



Primary and Secondary School Budget Notes 2025/26

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1. Introduction

In November 2024, the Department of Education published the [National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs 2025-26](#).

The key changes are as follows:

- An increase in factor rate values in the national funding formula (NFF) to increase the amount of funding available to schools. Through the minimum per pupil funding levels, every primary school will attract at least £4,955 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £6,465 per pupil.
- Rolling the 2024 to 2025 Teachers' Pay Additional grant (TPAG), Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution grant (TPECG) and Core Schools Budget grant (CSBG) into the schools NFF, ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets.

As in previous years local authorities will be responsible for deciding local funding formulae for mainstream schools in their area.

For 2025/26 financial year, the funds allocated in the Dedicated Schools Grant schools block settlement for Gloucestershire are enough to allow each factor rate value and the minimum per pupil funding levels to be fully implemented at the NFF level; and for the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to be set at the same 0% level as the funding floor within the NFF.

The 2025/26 budget allocations are available to view on the [schoolsnet budget page](#). Please download the excel file and input your school's DfE number where indicated.

2. Formula Factors and Unit Values

A full technical specification providing detailed information of the school level data is available on the ESFA website: [Schools Block Dataset Technical Specification](#)

Pupil Led Factors

Basic entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit)

Each pupil will attract a single unit for primary aged pupils and a single unit for each of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4:

Primary	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
£3,872.26	£5,457.60	£6,153.14

Additional Needs Factors

Deprivation

Pupil deprivation is based on three deprivation measures – current Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, FSM eligibility at any time in the last 6 years (“FSM6”), and the level of deprivation in the postcode where the pupil lives, which is measured using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

- Free School Meals (FSM)

All pupils who are eligible for free school meals. This funding is broadly intended to cover the cost of providing free meals for each eligible pupil. A pupil is eligible for FSM if they meet the criteria set out in: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

Primary	Secondary
£498.25	£498.25

- Free School Meals Ever 6 (FSM6)

All pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or who have been at any point in the last six years, attract funding through the “FSM6” factor.

Primary	Secondary
£1,066.96	£1,565.21

- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

IDACI funding is based on the IDACI 2019 area-based index measuring the relative deprivation of Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs¹). For the NFF, the IDACI ranks are divided into seven bands A to G, with A representing the most deprived areas and G the least deprived. Additional funding is targeted towards pupils in bands A-F, with more funding directed to pupils in the more deprived bands. For 2025/26, the IDACI 2019 data is matched to the Autumn 2024 census.

Deprivation Factor	Primary	Secondary
(IDACI) Band F	£236.54	£342.23
(IDACI) Band E	£286.87	£452.95
(IDACI) Band D	£447.92	£639.17
(IDACI) Band C	£493.22	£699.56
(IDACI) Band B	£523.41	£749.89
(IDACI) Band A	£689.50	£956.24

Low Prior Attainment

Primary school pupils who have not achieved the expected level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment (EYFSP) and secondary pupils who have not achieved the expected standard in Key Stage 2 at either reading, writing or maths.

Primary	Secondary
£1,182.72	£1,176.72

English as an Additional Language

The pupils eligible are those recorded as having entered state education in England during the last three years, and whose first language is not English.

Primary	Secondary
£598.91	£1,605.47

Mobility

Pupils are classed as mobile if they joined the school at a 'non typical' date within the last three years.

Primary	Secondary
£971.34	£1,394.09

¹ A Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographical area. The boundaries of the areas are based on population size, and they are often smaller in size than an electoral ward. Each LSOA has a minimum population size of 1,000 and an average of 1,500.

School Led Factors

Lump Sum

Each school will be allocated a lump sum.

Primary	Secondary
£146,052.76	£146,052.76

Sparsity Funding

The sparsity factor is to enable funding to be targeted at qualifying small, rural schools to ensure their continued financial viability.

Eligibility for sparsity funding depends on the distance the pupils living closest to the school would have to travel to their next nearest school, and the average number of pupils per year group. A school is eligible for sparsity funding if:

- For all the pupils for whom it is the nearest “compatible” school, the average distance (as measured by road) from the pupils’ homes to the second nearest compatible school is above the relevant distance threshold. The main distance thresholds are 3 miles for secondary schools and 2 miles for primary, with the distance threshold taper set at 20% below each threshold (2.4 miles at secondary, 1.6 miles for primary schools)
- The average year group size is below the appropriate year group threshold. This threshold is 21.4 for primary schools and 120 for secondary schools

Primary (Maximum)	Secondary (Maximum)
£57,776.90	£83,947.63

Premises

The NFF allocates funding to reflect the costs associated with a school’s premises and overheads.

