal banding system as follows:

| <b>Band<br/>(based on<br/>descriptor)</b> | <b>Mainstream<br/>Annual Rate</b> | <b>Special School &amp;<br/>Special Centres<br/>Annual Rate</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1   | £2,612                            | Not Used  |
| 2   | £5,957                            |   |
| 3   | £9,014                            | £2,116  |
| 4   | £12,740                           | £7,938  |
| 5   | Exceptional<br>Funding            | £14,110   |
| 6   |                                   | £24,963   |
| 7   |                                   | Exceptional Funding   |

## **Pupil Premium**

The Pupil Premium is additional funding allocated to schools depending on the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSMs). The aim of this policy is to improve the outcomes of these pupils. It is recognised nationally that children who come from economically deprived backgrounds do less well academically than their peers. The premium also includes funding to support Children in Care and also children of service families.

Schools are held to account for the use of the funding and are required to detail how the funding is used with a statement posted on their website. Governors are expected to monitor the use of the additional funding and ensure that it is well targeted.

The pupil premium rates for 2023-24 financial year are as follows:

- £1,455 for each eligible primary-aged pupil
- £1,035 for each eligible secondary-aged pupil
- £2,530 to support looked-after children
- £2,530 to children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order
- £335 for each eligible service child

The DfE has provided the number of pupils by school previously eligible for FSM, as per past census data. This information is available via [Get Information About Pupils \(GIAP\)](#).

For more information please refer to the DfE pupil premium page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

## **National Tutoring Programme in Schools**

The National Tutoring Programme in School is allocated on an academic year and the funding is agreed for 2022-23. The school led allocations have been published and can be found [here](#).

There are three subsidised tutoring options available to schools for the 2022-23 academic year. Further information on each is as follows [Tutoring Partners, Academic Mentors and School-led Tutoring](#). The conditions of grant have been published for the School-led Tutoring grant with the grant for 2022-23 being calculated based on the number of pupils eligible for pupil premium. Mainstream schools and academy trusts in England will receive £162 per eligible pupil and non-mainstream schools will receive £423 per eligible pupil.

## **Recovery Premium Funding**

The Recovery Premium grant is allocated on an academic year. The grant is part of the government's package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by the pandemic.

Mainstream schools will get the follow rates per eligible pupil:

- £145 primary schools
- £276 secondary schools
- £290 primary special education units
- £552 secondary special education units

Further information on the funding can be found [here](#).

## **Primary PE and Sport Grant**

This premium is to be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, in the academic year to give them the opportunity to develop a healthy lifestyle. The premium for the academic year is funded over two instalments. For the academic year, the first payment is October/November while the second instalment will fall in the first half of the following financial year, due May time.

Allocations for the academic year 2022-23 used the number of pupils in years 1 to 6 (or aged 5 to 10 years where pupils are not recorded by year group), as recorded on January 2021 census, as follows:

- schools with 17 or more pupils receive £16,000 plus £10 per pupil
- schools with 16 or fewer pupils receive £1,000 per pupil

The continuation of the Primary PE and Sport Premium for academic year 2023-24 has not yet been confirmed by the DfE.

Further information of the funding can be found [here](#).

## **Universal Infant Free School Meals Grant**

Universal infant free school meals provide funding for schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2. The UIFSM grant is based on an academic year. Each meal taken by an eligible pupil attracts £2.41. An allocation assumes that pupils will take 190 school meals over an academic year, providing £457.90 per eligible pupil.

Pupil numbers are based on the UIFSM eligible pupils recorded as taking a meal on the October and January census of the previous academic year. The April – August funding is an actual, the Sept – March payment an estimate based on the previous years' census figures.

Further information of the funding can be found [here](#).

## **Teachers Pay and Pension Grant**

Local authorities must allocate this historic teachers' pay and pensions employer contribution grant funding to maintained special schools, PRUs, special and AP academies and maintained and academy hospital schools, on a per place basis according to the agreed number of funded places in the financial year 2023 to 2024.

This is a separate high needs funding stream (that is, neither place funding nor top-up funding), as follows:

- minimum of 40 places per school must be funded
- no recoupment for academies, so local authorities must fund academies directly
- this funding must be excluded from any special schools MFG calculation

Local authorities should, use the same per place annual amount used in 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023 and apply that to any changes in place numbers after April 2023.

Link (Section 10.1): [High needs funding: 2023 to 2024 operational guide – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-funding-2023-to-2024-operational-guide)

## **Devolved Formula Capital**

The devolved formula capital rates for 2023-24 financial year have not yet been announced.

For more information please refer to the DfE capital allocations pages <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

## **Copyright Licences**

The Department for Education (DfE) buys copyright licences for all state-funded schools in England – covering schools for almost all their copyright requirements.

Purchasing these licences directly means that DfE can save schools money and the administrative time involved in applying for many different licences.

The licences mean you can copy, re-use and share content from a wide range of sources within your school for non-commercial, educational purposes.

Your school leadership (head and chair of governors) needs to make sure that:

- all intended activities are covered adequately by the licences
- all staff follow the terms and conditions

For more information on what content you can use, and how to gain other permissions please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/copyright-licences-information-for-schools>

## **Three Year Governors' Budget Plan (maintained schools only)**

The Governor's Budget Plan timetable is as follows:

| <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Action</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| w/c Monday 10 April 2023            | 2023/24 GBP template made available                       |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023    | Last date for submission of GBP template                  |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 | Recovery plans submission date (for deficit schools only) |

Schools that submit a Governors' Budget Plan showing a deficit will also be required to submit a recovery plan as part of the LA's balance control mechanism. Where necessary further revised plans may also be requested throughout the year where a school is in deficit or at risk of going into deficit.

## **Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and Assurance**

The SFVS helps schools to manage their finances and to provide assurance to the local authority that they have secure financial management in place.

LA maintained schools are required to submit the SFVS annually to the authority. Further information can be found on the ESFA website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-financial-value-standard-and-assurance-sfvs>

## **Useful Links**

### **School and Academy Financial Management and Assurance:**

Reporting for academies, maintained schools, local authorities including school procurement, risk protection arrangement (RPA), payments and compliance.

<https://www.gov.uk/education/school-and-academy-financial-management-and-assurance>

### **Benchmarking**

Benchmarking allows you to check how your finances compare with other similar schools or multi-academy trusts.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-financial-efficiency-financial-benchmarking>

## **Buying for Schools**

Department for Education advice on buying goods and services for your school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/buying-for-schools>

## **Schoolsnet Finance Pages**

Please use the schools finance pages on schoolnet to keep up to date with information with regards to school budgets, year end accounting, school regulations and funding.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/school-office/schools-finance/>

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you have any questions about the Budget Share for 2023/24, please contact Strategic Finance on: [schoolbudgets@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolbudgets@gloucestershire.gov.uk)