

STANDARDS FUND 2007/08

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1. Purpose

- i) To inform the Schools Forum of the structure and purpose of the Standards Fund for 2007/08, the level of Government grant and the Local Authority (LA) matched funding
- ii) To set out the proposed method of allocation of Standards Funds to schools and the proposed level of centrally retained funding held by the LA.
- iii) To consider a request that the Safety Centre is allocated an increase in funding of £25,750 from the Primary Schools' element of the School Development Grant to support its continued operation. This would mean an overall increase in the "top slice" from the School Development Grant from £55,000 to £80,750 for 2007-08.
- iv) To consider various options produced by Milton Keynes Music Service for allocating increased funding to develop new instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2, as set out in annex B.

2. Recommendations

- i) The Schools Forum notes the structure, changes to and purpose of the Standards Fund.
- ii) The Schools Forum agrees the proposals for allocation of grant to schools and proposals for the level of LA retained funds.
- iii) The Schools Forum decides whether to accept an increase in the "top slice" from the primary element of the School Development Grant to fund the increased costs of the Safety Centre and its work with Milton Keynes schools.
- iv) The Schools Forum agrees one of the options proposed by the Music Service for allocation of funding to develop new instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2 or proposes an alternative model.

3. Changes to Standards Fund methodology from 2006-07 and continued in 2007-2008

The new arrangements for school funding introduced from 2006-2007, included the rationalisation of specific Standards Fund grants. In particular:

- the merging of most Standards Fund grants for schools into an expanded School Development Grant (SDG);
- the ending of local authority matched funding for grants that are mainly devolved to schools;
- a new, largely pupil led, formula for the School Standards Grant (SSG) and also for a new grant School Standards Grant (Personalisation);
- additional support for schools with the highest relative deprivation following the ending of the Leadership Incentive Grant; and
- transitional arrangements for schools no longer receiving the Leadership Incentive Grant.

Schools saw a per pupil increase on their 2005-2006 School Development Grant of 3.4% in 2006-2007 and will receive a further 3.7% increase in 2007-2008. Schools will be free to spend this grant on any purpose to support improvement in teaching and learning, leading to higher standards of attainment throughout the school, but should take note of the intentions of each grant.

Additional funding at national level has been put into the *School Standards Grant* to help schools meet the challenge of extended services. From 2006-2007, schools have been able to spend their School Standards Grant on community facilities in support of extended services beyond those that are eligible to be supported through their main delegated budget. This freedom continues for 2007-08.

The arrangements set out in this report are for 2007-2008. Decisions on funding beyond 2007-2008 will be made as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in due course.

Changes to grants from 2006-2007 and continued into 2007-2008

School Development Grant (SDG)

The School Development Grant was expanded for 2006-07 to include a further nine previously separate grants. Details of the grants concerned are given below.

Leadership Incentive Grant (LIG)

The three year LIG for certain secondary schools ended in March 2006. Additional funding continues to be paid to the most vulnerable schools: those with high relative deprivation (greater than 20% free school meals). The DfES introduced transitional arrangements for those schools who are not eligible for this additional funding, but where the LIG represented a significant proportion of their budget. This additional funding is paid as part of the expanded SDG.

ICT in Schools

The DfES grant for ICT in Schools Infrastructure and Support (grant 31a in 2005-2006) was included in Devolved Formula Capital from 2006-2007. The amount previously provided by the LA as matched funding (£651,907 in 2005-06) was allocated as DfES grant through the new expanded SDG. Grants for Broadband Connectivity (now called Connectivity and Learning Systems) and e-Learning credits continue as separate ring fenced grants. But it should be noted that the e-learning credits grant for 2007-08 is significantly reduced on that from 2006-07.

School Standards Grant (SSG)

The new formula for SSG is set out below. A calculator to enable schools to work out their SSG allocations for 2007-2008 is available at www.teachernet.gov.uk/specificgrants2006208. The conditions of grant have been expanded to enable schools to spend the grant on community facilities in support of extended services that are not eligible to be supported through their delegated budgets

School Meals

The School Meals grants, first paid in 2005-2006 will continue to be paid on the same formula.

Music Services

The grant for Music Services has been increased to enable schools to support instrumental tuition at Key Stage 2. Proposals from the Music Service for how this enhanced fund could be used to give good value-for-money form part of this report.

Teachers Pay Grant

The Teachers Pay Grant (TPG) ceased to be paid as a specific grant from 2006-2007. The grant has been transferred into the LA's baseline for the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Vulnerable Children Grant

The Vulnerable Children Grant (LA held back £384,670 in 2005-06) ceased to be a separate grant from 2006-2007 and become part of a single Children Services Grant, it is used to support the Every Child Matters agenda in Milton Keynes.