- Rates

Since 2024/25, the payment of business rates is on the new central payment, with the Department of Education paying rates directly to billing authorities on behalf of schools.

On the budget sheet you will see an amount allocated for rates and then the same deducted. This is for accounting purposes only.

- Split Sites

The split sites factor targets extra funding to schools which operate across more than one site. Schools will be allocated a lump sum for each of their additional eligible sites – up to a maximum of three sites. On top of that, schools whose sites are separated by more than 100 meters receive distance funding.

Basic Eligibility	Distance Funding
£54,354.58	£27,177.29

- **Exceptional Circumstances – Rents**

Exceptional arrangements have been agreed by the DfE where certain premises circumstances result in costs beyond the control of the school. The additional cost must account for more than 1% of the school's budget otherwise it is considered to be within a manageable range and not exceptional. Exceptional circumstances cannot apply to more than 5% of schools within the LA.

A full technical specification providing detailed information of the school level data is available on the ESFA website: [Schools Block Dataset Technical Specification](#)

3. Area Cost Adjustment (ACA)

Schools have received an area cost adjustment uplift which for Gloucestershire is 1.00657. This has already been applied to the pupil led, school led and split site formula factor unit values.

4. Minimum Per Pupil Level (MPPL)

The national funding formula ensures every school receives a minimum per pupil level (MPPL). Any school whose formula allocation is below the MPPL receives a top up to the minimum levels.

This calculation is based on all formula factors (both pupil and school led) but excludes business rates, rents, MFG and split sites.

Primary	Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4	Secondary Key Stage 3 only	Secondary Key Stage 4 only
£4,995	£6,465	£6,221	£6,831

5. Minimum Funding Guarantee Budget (MFG)

The NFF includes a 0% funding floor transitional adjustment against the school's previous year's indicative NFF (not the school's actual budget received).

The DfE have not allowed Local Authorities to use a funding floor in 2025/26, but instead recommend they set the MFG at 0% if they wish to mirror the floor protection in the NFF. The Gloucestershire formula therefore includes a 0% MFG.

6. De-Delegation (applies to maintained schools only)

Decision-making on de-delegation's rests with maintained school representatives of the forum only and decisions need to be made separately for each phase.

Deductions are made from the formula allocations for maintained schools only. The aggregate total for each de-delegated budget changes each year to reflect both changes in maintained pupil numbers and reductions due to further academy conversions.

Targeted Intervention and Support (Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools)

The local authority will continue to operate a school improvement service for maintained schools that is partially funded through de-delegation and partly funded through a traded service (GLOSSI).

Targeted intervention funding enables the LA to provide support to schools that are identified as 'at risk'. It funds both the infrastructure to support the oversight of all LA maintained schools and where appropriate implement project groups, which are the vehicle for overseeing and implementing rapid improvement plans.

Research shows that schools at risk of decline or failure are likely to benefit from specialist HR advice. A HR business partner for schools is funded and dedicated to the Education Outcomes and Intervention Team.

As in previous years, funding will be used where it is identified that the school would benefit from other specialist support (e.g. Safeguarding, Finance, Health, and Safety) this is coordinated and funded through the project group.

Primary Per Pupil	Secondary Per Pupil
£14.27	£5.00

In year increases in pupil numbers at primary schools (Maintained Primary Schools)

This supports maintained primaries with significant pupil increases above a threshold in their NOR between October census dates:

Where the increase in October School Census numbers exceeds the higher of 5% or 10 pupils (the 5% threshold is subject to a ceiling of 15 pupils) then 7/12 of the Basic Entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) pupil allocation will be triggered for each pupil above this threshold.

Primary Per Pupil
£6.32

Union Facilities (Maintained Primary Schools)

LA facilities time allows teaching unions to provide Gloucestershire schools access to effective statutory and collective consultation, bargaining and individual representation from trained and accredited local teaching union officials.

Consequently, school leaders and managers also have access to a valuable resource in the resolution of workplace issues and disputes.

Primary Per Pupil
£3.05

7. 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

The local authority covers the copyright licences centrally.

The copyright licence fees would usually have been announced in December, but this year the DfE are still in negotiations for new agreements with some of the copyright management organisations which is likely to stretch into the new year. 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>. Information available via this DfE website will be updated further when the DfE have completed those negotiations.

8. Growth Fund

The Growth Fund is part of school's block DSG funding retained centrally to support new schools and schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the Authority, including pre-opening and reorganisation costs. The amount needed for the growth fund is agreed each year by the school's forum.

