

Public Document Pack



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Friday 09 January 2026

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Kirklees Schools Forum

The **Kirklees Schools Forum** will meet in the **Willow Room - Cathedral House** at **8.30 am** on **Friday 16 January 2026**.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lawton".

Samantha Lawton

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence.

Chair.

2: Minutes of the Schools Forum Briefing held on 10 October 2025

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Minutes of the Schools Forum Briefing held on 10 October 2025

3: Matters arising from the meeting held on 10 October 2025

Matters arising from the meeting held on 10 October 2025.

4: Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board (standing item)

Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board (standing item).

No meetings since the last briefing.

KELPB Attendees

5: High Needs Block (standing item)

High Needs Block (standing item)

LA representative

- 6: Central School Services Block 2026/27** 7 - 10
- Central School Services Block 2026/27
- John Bartlett
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- 7: Local school funding formula 2026/27 / Authority Proforma Tool (APT)** 11 - 16
- Local school funding formula 2026/27 / Authority Proforma Tool (APT)
- John Bartlett
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- 8: Growth Fund 2026/27** 17 - 20
- Growth Fund 2026/27
- Martin Wilby / John Bartlett
-
- 9: De-delegation 2026/27** 21 - 24
- De-delegation 2026/27
- John Bartlett
-
- 10: Any other business**
- Any other business
- Chair
-
- 11: Confirm minutes**
- Confirm minutes.
- Chair
-

12: Next Public Meeting

Next public meeting: 1 May 2026.

The KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM PUBLIC

(Schools Funding Consultative Group)
meeting held on **Friday 10 October 2025**
Cathedral House, Huddersfield at 10.00am

Present:

Name:	Category of Membership:
	Nursery School Head
Katie Pearson, Jenny Shore	Primary School Head
Andrew Fell	High School Head
Paul Brook	Special School Head
	Special Academy Head
Darren Christian (Chair), Laura Willimott, Dave Wadsworth, Ian Rimmer, Natasha Carmen	Academy Head
	Alternative Provision
Vicky Morris, Hazel Danson	Non-school Member
Mathew Pinder	School Governor
Liz Kilner (Minute Clerk), Emma Brayford, Martin Wilby, John Bartlett,	Officers in Support
Cllr Jane Rylah	Observers
	Others

Item	Title	Actions
1	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Martin Wilby welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.</p> <p>Apologies were received as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Brailsford – Executive Director – Children & Families • Ian Rimmer – Secondary Academies • Jo Anne Sanders - Service Director, Learning and Early Support • Andi Gilroy-Sinclair - Maintained Nursery School • Rik Robinson – Maintained Special Schools <p>John Bartlett updated that David Baxter now has a new role in the LA. David Baxter was thanked for all his work for Schools Forum. Work is in progress for the appointment of a replacement Finance Manager.</p> <p>Martin Wilby summarised Schools Forum Membership updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natasha Carman has been appointed representing Secondary Academies. • Darren Christian has been appointed in his new role as CEO representing Secondary Academies. • Laura Willimott has a new role but can be reappointed via the appointment process. • We still have a vacancy for Primary Academies, the appointment process is ongoing. • Schools Forum does have stable membership and work is ongoing to fill vacancies. 	
2	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Darren Christian be elected as Chair for a term of 1 year.</p>	

3	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Paul Brook be elected as Vice Chair for a term of 1 year.</p>	
4	<p>Schools Forum Terms of Reference</p> <p>Kirklees Schools Forum Constitution and Terms of Reference – July 2025 was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>Martin Wilby noted that a draft of the document was discussed at Schools forum briefing in July 2025 and the required amendments have been made. The key changes were summarised for the meeting.</p> <p>Q: Excess balances and powers are not referred to in the Terms of Reference? A: Decisions relating to Excess balances are a LA responsibility. Any proposals will be discussed at Schools Forum. There are no current proposals for discussion.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Kirklees Schools Forum Constitution and Terms of Reference – July 2025 be approved.</p>	
5	<p>Minutes of the Schools Forum Briefing meeting held on 20 June 2025</p> <p>The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the last meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 20 June 2025</p> <p>a) <u>DSG Close Down 2024/25 (Minute 3(d) refers)</u></p> <p>It was noted that generally we compare the cost of state funded places at around £30K with independent places on average costing £60K+ to illustrate saving. These figures have been reported in the public domain in Cabinet reports.</p>	
7	<p>Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board</p> <p>Martin Wilby and Emma Brayford updated the meeting on the KELPB held on 24 September 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summary of educational outcomes was discussed including KS2, Secondary and Post 16. • Discussion of the KELPB Terms of Reference, governor vacancies and KELPB succession planning took place. • An update was provided by Jo Anne Sanders on the SEND Transition Plan and SEND Area Inspection Update. • Term time dates for 2027 and beyond were discussed. • There was an update on the Families First Partnership Programme. 	
8	<p>High Needs Block</p> <p>Martin Wilby read out an update prepared by Jo-Anne Sanders the meeting on feedback from the SEND Area Inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspection was led by Ofsted and the CQC. • Our outcome was the ‘middle judgement’ being ‘The local area partnership’s arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.’ The emphasis was on the Partnership and not just the LA • ‘Inconsistent Outcomes’ is the middle band outcome and it is where most Local Authorities come. • The feedback positives were summarised for the meeting. The feedback was very positive about many things including our Big Plan and cluster working. We put children at the heart of what we’re doing and decision making, we listen to children and young people’s voices and that means that children and young people shape 	