Matched Funding

Matched funding for school grants ended from 2006-2007. School grants are now paid at 100% by the DfES, funded through a transfer from the LA's Dedicated School Budget baseline.

Matched funding continues for three grants that are spent at LA level: Grants 112 and 113, Central Coordination of the Primary and Secondary Strategies; and Grant 121, National Digital Infrastructure for Schools (formerly Connectivity and Learning Systems).

Matched funding can be met from either the LEA (LA) Budget or the Schools Budget (DSG) provided the expenditure is in support of the purposes of those budgets as defined by the "LEA Budget, Schools Budget and Individual Schools Budget (England) Regulations 2005". In Milton Keynes the matched funding is from the Schools Budget.

Grants spent at local authority level

Several grants can be fully retained by LAs for supporting central programmes. Virement is permitted between Grant 112: Primary Strategy Central Coordination; Grant 113: Secondary Strategy Central Coordination: Grant 114: Secondary

Behaviour and Attendance Central Coordination and Grant 117: Education Health Partnerships. All other LA grants are ring-fenced.

Devolution to schools

Devolution requirements for each grant are specified as the minimum amounts required to be devolved to schools. For the School Development Grant, the LA can only hold back the same cash amount as in 2006-2007, and this rule applies to most other grants.

Schools can spend their devolved funding on any purpose to support the improvement of teaching and learning, providing that they deliver the outcomes and outputs of the grants for which they have an allocation. The aim is to ensure that schools have the flexibility to use the money to meet their own priorities. The only exception to this is the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant and the capital grant for e-Learning Credits, which remain ring-fenced.

Local Area Agreements

From 2007-2008 a number of Standards Fund Grants will automatically become part of Local Area Agreements (LAA). These are agreements drawn up between government and LAs and include various freedoms and flexibilities. They cover many aspects of an LA's work. The Standards Fund grants that will become part of the LAA are set out below:

- 101 School Development Grant (centrally retained element only)
- 112 Primary Strategy: Central Co-ordination
- 113 Secondary Strategy: Central Co-ordination
- 114 Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination
- 119 School Travel Advisers

Any grant included in LAAs will become part of an LAA grant paid from the Department of Communities and Local Government rather than from DfES. If a grant requires matched funding, only the DfES grant will be transferred to the LAA grant. The 17 month spending period for the Standards Fund will not apply to funding that is part of the LAA. LAA grant has to be spent within the financial year, although there is a 5% carry forward facility.

Local authorities must continue to employ National Strategy consultants and a Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Consultant from the LAA grant.

Individual Grants (See Annex A)

Grant 101: School Development Grant (all schools and targeted schools)

The *School Development Grant* was expanded in 2006-2007 to incorporate the following, previously separate, Standards Fund grants.

- i. School Development Grant (£3,294,170 baseline in 2005-06)

- ii. Advanced Skills Teachers (£240,074 baseline in 2005-06)
- iii. Excellence Cluster (£1,321,767 baseline in 2005-06)
- iv. Targeted Behaviour and Improvement Programme (£728,000 baseline in 2005-06)
- v. Gifted and Talented Summer Schools (£18,445 baseline in 2005-06)
- vi. Enterprise Learning (£258,780 baseline in 2005-06)
- vii. ICT in Schools: Infrastructure and Support (the matched funded element in 2005-2006, baseline of £651,907)*
- viii. Training Schools (£100,000 in 2005-06)
- ix. Leading Edge Schools (£60,000 in 2005-06)
- x. Specialist Schools (£1,211,554 in 2005-06)

* The amount of matched funding previously required from the LA in 2005-2006.

The total funding to Milton Keynes in 2006-07 across all ten elements of the SDG was £9,071,831 and £6,810,073 across elements (i) to (vii). There were 36,404 eligible pupils at the January 2006 census giving a baseline of £187 per pupil for 2006/07 (only elements (i) to (vii) are included in the baseline calculation. This will be up-rated to £194 per pupil for 2007/08 (3.7% increase).

School Development Grant also included transitional funding that was provided for schools previously in receipt of the LIG but which were not eligible for the new deprivation funding.

Basis of Allocation

Allocations of the *School Development Grant* to the LA for each year are based on:

- (a) the total of the 2005-2006 allocation for grants **i-vii** for each LA, increased by 3.4% per pupil in 2006-2007 and a further 3.7% per pupil in 2007-2008. The per pupil increase is calculated using the numbers of pupils aged 3-19 in maintained schools on the January 2005 PLASC, January 2006 PLASC and January 2007 PLASC, respectively: and
- (b) allocations for grants **viii-x**; and
- (c) the allocation for Specialist Schools at £129 per pupil (up to 1000 pupils and over 1200 pupils), based on the number of pupils in each Specialist School at January 2006 PLASC for 2006-2007 and January 2007 PLASC for 2007-2008.

