

## 2.6.2 – 2021/22 School Funding Consultation Responses

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### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the Schools Forum of the responses to the 2021/22 School Funding Consultation.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To **note** the responses to the 2021/22 School Funding Consultation.

### 3 Consultation

- 3.1 The proposal and decision of the schools funding formula is the responsibility of the local authority, but this must be done in conjunction with schools and the schools forum.
- 3.2 A consultation was issued to all schools regarding the schools funding formula for 2021/22, this closed on Friday 13 November 2020 and in total there were 35 responses. It was requested that only one response was provided from each school, however, there seems to be some duplicated comments which may or may not represent the same school.
- 3.3 There continues to be a lack of knowledge in some schools on the national funding formula given the questions and comments that have been made both at the workshops and on the consultation responses. There have been several workshops offered to schools over recent years to provide this information. In addition, there are discussions taking place at school forum meetings whereby each forum member represents their sector. This information must then be shared by forum members with the sector that they represent. On page 8 of this report you will find a response to the comments that were made in the consultation responses.

Q1

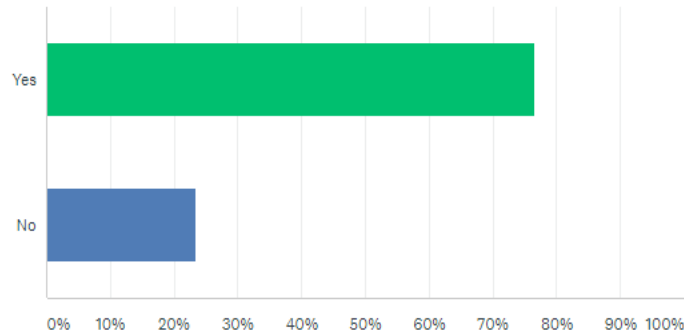


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Do you agree that the rate of +0.5% should be applied for MFG for 2021/22?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	76.47% 26
No	23.53% 8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>

[Comments \(9\)](#)

### Comments Q1

The highest % possible should be applied. With the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant stopping and being merged with the other funding it is more fair and reasonable to ensure that all Schools have an increase per pupil to offset against this lost funding

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It would be useful to know in real terms what this will look like in our budget. By being affected, is this in a positive way or not? It is not clear.

I think that the highest % possible should be applied. With the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant stopping and being merged with other funding it is more fair and reasonable to ensure that all Schools have an increase per pupil to offset against this funding.

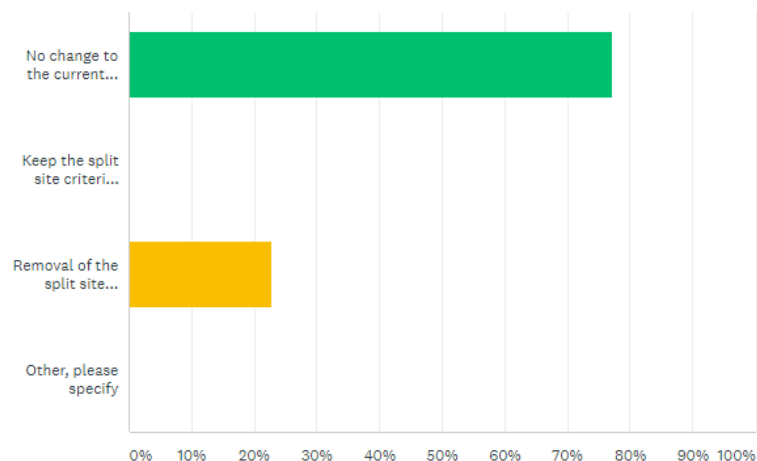
We think that the highest percentage possible should be applied with the teachers pay and pension grants stopping and being merged with other funding, it is more fair and reasonable to ensure that all schools have an increase per pupil to offset against this lost funding.