The ESFA is very clear that the growth fund can only be used for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need and to meet the costs of new schools.

Funding schools that have a significant increase in pupils not related to basic need are not compliant criterion and are disallowed under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations.

9. SEN High Needs Funding – Mainstream Settings

Funding is allocated to mainstream schools and academies under three main elements:

Element 1 - The Basic Entitlement per pupil (sometimes referred to as the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU):

Schools get most of their funding based on the total number of pupils in the school. Every pupil in a school attracts an amount of money. The amount varies from one authority to another. There is usually more funding for each pupil in a secondary school than in a primary school. This is the core budget for each school, and it is used to make general provision for all pupils in the school including pupils with SEN.

Element 2 - Additional Support Funding - The School's Notional SEN Budget:

Within the "School Budget Share" there is a 'notional' sum for SEN. It is called the "notional" SEN budget because governors of schools are legally responsible for deciding how the budget share is to be spent in the best interests of all the children of the school. When funding is delegated to schools, they can spend it in the way they think is best. However, schools have a duty to identify, assess and make special educational provision for all children with SEN; and the local authority has a duty to set out what schools are expected to provide from their delegated budget.

A school should use its notional SEN budget to fund up to £6,000 worth of special educational provision for a pupil with SEN (on top of the basic entitlement (AWPU) sum). This is an average figure, as not all pupils with SEN require special educational provision up to the amount of £6,000. It will depend on the individual needs of each pupil with SEN.

Targeted SEND funding model (Pre 16 pupils)

Apart from the basic entitlement per pupil and a lump sum, mainstream school funding is based on a number of formula factors that differentiate funding on the basis of pupil data. This funding forms part of the notional SEN budget. In Gloucestershire, the Notional SEN budget consists of 100% of the Prior Attainment factor rate and 2.5% of the Age Weighted Pupil Unit factor rate.

Schools and Academies will be expected to contribute the first £6,000 of the additional educational support provision for high needs pupils from their notional SEN budget - this is over and above the cost of standard teaching and learning (which is funded by the age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)).

The LA will provide additional funding from the high needs block in the form of a protection mechanism designed to compensate schools that attract a disproportionate number of pupils with high needs.

During 2025/26 financial year the targeted SEND funding will be based on the following:

Between April 2025 and August 2025 and targeted SEND funding will be provided to schools and academies based on 5/12ths of the targeted SEND funding they received during financial year 2024/25.

The Schools Forum are considering how funding will be distributed from September 2025, if there are significant changes to the current model it will be subject to consultation with schools.

Element 3 - Top-up Funding (sometimes referred to as an Individually Assigned Resource (IAR))

In addition to funding delegated to schools for elements 1 and 2 described above, if the child has an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) or a statement of special educational needs the local authority can provide IAR funding (element 3) towards the extra cost of that provision.

Element 3 is provided by the local authority for an individual pupil who has a high level of needs and schools are expected to use this funding to make provision for that individual pupil.

An individually assigned resource is allocated by the LA to enable the school to make appropriate educational provision to meet the educational outcomes in the Statement or Educational Health and Care Plan. Again, governors of schools are legally responsible for deciding how the funds they receive are best used to meet the child's educational outcomes.

For the very small number of children in mainstream education who have exceptional needs requiring more support above elements 1 and 2 and an IAR, a case can be presented by a school to the local authority SEN Panel to obtain a personal supplement, the amount of which will vary according to the assessed need.

The funding a mainstream school/academy receives as an IAR/personal supplement (element 3) will vary through the year as this money "follows" the child. If a child with an EHCP joins the school part-way through a year, an IAR, and exceptionally a personal supplement, will be allocated to the school on a pro-rata basis, calculated according to the number of school days left in the financial year. Equally, if a child leaves, a proportion of the IAR/personal supplement originally allocated will be removed from the budget, again on a pro-rata basis.

The top up rates have been uplifted by 3% and are as follows:

Band	Mainstream Annual Rate
1	£2,771
2	£6,320
3	£9,563
4	£13,516
5	Exceptional Funding
6	

Top up allocations will include part year (April to August) adjustments for:

Infants/Junior/Primary

- Year 6 high needs pupils where transfer to secondary schools is anticipated
- Year 2 high needs pupils attending infant schools where transfer to junior school is anticipated

Secondary

- Year 11 & 13 high needs pupils where leaving school at end of 2024/25 Academic Year is anticipated

The top up funding allocation at pupil level will be published in April via [Perspective Lite](#).