Arrangements following the ending of the Leadership Incentive Grant (LIG)

Following the ending of the LIG, secondary schools with the highest relative deprivation will receive additional funding as follows:

- £120,000 in 2006-2007, and £125,000 in 2007-2008, for secondary schools

with at least 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals at January 2006 PLASC and January 2007 PLASC respectively; and

Schools who received LIG in 2005-2006 will receive transitional funding to dampen the loss to ensure they:

- lose no more than 2% of their 2005-2006 **overall budget** (including specific grants) in 2006-2007, and
- no more than 2.5% of their 2005-2006 overall budget by 2007-2008.

The transitional funding will take account of the additional £54,000 funding previously paid to LIG schools outside Excellence Clusters. **Radcliffe and Lord Grey will both continue to receive post-LIG transitional funding for 2007-08 at reduced rates on those for 2006-07.**

Secondary schools with at least 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals, should receive £120k in 2006-2007 and £125k in 2007-2008 as set out above, or the transitional amount, whichever is the greater. **Leon and Sir Frank Markham will each receive £125,000.**

Conditions of School Development Grant

Allocations to schools

LAs must allocate to each school:

- for 2007-2008, at least a **3.7% per pupil increase** on the 2006-2007 total for those predecessor grants, plus any additional grant devolved in 2006-2007.
- Eligible schools should then receive their Specialist Schools allocation at £129 per pupil (up to 1000 pupils and over 1200 pupils), plus allocations for Training Schools (St Paul's and Two Mile Ash) and Leading Edge Schools (Walton High).

Local authority retention

LAs can retain up to the cash amount retained from the predecessor grants in 2005-2006, including ICT in Schools: Infrastructure and Support (see Annex A), but only after schools have been allocated their guaranteed increase, and after consultation with their Schools Forum. LAs can use their retained *SDG* on any purpose to improve the standards of teaching and learning in local schools.

Any grant that remains from the *SDG* after meeting the above conditions will be allocated to schools on a fair and transparent basis.

In 2006-07 the LA held back:

- £420,000 from the previous *SDG*;
- £153,166 from the Excellence Cluster Grant, following agreement with the Partnership;
- £94,581 from the grant for ICT Infrastructure and Hands on Support to support

schools on the effective use of ICT to promote better teaching and learning.

The LA proposes to hold back the same amounts in 2007-08.

Services to other schools

Where a school's allocation for 2005-2006 included funding for services to other schools, for example Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) or Gifted and Talented summer schools, the continuation of that funding is conditional on that service continuing to be provided. If the number of AST posts in a school falls below the number it received grant for in 2005-2006, then the funding related to those lost posts can be switched to new AST posts in other schools.

Where funding has previously been allocated to a school to manage on behalf of a group of schools, such as an Excellence Cluster, the funding can continue to be managed in that way provided the schools concerned agree. Such funding is not part of that school's devolved budget and should not be included in the calculation of the school's devolved grant.

Safety Centre

For the last three years the Schools Forum has agreed that funding can be held back from the SDG primary schools' allocation to support the operation of the Safety Centre. The Safety Centre requested a continuation of funding support at a higher level for 2006-07 and the Schools Forum agreed to this request. This led to an allocation to the safety Centre of £55,000 in 2006-07: an increase of £10,000 on the previous year.

Discussions have taken place with the Safety Centre Director about funding levels for 2007-08. The Director has requested a further increase in funding for the following reasons:

- increased entrance fee charges
- increased travel costs
- increased staff costs linked to more thorough evaluation processes and work with infant schools.

The Safety Centre hosts 5000 children from Milton Keynes schools annually, with the focus on pupils in Y3 and Y6. The Centre meets the cost of:

Entrance fee @ £7.50 x 5000	= £37,500
Travel at an average cost of £3.50 per pupil	= £16,250
1.5 Project workers for school follow up work @ £26,000 per worker	= £39,000
Total	= £92,750

Income consists of £55,000 from the Standards Fund plus £12,000 from MK Alert. This leaves a shortfall of £25,750 for the next financial year. **The Safety Centre is requesting an increase in funding from the Standards Fund of £25,750 to a total allocation of £80,750 for 2007-08.**

It appears that the Centre is very popular with heavy demand from schools outside of Milton Keynes.

102. School Standards Grant (SSG) – (all schools)

Every maintained school (and PRU) receives an allocation of SSG funding, determined according to the criteria set out below.

Conditions of Grant

Schools can spend SSG for any purpose of the school, and on community facilities in support of extended services beyond those that are eligible to be supported through their main delegated budget.