Q2

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Split Site Funding Split site funding provides additional funding to schools that operate over two sites. These schools only receive one lump sum funding allocation so a split site allowance is paid in addition to reflect that these schools have additional operating costs. The cost of the split site allowance is less than the value of a full lump sum. Currently six schools receive an allocation through this factor at a total cost of £0.400m. The current criteria allocates a lump sum for schools operating on a split site of more than 500 metres apart and are separated by a public highway. The split site allocation will be 75% of the lump sum unless the school is designated a large school where the allocation shall be 50% of the lump sum. A large primary school is defined as having capacity for 420 pupils on each site and a large secondary school at least 750 11-16 pupils on each site. This remains the only area of the formula still entirely within LA control. The DfE requires the criteria to be explicit (e.g. only to be included where a school has genuine unavoidable additional costs for example when sites are a minimum distance apart as the crow flies and are separated by a public highway). Q: How do you think the split site funding factor should be applied in MK for 2021/22?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ No change to the current criteria	77.14% 27
▼ Keep the split site criteria but reduce the amount payable. Please specify the amount that you think is reasonable in the comments box below	0.00% 0
▼ Removal of the split site funding factor	22.86% 8
▼ Other, please specify	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>
<a href="#">Comments (3)</a>	

### Comments Q2

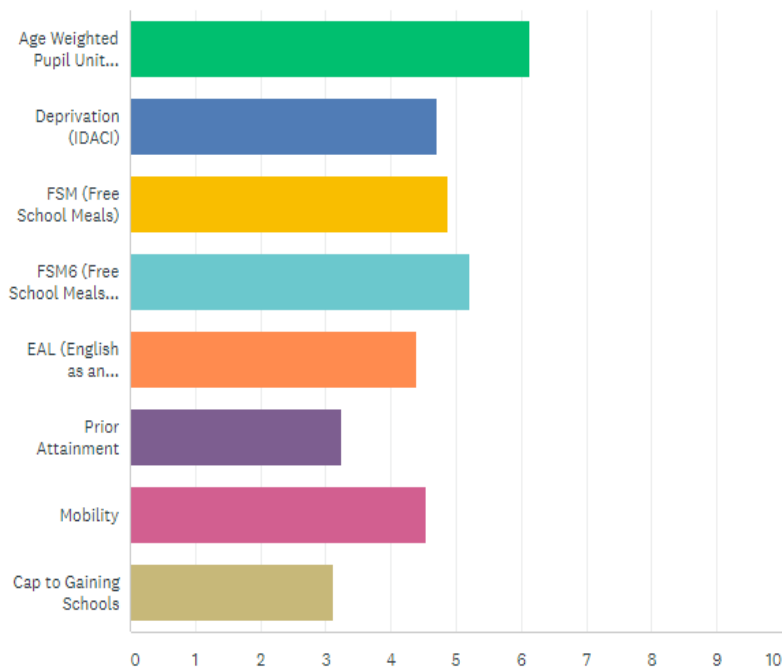
As a school in receipt of split site funding, the removal of this funding stream would unfairly penalise any schools in a similar position due to only receiving one lump sum. A split site school still has unavoidable fixed costs which the split site funding covers.

This gets a high level of traffic for such a small area of impact. Any change is likely to be enforced by the larger group feeding back. Voting for no change at least is balanced. This would have no impact on our Schools.

We have a split site but have been told we will not receive additional funding for this. It is only fair therefore, that all schools this affects should be treated the same way.

Options to Manage Funding Pressures There are a number of options available to manage the funding pressure in order to bring the overall cost of the school funding formula within the available funding allocation. These could include a simple reduction in the value payable under particular factors of the formula or more targeted reductions. Please rank the following options in the order you would like them to be applied with your first preference being ranked as 1

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	60.00% 21	8.57% 3	0.00% 0	2.86% 1	8.57% 3	0.00% 0	5.71% 2	14.29% 5	35	6.14
Deprivation (IDAC)	9.09% 3	15.15% 5	15.15% 5	6.06% 2	27.27% 9	6.06% 2	21.21% 7	0.00% 0	33	4.70
FSM (Free School Meals)	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	45.45% 15	15.15% 5	3.03% 1	24.24% 8	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	33	4.88
FSM6 (Free School Meals Ever 6)	0.00% 0	30.30% 10	3.03% 1	39.39% 13	18.18% 6	3.03% 1	6.06% 2	0.00% 0	33	5.21
EAL (English as an additional language)	3.03% 1	9.09% 3	3.03% 1	30.30% 10	27.27% 9	21.21% 7	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	33	4.39
Prior Attainment	0.00% 0	9.09% 3	6.06% 2	3.03% 1	15.15% 5	24.24% 8	33.33% 11	9.09% 3	33	3.24
Mobility	9.09% 3	15.15% 5	27.27% 9	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	15.15% 5	21.21% 7	9.09% 3	33	4.55
Cap to Gaining Schools	17.65% 6	11.76% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.88% 2	5.88% 2	58.82% 20	34	3.12