Perspective Lite is a web-based system/tool which allows the secure transfer of files between schools and the LA. It also provides live headline key stage data as well as news bulletins, amongst some other useful functionality and is available to purchase via your [GCC Plus traded services account](#).

The top up funding allocation at pupil level file will be called **916nnnn_2526[Month]HNTopUpFunding.xlsx** where nnnn is your school DfE number.

Adjustments to High Needs Funding during the Financial Year

Schools are reminded that the funding from the High Needs Block will fluctuate throughout the year as pupils and statements change, for example:

- Adjustments will take place where more up-to-date information about pupil transfers becomes available. As budgets can only be based on the most up-to-date information available when issued, there may be some changes necessary during the year e.g. year 7 transfers, pupils in year 11 move into the sixth form etc.
- Where a pupil moves between schools, funding will transfer with the pupil for the remainder of the financial year
- Where a pupils' needs are reassessed, and the funding has changed this will be adjusted accordingly from the date of the change
- Where a new qualifying EHCP is issued, the appropriate funding will be from the date stated in the EHCP

- Where a pupil moves from a special school, top up funding will start from the date the pupil commences in mainstream

Updated top up allocations will be uploaded on perspective lite each month.

10. SEN High Needs Funding – Special Centres (SC)

Special centres (SC) are funded on the basis of an agreed number of planned places (base funding) plus top up funding for each occupied place. SCs provide specialist support for a specific type of high need e.g. sensory, physical disability. SC provision is integral to a limited number of mainstream schools and academies. EHCPs will name the SC as appropriate provision to meet the pupil's needs. The core curriculum is provided through the school, and pupils are fully integrated within normal classes in as far as their need allows. SCs are funded to provide the specific specialist support to individual pupils as identified in statements/EHCPs.

Elements 1 & 2 - Base Funding:

Planned places are agreed each year between the establishment and the local authority taking into account the current places and estimated place numbers required in the following September.

SCs are provided with per pupil funding for occupied agreed planned places in the SC through their main school budget share. They are also provided with base funding of £6,000 for each of those occupied agreed planned places and base funding of £10,000 for each of the unoccupied agreed planned places.

Element 3 - Top Up Funding:

SCs are allocated top-up funding for every occupied place. The top-up is funded by the local authority in which the pupil lives.

The funding a SC receives as top-up will vary through the year as this money “follows” the child. If a child joins the SC part-way through a year, a top-up will be allocated to the school on a pro-rata basis, calculated according to the number of school days left in the financial year. Equally, if a child leaves, a proportion of the top-up originally allocated will be removed from the budget, again on a pro-rata basis.

The top up rates have been uplifted by 3% and are as follows:

Band	Special Centres Annual Rate
1	Not Used
2	
3	£2,244
4	£8,421
5	£14,969
6	£26,197
7	Exceptional Funding

11. Revenue/Capital Grants

Post 16 Allocations

The post 16 funding allocations are calculated using the ESFA funding formula that incorporates factors including student numbers, student retention, higher cost subjects, disadvantaged students, and area costs.

This is supplemented by additional funding for high needs students, bursaries and other financial support awarded to individual students.

The figures shown in the budget represent 4/12ths of the 2024/25 academic year. Please note that the 2025/26 academic year allocations will be added in due course.

For more information, please refer to the ESFA 16-19 funding pages:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-how-it-works>

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.

Pupil Premium Grant funding will continue in the 2025/26 financial year, with the rates for the new year still to be confirmed. The numbers of eligible PPG pupils will be taken from the October 2024 census.

The DfE has provided the number of pupils by school previously eligible for FSM, as per past census data. This information will be made 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>

Primary and PE 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 2024 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 2025/26 has not yet been confirmed by the DfE.

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

Universal Infant Free School Meals

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 £2.53. An allocation assumes that pupils will take 190 school meals over an academic year, providing £480.70 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](#).

Devolved Formula Capital

The devolved formula capital rates for 2025/26 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>

12. Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

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>

13. Three Year Governors' Budget Plan (maintained schools only)

As per the Scheme for Financing Schools, maintained schools are required to provide LAs with three-year budget forecasts approved by your governing body, or a committee authorised to approve the three-year budget no later than Friday 27th June 2025.

The Governor's Budget Plan timetable is as follows:

Date	Action
Friday 18 th April 2025	2024/25 GBP template made available
Friday 6 th June 2025	Last date for submission of GBP template
Friday 24 th June 2025	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.

14. 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://financial-benchmarking-and-insights-tool.education.gov.uk/>

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/school-finance/>

15. Contact for Queries

If you have any queries regarding your budget allocation, please submit an email to:

schoolbudgets@gloucestershire.gov.uk