Calculation of School Standards Grant

It was announced in the Pre-Budget report on 6 December 2006, that there will be an increase in the School Standards Grant for 2007-2008. The original and up-rated allocations are shown in the table below.

The allocation to each school is whichever is the larger of:

(A) the following formula:

£	2006-2007		2007-2008	
	Flat rate £	Per pupil £	Flat Rate £	Per pupil £
Primary (including nurseries and PRUs)	11,000	82	12,000	88 now increased to 114
Secondary	11,000	98	12,000	106 now increased to 121
Special	28,000	82	29,000	88 now increased to 114

or (B) the following formula:

$(X \div Y) * Z * 1.034$ in 2006-2007

where

X = total of SSG received by the school in 2005-2006

Y = the number of pupils used to calculate the school's SSG in 2005-2006

Z = the number of pupils used to calculate the school's SSG in 2006-2007

and

$(X \div Y) * Z * 1.037$ in 2007-2008

where

X = total of SSG received by the school in 2006-2007

Y = the number of pupils used to calculate the school's SSG in 2006-2007

Z = the number of pupils used to calculate the school's SSG in 2007-2008

(C) Schools receiving SSG according to formula (B) and

- which fall into one of the categories set out in the table below, and
- where (B) is greater than the amounts set out in the table;

should receive:

- either their 2005-2006 SSG allocation; or
- the allocation set out in the table below, which ever is the larger.

Category	2006-2007	2007-2008
Primary under 250 pupils and all PRUs	£34,000	£36,000
Secondary under 600 pupils	£109,000	£115,000
Special	£ 39,000	£41,000

An Excel spreadsheet enabling schools to calculate their SSG allocation for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 is also available at www.teachernet.gov.uk/specificgrants200608.

Nursery schools and PRUs are treated as primary schools.

A total of £4,922,252 was allocated to schools in Milton Keynes for 2006/07 under this grant with a further £1,030,653 being allocated under School Standards Grant (Personalisation).

103. Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) – (targeted schools)

This grant (**£494,349 for 2007- 08**) includes an increase of **£18,706 on** that for 2006-07. The grant is intended to narrow achievement gaps for those minority ethnic groups who are underachieving and to meet particular needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). EMAG is a ring-fenced grant that must be spent on this purpose.

Purpose

EMAG should only be used for purposes set out below, not for general school purposes. For example, EMAG-funded staff should not cover for mainstream teachers' preparation, planning and assessment (PPA) time.

The purpose of the grant is two-fold:

- To enable strategic managers in schools narrow achievement gaps and ensure equality of outcomes.
- To meet the costs of some of the additional support required to meet the specific needs of bilingual learners and under-achieving pupils.

Basis of allocation

The DfES intends to move the basis of allocation for EMAG to a more need based formula. The formula uses numbers of pupils whose first language is other than English and numbers of pupils from minority ethnic groups who are underachieving at national level (pupils of Black Caribbean, Black African, Black Other, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and the following mixed heritage groups; White and Black Caribbean and White and Black African) weighted by free school meals. Pupils who are both from an underachieving group and have a first language other than English are only counted once.

Devolution Requirements

LAs such as Milton Keynes that have an increase in their allocation for 2006-7 and 2007-08 may retain the same amount as in 2005-2006 plus 15% of their uplift in each year, or £150,000 of their total allocation, whichever is the greater, to deliver central services and direct pupil support. **Milton Keynes held back £150,000 in 2006-07 and plans to hold back £150,000 in 2007- 08)**

The proposed allocation devolved to **schools (£344,349 – an increase of £18,706 on 2006-07)** will be based on the locally agreed, needs-based, fair and transparent distribution mechanism. The local formula reflects bilingual learners and groups of minority ethnic pupils who are underachieving in Milton Keynes.

104. Targeted Improvement Grant (targeted schools)

The grant (**£87,500 for 2007-08**) is allocated to LAs to fund a range of initiatives in named schools to raise levels of attainment and build LA and school capacity. This will include continuing good practice, networking, training materials and dissemination, and the development programme for Trainee Heads or Deputy Heads and their mentors.

For Milton Keynes the DfES has allocated the grant in respect of five primary schools where standards have been consistently below the floor target in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 over several years. The LA can retain part of the grant. The DfES will be monitoring how well targeted schools raise standards above the floor target.

