

## 1.2 Government Updates

July 2020

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### 1 Purpose

1.1 To provide the Schools Forum with an update on Government announcements relating to the National Funding Formula (NFF) and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

### 2 Recommendations

2.1 That the schools forum notes the latest updates on the national funding formula and the DSG.

### 3 Government Grants

#### 3.1 Year 7 Catch-up Premium

The introduction of the National Funding Formula provides for schools to attract low prior attainment funding for pupils in year 7 to 11 with lower attainment who need support to catch up. As a result, the year 7 catch-up grant – the Department’s previous mechanism to direct funding to support pupils with lower attainment – will no longer be made available.

#### 3.2 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Catch Up Support Package

The government have announced a £1 billion Covid “catch-up” package to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time. As plans continue for a full return to education from September, the government has announced £650m will be shared across the state primary and secondary schools over the 2020/21 academic year. Whilst head teachers will decide how the money is spent, the government expects this to be spent on small groups of tuition for whoever needs it. This funding will be in the form of a one-off grant. Further information can be found [here](#).

#### 3.3 National Tutoring Programme

In addition to the catch up support package the government have announced a £350m funding package to increase access to high-quality tuition for the most disadvantaged young people over the 2020/21 academic year. This will help accelerate their academic

progress and prevent the gap between them and their more affluent peers widening. The Education Endowment Foundation has also published a guide which can be found [here](#) to help school leaders and staff to decide how to use this funding to best support their pupils and their outcomes.

#### 3.4 **Pupil Premium**

Pupil premium grant provides funding for raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential, and supporting children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces. The government has announced that pupil premium and service premium rates will increase in line with inflation for financial year 2020/21. Further guidance along with the school allocations can be found [here](#).

**Disadvantaged Children ‘Ever FSM 6’ Eligibility** – This includes pupils on the January 2020 School Census known to have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in any of the previous six years, (rates for 2019/20 are paid at £1,320 per primary pupil and £935 per secondary pupil). The pupil premium for 2020/21 will include pupils recorded in the January 2020 school census who are known to have been eligible for FSM since May 2014, as well as those first known to be eligible at January 2020. The rates from April 2020 will be paid at £1,345 per primary pupil and £955 per secondary pupil.

#### **LAC Pupil Premium**

Schools get £2,300 for every pupil who has left local authority care through adoption, a special guardianship order or child arrangements order. Local authorities get the same amount for each child they are looking after; they must work with the school to decide how the money is used to support the child’s Personal Education Plan. The 2019/20 rate was £2,300 per child, from April 2020 the new rate will be £2,345 per eligible pupil.

#### **Service Premium**

The service premium will be paid for every pupil with a parent who is serving in HM Forecast or has retired on a pension from the Ministry of Defence. This funding is to help with pastoral support. The 2019/20 rate was £300 per pupil, from April 2020 the new rate will be £310 per eligible pupil.

#### 3.5 **Free School Meals – Summer Holidays**

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the government recognise families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. The government are launching a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period. The payments for the Covid Summer Food Fund will be met centrally by DfE. This is in addition to the free school meals national voucher scheme and will support children who usually receive benefits-related free school meals. Further guidance can be found [here](#).

#### 3.6 **Exceptional Costs Associated with Coronavirus**

The government have announced additional support for schools up to the end of the summer term who have incurred exceptional costs associated with coronavirus. It was

confirmed that schools would continue to receive their core funding allocations for 2020/21 and this will happen regardless of any period of partial or complete closure to ensure that schools can continue to pay staff and meet other regular financial commitments. However it is recognised that there will be some instances where schools that remain open will face additional costs and may not be able to cover these from their existing resources, or by drawing down on reserves may undermine their long-term financial sustainability. Further guidance can be found [here](#) along with the [claim form](#) which must be submitted by 21 July 2020. There will be a further window for additional claims in the autumn term.

### **3.7 Teacher's Pay and Teacher's Pension Grants**

During the 2019/20 academic year these were paid as a grant to each individual school, however the DfE have confirmed that they expect these will be rolled into the 2021/22 school funding formula. We await further guidance on this.

## **4 Other Announcements**

### **4.1 Schools Forum**

The government have published the schools forum operation and good practice guide which also includes arrangements in place for the 2020/21 financial and amendments due to the outbreak of COVID-19. In summary the amendments will allow the schools forum meetings to take place remotely while they are unable to meet physically in a room. The full guidance can be found [here](#).

### **4.2 DSG Deficit Recovery Plan**

The requirement to submit a DSG deficit recovery plan to the department by 30 June, where a local authority has a cumulative deficit of 1% or more at the end of the financial year, as set in the DSG: Conditions of grant 2019 to 2020 has been superseded by the conditions in the [DSG: Conditions of Grant 2020/21](#). Any local authority that has an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must co-operate with the Department for Education (DfE) in handling that situation. This does not apply to MK as the DSG carried forward a surplus from 2019/20 and has set a balanced budget for 2020/21.

## **5 South East of England Finance Officers Group (SEFOG) Meeting**

The recent SEFOG event took place and was attended by several LA finances officers, along with colleagues from the DfE. Below are some of the discussion points that took place.

### **5.1 National Funding Formula (NFF)**

The DfE confirmed that it was still the government's long term ambition to move to a 'hard' NFF; however that will not be in place for 2021/22 as there remain unsolved issues such as the premises and PFI factors.

## 5.2 **2021/22 Funding**

In September 2019, the DfE announced nationally that there would be additional funding for schools and high needs compared to 2019/20: £2.6bn 2020/21, £4.8bn 2021/22 and £7.1bn for 2022/23. The DfE have confirmed that the 2021/22 schools block funding increases have been confirmed and these will not change, however they are not able to confirm the 2022/23 levels of funding.

## 5.3 **Timelines**

### July 2020

- Early years block updated for January 2020 early years pupils
- Operational guidance issued

### October 2020

- School census
- Draft APT issued to LAs

### November 2020

- Technical guidance issued
- Disapplication request submission deadline

### December 2020

- Final APT issues to LAs
- Publication of 2021/22 DSG schools block, central schools block and high needs block allocations

### January 2021

- Early years census
- APT submission

### February 2021

- Confirmation of school budgets shares issued to maintained schools

### July 2021

- Early years block updated for January 2021 early years pupils

## 5.5 **Support and Guidance for Schools During COVID-19**

To support schools to maintain appropriate financial controls during the Covid-19 pandemic and to raise awareness of increased risk in order to support schools to mitigate those an MKC [web page](#) has been created.