Q4



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Please include any other comments you feel would be useful in managing the overall funding pressure for 2021/22

Answered: 7 Skipped: 28

### Comments Q4

It would be useful to know when the indicative figures given are confirmed sooner, so that schools can make suitable planning arrangements. It would also help to know that there is equity in the distribution of funds, as we sometimes feel that we do not always get an accurate allocation- an example being that we are classed as a rural school, but do not receive any sparsity funding. This also applies to S106 money, which has been advertised in a new local housing development, with no guarantee that we will see any of this money.

The above responses are ranked with number 1 being the factor which we would support being reduced first to alleviate funding pressure, with number 8 being the factor which we least wish to be reduced.

As much as we reduce expenditure, we have no control (after two rounds of redundancy)

over our biggest cost of salaries which unfortunately is increasing year on year while we are dealing with reduced income, due to reduced pan as new schools have opened in the area or local academies have increased their pan. We have also lost a terms worth self-generated income due to covid unfortunately as more parents work from home this has also affected that income for this term too. I am happy to provide any further information if required.

It is really difficult to plan strategically when the govt publishes an indicative budget based on the NFF and then the LA top slices. We would prefer that the LA just adopted the NFF as we were 200K short last year.

There are a number of options available to manage the funding pressure in order to bring the overall cost of the school funding formula within the available funding allocation. These could include a simple reduction in the value payable under particular factors of the formula or more targeted reductions. by protecting the AWPU it raises the floor for the following year. It also helps with obtaining a higher rate of funding across all Schools that is in compensation for losing the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants (£165 per pupil). Reducing the impact to Schools from funding they would have had is the least painful way – the minimum funding of £4,000 will still be an over-ride. Prior Attainment is awarding for poor previous performance so it seems the fairest means of reducing, FSM and FSM6 are double up funding related to the same group of Children.

There is no win here! Ultimately, you'll only gain a fair trade by resolving the net deficit in growth funding each year.

More funding focus needs to be given to white boys, who continue to slip behind all the other groups. This is why prior attainment should be given more focus than EAL

**Points to note in response to comments**

From 2021/22 the teacher's pay grant and teacher's pension employer contribution grant will be rolled into mainstream funding through the schools and high needs national funding formula. Schools will receive an additional £180 and £265 per pupil retrospectively to cover additional teacher's pay and pension costs previously funded through the separate grants. The MFG will not be impacted by this change.

It is not possible to calculate the MFG for each school until the funding formula has been completed as this will change depending on the factors and rates that it will be based on. The MFG is providing a level of protection for all schools to ensure that they gain at least 0.5% additional funding on a per pupil basis.

Sparsity funding is an optional factor that can be applied as part of the schools funding formula, however the threshold is specified by the ESFA and can be found in the [operational guidance](#).

In July 2020, the DfE published the 2021/22 [operational guidance](#), [technical guidance and provisional allocations](#) for local authorities in England together with [notional school-level allocations](#). 2021/22 is the fourth year of the NFF for schools, high needs and central school services. All the information on funding allocations is **provisional** and subject to being recalculated based on actual census information, it is also dependent on local factors. Final allocations will be published in December except for the early year's block which will be determined by the separate national formula for early years. It is expected that schools will be sent their provisional allocation by 31 January with the final allocation being confirmed on 28 February.

MKC (in consultation with all schools and Schools Forum) has set the school funding formula in line with the NFF since the implementation in 2018/19. However, for MK there remains a significant pressure in terms of growth across the city. The reason for this consultation is to provide schools with the opportunity to consider how this funding pressure can be managed.

From 2020/21 the ESFA have released the cap on the schools block funding to the Local Authority (LA), therefore there is no intention to cap schools in this financial year, although this is still an option available to us to manage the overall cost of the formula.