105. School Meals Grants (105 a and 105b)

105a. Targeted School Meals Grant (LA administered)

Purpose

The purpose of the grant (**amount not yet announced, £236,822 in 2006-07**) is to support the transformation of school meals in primary, secondary, special, nursery schools and PRUs. The LA has developed a strategy for improving school meals provision which targets spending on the areas that will have the biggest impact on school meals in Milton Keynes. The strategy makes effective and appropriate links with the Healthy Schools Programme activities and other health initiatives and is a component of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The target is to place school meals on a sustainable footing at a level of quality which at least meets the nutritional standards for school meals that became mandatory in September 2006. The LA has established a Steering Group to drive forward the transformation of school meals and is using a proportion of our allocation to buy time to review provision and plan improvements. A condition of this grant is that our strategy must include plans to begin the reintroduction of universal hot meals provision, where it does not exist already, by September 2008.

The grant is transitional money for three years only and we are making plans that will be sustainable beyond the three year period. This part of the grant is ring-fenced at LA level.

Basis of allocation

The grant is allocated to LAs on the basis of a combination of full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil numbers and numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals. 70% of the available grant will be allocated according to pupil numbers: these numbers will reflect 50% of FTE pupils in maintained nursery schools and 100% of FTE pupils in all other maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units. The remaining 30% of the grant will be allocated according to the proportion of such pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Pupil numbers used will be based on data from the January 2006 PLASC survey and January 2007 PLASC survey.

The LA intends to use the bulk of this grant to create production kitchens to provide hot meals to a number of schools in North Milton Keynes and other areas that are poorly served at present. In addition the LA will provide guidance on catering procurement and set up systems to monitor caterers' compliance with nutritional standards and the overall quality of food production.

105b. School Meals Grant (all schools)

Purpose of grant

This is the second of three years of transitional money and, as with most other school grants, this funding will not be ring-fenced at school level. However, its purpose is to support the transformation of school meals and the target for schools is to place school meals on a sustainable footing at a level of quality, which at least meets the nutritional standards for school meals that became mandatory in September 2006. Schools should plan their approach in order to target spending on the areas which they feel will have the biggest impact on school meals provision. This could mean using the money to buy time to review and plan improvements; to support additional hours or training for catering staff; or to underpin expenditure on ingredients. Schools need to be clear that this is transitional money for three years only; and they should therefore plan on a basis which will be sustainable from core budgets beyond the three year period.

Basis of allocation

Grant will be allocated to schools on the following basis.

Primary and special schools and Pupil Referral Units:

Lump sum of £1,070 for each school plus 50p per full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil

Nursery schools:

Lump sum of £1,070 for each school plus 50p for 50% of FTE pupils

Secondary schools:

Lump sum of £1,500 for each school plus 50p per FTE pupil.

106. Extended Schools (targeted schools)

This grant (**£348,540 in 2007- 08: the same as in 2006- 07**) is intended to support schools, by providing access to a core set of extended services, in raising standards of pupil motivation, aspiration, achievement and behaviour and contributing to a wide range of other Government targets including childcare, children's services, community cohesion, neighbourhood renewal, adult learning, combating child poverty, health inequalities and crime reduction. By 2010, all schools are expected to provide access to a core of extended services with half of all primary schools and a third of all secondary schools doing so by 2008. The core offer will comprise:

- **High quality childcare** provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements, where appropriate, available from 8am – 6pm all year round.
- **A varied menu of study support** to be on offer, such as homework clubs, 'catch up' provision, gifted and talented provision, sport, music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs, visits to museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering and enterprise activities.
- **Parenting support** including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents.
- **Swift and easy referral** to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, sexual health services. Some services could be delivered on school sites.
- Providing **wider community access** to ICT, sports and arts facilities including adult learning.

The funding is being used to support schools to develop sustainable extended services and to overcome barriers that may prevent them from developing extended services. This includes appointing the Extended Schools Strategy Manager, Extended Schools Remodelling Adviser and Consultants who will provide support to help plan, develop, manage and maintain extended services accessed through schools; minor capital costs, developing partnerships with key agencies and consulting the main stakeholders (children, parents, community, agencies etc) about what services are needed. The fund will also cover training and venue costs.

The devolved funding will support groups of schools to set up sustainable extended services. It will be allocated to schools as pump priming funding alongside the roll-out of the national remodelling training and extended school strategy.

The funding is to help start up extended services. Over time these services should become self sustainable either through charging, for childcare for example, or through reconfiguring funding strands at local level through children's trusts or by pooling budgets to support extended services in schools.

Schools and LAs are expected, where appropriate, to link up with other related funding streams to ensure they are used to in the most effective ways, for instance, funding to support the roll out of Children's Centres some of which will be based on school premises.

