**Commentary on the School Funding Allocations April 2017 – March 2018**

**Version 1.0: 15th February 2017**

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| This commentary should be read in conjunction with the initial funding allocation sheets published on the Barnet website at [www.barnet.gov.uk/school-funding](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/school-funding).Funding sheets issued in February 2017 are a mixture of final allocations and estimates. Information is issued for all schools and academies, but academies should note that the funding in their General Annual Grant for the financial year September 2017 – August 2018 may vary from the estimates provided by Barnet depending on the funding agreement with the Education Funding Agency (EFA). |
| **Updated allocations** | We will issue updated allocations periodically throughout the year. The dates will vary but the following is a rough guide: | April 17 Post 16 allocationsJuly 17 Pupil Premium, high needs top-ups, early years, growth, NNDR, UIFSMOctober 17 PE grant, NNDRDecember 17 Early years, high needs top-upsFebruary 18 Early years, high needs top-ups, NNDR, Trade Union support |
| **Budget shares – for mainstream pupils, Reception to Year 11** | There are three changes in the funding formula for 2017/18: | 1. Age weighted pupil unit - £10 added to the secondary rate
2. Capping system – schools where the average funding per pupil has risen since last year now keep up to 2.25% of the increase. Last year schools kept 20% of the increase but lost the rest.
3. IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) – the government issued a new version of the index in October 2015 which produced lower scores throughout London. There are 6 bands of IDACI, but no school had Band 6 pupils, the funded bands in 2016/17 were Bands 3 to 5. The DfE has now re-aligned the bands so that a similar percentage of pupils fall into each as was the case in 2015/16. As a result of this, some Barnet schools now have pupils in the most deprived band. For 2017/18 we continue to fund the three most deprived bands, but these have been redesignated Bands A, B & C.
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| NNDR | We are aware that VA and Foundation schools are currently receiving letters advising them that the 20% discretionary rate relief (DRR) previously received is being removed for 2017/18. We have therefore made estimated NNDR allocation to these schools. When we have more information we will update NNDR allocations and we will be asking all schools to submit copies of their NNDR bills in 2017/18 to verify their actual charge. This can be done any time up to February 2018. |
|  | Other than the NNDR mentioned above, budget share allocations are final for the year. |
| **High Needs (Statements / EHCPs, Special Schools, PRUs, Additional Resourced Provision)** | Place funding for special schools, ARPs and PRUs remains at £10,000 per annum as required by the government. | All top-up funding rates have remained at 2016/17 levels. |
| To calculate initial estimates of high needs top-ups we have assumed that the number of pupils at each band at each school remains the same as in the Spring term 2017. We do not try to predict leavers (e.g. from Year 6) since in many cases leavers will be replaced by a new admission. In the summer term we will replace the band estimates with allocations for individual pupils and these will be updated in the autumn and spring terms for admissions and leavers.Each high needs pupil has a unique “LA Ref” number which is used by the SEN team and also allows us to issue anonymous funding reports for each school. Please ensure a list of “LA Ref” numbers is maintained in school so that the funding reports can be checked for accuracy throughout the year.If pupils have been granted exceptional or medical funding extending into 2017/18, the top-up estimates have included these where possible. |
| **Post 16 allocations** | Sixth form learner funding for the 8 month period August 2017 – March 2018 has not yet been released by the EFA. In the meantime we have used the Academic Year (August 2016-July 20167) as an estimate for secondary schools where known. We do not have information about funding for academy 6th forms. Special school 6th form allocations include place funding for Years 12, 13 and 14 instead of an allocation from the post 16 funding formula. |
| **Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF)** | The Early Years funding formula has changed for 2017/18. All nursery providers will receive the same hourly base rate of £5.17, together with a deprivation supplement based on the IDACI score of the child. The new calculation will be:Free entitlement hours per child \* £5.17Free entitlement hours per child \* child level IDACI score \* £1.53 deprivation supplement.From September 2017, any children receiving additional hours under the ‘working parent’ 30 hour entitlement will be funded using exactly the same EYNFF formula.We have estimated the take-up of the Free Entitlement for Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds based on the pupils funded in the period January to December 2016. These will be updated each term once the termly census has been received.Funding for two year olds is not included in the funding sheets. Schools with eligible two year olds should continue to claim through the Early Years team (earlyyears@barnet.gov.uk). |
| **Grants** | Grant allocations are calculated by the EFA and paid by the local authority to maintained schools. Academies receive the money directly from the EFA. VA schools also receive their Devolved Formula Capital funding directly from the EFA.  | 1. Devolved Formula Capital (DFC): this has been estimated using the same rates as 2016/17. These will be firmed up later in the year.
2. Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM): estimates are based on allocations for 2016/17. No estimates have been attempted for growth or reduction in infant pupil numbers. We should have more accurate allocations in the summer term.
3. PE Grant: we have not received confirmation that this grant will continue into the academic year 2017/18 so at present are only paying the amount already announced for the summer term 2017.
4. No estimates have been made for any other grants that some schools may receive.
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| **Pupil Premium** | The EFA normally announces the Pupil Premium in the summer, so allocations have been estimated. There are 5 elements to the Pupil Premium: | 1. Free School Meals (Ever 6) – estimates the same as 2016/17
2. Service Children – estimates the same as 2016/17
3. Post LAC – i.e. children adopted from care – estimates the same as 2016/17
4. Early Years Pupil Premium – no estimates until we receive the termly census data
5. Looked After Children – no estimates as allocations are decided by the Virtual School
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| Please note that once the pupil premium has been announced later this year, the Key to Success website will show the list of pupils on the January 2017 census which have attracted funding. No adjustments are made for in-year joiners or leavers. |
| **Growth: planned increase in pupil numbers** | Mainstream schools which are opening whole new year groups in September 2017 have been funded for the extra pupils through the main funding formula, pro rata for the 7 months from September 2017 to March 2018. These allocations are final.The funding rates are the same as 2016/17. Allocations will change if current plans for new classes are revised over the next few months.All other growth funding is provided as a lump sum.  | 1. Bulge classes
2. Permanent expansions
3. Protection for bulge classes that have less than 22 pupils (1 or 2 form entry primaries only)
4. Diseconomies of scale for new schools opened to meet basic need which do not have all year groups open.
5. Academies only – summer term growth funding where lump sum funding was paid in the previous financial year
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