The National Strategies (all schools and targeted schools)

From 2006-07 the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with earmarked elements of funding ensured that all schools had provision to address school improvement matters. The National Strategies Standards Fund Grants will increasingly target under attainment and from 2006-07 was allocated at 100% grant rate. As a result the schools targeted grants have been rationalised to allow LAs to direct these grants where they will have greatest impact in raising under-performance and attainment. The grants for primary and secondary have been allocated to Milton Keynes under four broad categories:

- Schools below or in danger of falling below the attainment floor targets
- Pupils below or in danger of falling below their expected level of attainment
- Improved delivery in the core subjects
- Specific or pilot programmes designed to raise standards in the core subjects and across the whole school, including Behaviour and Attendance at Primary Schools.

107. Primary Strategy School Targeted Support (LA administered)

£25,000 has been provided to improve leadership and underperformance in schools. The principal components are support for the continuation of the Primary Consultants Learning Programme (PCLP) for a further year and where appropriate the Intensifying Support Programme (ISP). This grant is intended primarily for schools below the floor targets and for those schools which support them such as the very successful schools who participate in the Sustaining Success Programme.

£275,920 has been provided to focus on under performing pupils. The allocation has two main components. The first (£125,920) is support for training leading expert teachers in all schools in designing appropriate interventions for pupils at risk of falling below age related expectations. The second component (£150,000 for Personalised Learning) reflects an increase allocated through the 'Higher Standards, Better Schools for All' White Paper for additional intensive support for small groups of pupils below age related expectations. This is in addition to the extra funding within the DSG to support personalisation in Primary schools.

£217,950 has been provided to ensure that all schools will be able to use the revised literacy and numeracy frameworks effectively, with particular emphasis on the appropriate and effective teaching of phonics in early reading and writing.

Funding has been provided for specific programmes and pilots including: the continuation of the Behaviour and Attendance pilot (**£31,900**) to enable lead teachers to participate in the ongoing implementation of Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) materials; support for the effective use of early years foundation stage materials in all LAs (**£25,650**).

The Languages component of this grant (**£153,387**) is a continuation of the initial funding allocated to local authorities in 2005-06, which could be retained by authorities to build local advisory support for primary language provision in schools. An element of the allocation can still be retained centrally to enable coordination and mobilise sources of support. However, LAs will be expected to devolve a significant proportion of their total allocations directly to schools. LAs and schools will want to consider using their funding to provide in-service training for teachers and teaching assistants, to purchase resources and equipment, and to establish networks within and across LAs to facilitate support.

Grant 108. Secondary Strategy School Targeted Support (LA administered)

£46,366 has been provided to support in school development of the Secondary Strategy's whole school teaching and learning initiatives designed for schools with high levels of in-school variation where consistency of performance is a key issue.

£445,825 has been provided to focus on under performing pupils including the training for expert teachers and teaching assistants through tailored support covering catch-up, booster, mentoring and transition matters. Within this allocation is £205,000 arising from the 'Higher Standards, Better Schools for All' White Paper to support personalised interventions. This is in addition to the extra funding within the DSG for personalisation and intervention aimed at Key Stage 3 in the secondary school sector. £240,825 is targeted at intervention.

£50,029 has been provided to optimise the work of the LA's consultants who are supporting schools that have core subject departments with levels of attainment below the floor target.

£16,000 has been provided for the KS4 Study Support Project

Allocations to schools for both Primary and Secondary School Targeted Support will be announced shortly.

110. Aimhigher (secondary schools)

The Aimhigher programme is an initiative run through local partnerships (Area Steering Groups) of schools, universities and colleges. It is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Area Steering Groups are the key body for planning at local level. They consist of representatives from further education, universities, and schools (with schools often represented by local authorities). Area Steering Groups have allocations of funds and decide how much of their allocations are to be routed via the Standards Fund for schools, or via other routes for other partners. They also decide how much should be retained by the LA for central coordination. The information is then passed to HEFCE. Further details are at www.aimhigher.ac.uk. The allocation for 2007-08 has not yet been announced. For 2006-07 the grant was £119,334 for the first two terms,

with £40,000 retained by the LA to lead the scheme. It is proposed that the LA retains £40,000 for 2007/08.

112. and 113. Primary and Secondary National Strategies: Central Co-ordination (LA held)

These grants support the LA's central coordination costs in delivering the next phase of the Primary and Secondary National Strategies, including supporting the introduction of revised Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks in Primary, and greater focus on targeting underperforming schools and under attaining pupils in both phases, and supporting personalisation. These grants will be paid at 50% grant rate.

The move towards more targeted school support means that there have been changes to individual LA allocations with some authorities gaining greater grant support while others receive smaller allocations.

The DfES has decided to cushion the change by introducing a transition stage for secondary allocations in 2006-07, so LAs whose allocations are changing have time to assimilate these adjustments. Milton Keynes had a modest reduction of £14,000 in 2006-07 in its secondary grant, but a further and very high reduction of £508,000 will occur in 2007-08.

The transition for primary allocations were over a two year period with no change to the LA's allocations in 2006-07 (which were in line with 2005-06 allocations) and only a modest change of £6,000 in 2007-08. However, significant reductions have been announced for 2008-09. The two elements of the LA coordination not affected by the proposed changes are the Intensifying Support Programme (ISP) at Primary, which is already targeted at LAs with large pockets of under attainment, and the Behaviour and Attendance programme at Secondary (Grant 114)

Reflecting the desire for LAs to have greater flexibility in determining how it can best use its central coordination grants, the DfES is no longer hypothecating specific sums for particular purposes allowing LAs to use these grants as local circumstances and priorities dictate. LAs have been given flexibility in the number and allocation of consultancy support but the DfES does not expect to see any reduction in focus in the provision of expertise to support schools in raising standards in the core subjects. The DfES has encouraged LAs to align consultancy support with school-based practitioners to provide a more flexible and focussed school improvement resource for schools.

114. Secondary Strategy: Behaviour and Attendance Central Coordination (LA held and all secondary schools)

This grant (**£183,300**) continues to support LAs in integrating Behaviour and Attendance into the Secondary National Strategy. The report from Sir Alan Steer emphasised the importance this consultancy support is making in supporting schools in addressing behaviour and attendance issues. Authorities are asked to ensure that the support provided to schools takes account of issues raised in their self evaluation plans.

115. School Improvement Partners (LA held)

The School Improvement Partner (SIP) grant (**£25,520**) is to provide financial assistance to an authority to support its management of the SIP function. This includes contracting with SIPs; deploying them; developing SIPs professionally; and managing their performance. The SIP programme was introduced in secondary schools in Milton Keynes in September 2006. It will be extended to primary schools in Milton Keynes from April 2008. The funding is calculated on a per school formula.

116. Music Services (LA held with some funds devolved)

A grant in two parts aimed at raising standards of pupil achievement in music by:

- maintaining and extending the broadest possible access to LA Music Services (baseline grant 116a of **£280,000**);
- funding schools to develop new opportunities for KS2 pupils to learn a musical instrument or to receive specialist vocal tuition (grant 116b, which was **£14,042 in 2006-07 but is increased to £107,652 in 2007-08**).

Baseline Grant 116a – ‘Access to Local Authority Music Services’

In 2007-2008, each LA will receive the same amount of baseline grant for ‘access to local authority Music Services’ (£280,000) as in 2006-2007. Music Services should continue to spend this baseline allocation on activities that enhance opportunities for pupils to access high quality music education. Within this LAs should give priority to instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2.

Every child at KS2, over time, should have access to specialist instrumental or vocal tuition.

Allocations under grant 116a may be devolved to schools where appropriate. Where allocations are devolved, the authority will retain overall responsibility for monitoring the quality and value for money of the provision purchased and for ensuring that access at KS2 is a priority.

Grant 116b – ‘Funding for schools to develop new instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2’

To provide further support for KS2 programme in 2007-2008, Local Authorities will receive increased allocations through the Music Standards Fund (**grant 116b of £107,652**), which should be devolved directly to primary schools and to special schools serving KS2 pupils. This allocation will allow primary and special schools themselves to begin buying in instrumental and vocal tuition at Key Stage 2.

It is recognised that schools are likely to require support in devising models of delivering instrumental and vocal tuition to large numbers of pupils at Key Stage 2 – and in identifying suitable providers. We expect that schools will wish to buy in provision direct from the Milton Keynes Music Service, or to base their provision on the successful KS2 Wider Opportunities programme (a DVD of case studies and schemes of work based on this programme was sent to all primary schools in March 2004). Others may wish to design their own programmes of work or to target particular groups of pupils within the school. The DfES will be sending LAs a

guidance note for use with schools, which will set out some of the possibilities and signpost further sources of help and advice. The LA will issue this guidance to all schools chosen to receive additional funds.

There are several options for maximising the use of this additional funding and the Music Service has produced a paper (**annex B to this report**), which lists various options for consideration by the Schools Forum.

117. Education Health Partnerships (LA held)

A grant to support the maintenance and development of local healthy schools programmes in meeting the requirements of the National Healthy Schools Programme (**not yet announced but £64,748 in 2006-07**). Priority should be given to meeting the target of 50% of schools to achieve national healthy school status by December 2006, whilst maintaining the opportunity for all schools to access the services of a nationally accredited healthy schools programme.

118. Playing for Success (LA held)

This is a new grant for Milton Keynes from 2007-08. **The DfES grant is £75,000 with an LA contribution of £25,000.** The grant has been allocated following a successful bid in partnership with MKDons.

119. School Travel Advisers (LA held)

A grant (**£29,000**) to fund LA based school travel advisers (STAs) to help schools carry out surveys and prepare and implement travel plans.

This grant is to significantly increase the number of active school travel plans and secure a modal shift away from car use, towards walking, cycling and public transport on the journey to school.

In addition capital funding for School Travel Plans will be paid annually to those schools with a newly developed school travel plan which meets a minimum standard and is in place at the start of the financial year - see www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolscapital for more information on capital grants.

ICT in Schools Grants (Capital)

121. National Digital Infrastructure for Schools (LA held)

Funding of **£785,975 (made up of a DfES grant of £556,158 and an LA contribution of £229,817)** is aimed at providing and maintaining broadband connectivity and access to the National Education Network for every school. The network allows fast, reliable and secure access to a wide range of high quality online content and services that support communication and collaboration. Work towards implementing the specifications for network services (as developed by Becta). These include: caching and content delivery; authentication (single sign-on), network security, video-conferencing. It should also be used to provide a personalised learning space, with the potential to support e-portfolios, available to every school by 2007-2008. Local authorities must ensure availability of a learning platform with (at least) basic functionality to **all** their schools by spring 2008.

Becta has published learning platform functionality specifications, also covering interoperability, in spring 2006. These specifications are designed to offer purchasers an assurance about the products on offer from industry suppliers. LAs are advised to ensure that suppliers' products meet these specifications.

Broadband connections in Milton Keynes will continue to be provided through the Open University based wireless scheme.

Basis of allocation

This grant is match funded and is calculated on a formula basis of pupil and school numbers within authorities compared to the national totals and a sparsity weighting, based on relative population density, to help pay for higher connectivity costs in hard to reach areas.

122. E- Learning Credits (all schools)

Funding (**£248,659 for 2007- 08, which is £115,926 lower than for 2006-07**) is aimed at increasing the usage of digital learning resources which research has shown can make a major difference in transforming teaching and learning. This investment will add to the e-Learning Credits (eLCs) that schools have already received. This will rapidly expand the availability and classroom use of products and services bought through the innovative Curriculum Online web catalogue. Authorities should use their judgement to make sure that funding achieves maximum effectiveness.

The LA will allocate a **baseline figure of £1000 to all maintained (government funded) institutions within the authority** that directly provide nursery, primary or secondary education. Private, voluntary and independent nurseries are not entitled to the baseline figure

The LA will then issue a per pupil allocation to all institutions within the authority that directly provide nursery, primary or secondary education. The LA will take into account any local circumstances and may need to adjust the DfES allocation figure **of £3.42 per eligible pupil for 2007-08** rather than the £6.58 per eligible pupil for 2006-07 to take account of their latest data on eligible pupils.

The LA has to also ensure that the DfES Alternative Provision Policy is followed when making allocations for institutions and pupil numbers. In practice, this means that Pupil Referral Units, Traveller Education Service and other education authority funded education providers are eligible for eLC allocations

Basis of allocation

The ring fenced grant for e-Learning Credit (eLC) for 2006-07 is funded at 100%. The allocations are calculated using PLASC data which has been supplemented with data on the number of eligible three and four year olds who are in receipt of the Nursery Education Grant and information on the number of Traveller Education Service centres within the authority.

125. Computers for Pupils (recurrent £8,800) and 210 Computers for Pupils (capital £44,400)

This is a small grant targeted at improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged secondary school pupils (and their families) by providing access to ICT at home. The grant is being focused on Sir Frank Markham Community School.

126. Choice Advisers (LA held)

This grant of **£26,397** is about helping and supporting families including mothers, fathers, adults with caring responsibilities and children to make the best and most realistic choice of secondary school. Choice advisers will advise parents but not decide for them. Their aim is to help families optimise their choices using all the information to hand (including over-subscription criteria), plus use of local knowledge of what individual schools have to offer, to ensure parents are more likely to get the best place for their child. The LA will be appointing a Choice Adviser for 2007-08.

127. Study Support Quality Development Programme

This grant of **£20,000** is used to support pupils in a small number of secondary schools.

301. School Intervention Grant (LA held)

This grant of **£72,600** is to provide support to LAs to foster new and constructive support arrangements between strong and weak schools or other partners.

302. 14-19 Flexible Funding Pot (LA held)

This grant of **£68,868** is paid to LAs in recognition that there is an urgent task to build and sustain the administrative and logistical capacity for local areas to begin the roll out of specialist diplomas from 2008. The use of the grant will be determined by the 14-19 partnership to ensure that the necessary systems to support choice, diversity and collaboration are in place. This includes delivering area prospectuses, developing common timetables, and dealing with the logistical challenges arising from collaboration.