	<p>local developments that affect them for example, our student's getting involved in the design of the rebuilding of their schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also know there is more to do, and we are extremely ambitious for every child and family in Kirklees. • Areas for focus were summarised for the meeting including. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) - Waiting times for some Health services (therapeutic services, Mental Health Services and access to wheelchair services) - Education Health and Care Plans - Communication. • We have been preparing a post inspection plan 'Big Plan 3' and have a meeting with the DfE and NHS England on Monday and subject to sign off will publish this plan by Friday 17 October 2025. • The Primary AP Pilot (as discussed at the last meeting) has been sent out for Expressions of Interest, and we should be in a position to report back at the next meeting on next steps. • We held an AP review of existing provision (thanks go to Forum members, Helen Pearson, Darren Christian and Dave Wadsworth for coming to that session), this has informed next steps regarding what to extend/where there are gaps etc. • The need to use independent and non-maintained Special Schools has increased, as has the cost. We are working through sufficiency priorities and have agreed to have a focussed conversation with Regions Group at the DfE about next steps. • There is no further feedback on AP Free School. • Compliance for EHCPs continues to 'hold'. Our cumulative in year performance now stands at 54.4% which is better than last year's national average (SEN 2 was 46% and Kirklees last year was 22%). <p>Q: Is that 54.4% of EHCPs that hit the 20 week deadline cumulative year to date? A: Yes. The challenge will now be to do Annual reviews within timescales.</p> <p>Q: Do we still have a backlog of EHCP cases? A: No, the backlog has been cleared.</p> <p>Q: What is the delay with the AP free school? A: This is a question for the DfE.</p> <p>Q: The LA received the middle judgement, do we know who has received the top judgement and can we work with them to gather learning? A: Wakefield received the top judgement and we do work with them closely. It was noted that the next SEND inspection will use the new framework.</p>	
9	<p>Update on the national picture for school funding 2025/26</p> <p>John Bartlett updated the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have not yet received any indicative figures for school funding and we think that this will be unlikely until after the Budget in November 2025. • There is a feeling that budgets and funding will be very tight for the next two years. <p>Martin Wilby noted that an additional Schools Forum meeting may be required in the week commencing 15 December 2025 to allow proper consideration of funding issues.</p> <p>ACTION: Martin Wilby to propose dates for an additional meeting and discuss with the Chair and Vice Chair.</p>	MW
10	<p>Schools premises disapplication request 2026/2027</p> <p>The Schools Premises Disapplication Request 2026/2027 was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>John Bartlett summarised the request for the meeting.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five schools incur additional premises costs (rents), due to individual and unique circumstances that the individual schools operate within. An example would be the rental charges for modular buildings. • The five schools all meet the conditions for exceptional circumstances, namely that costs are more than 1% of schools budget and applies to fewer than 5% of schools in the local authority area. • In addition to meeting the DfE criteria, the individual agreements with external providers have been requested for review and challenge. The information was subsequently confirmed with Schools Asset Management team. • The total amount to be funded in 2026/2027 through the application of the 'exceptional circumstances' disapplication request is £130,052. The list of schools where disapplication has been sought and subsequently approved has not changed for several years. <p>Q: Where is the £130k funded from? A: The Main Schools Block.</p> <p>Q: Some of these charges have existed for 20 year, are these rental costs really exceptional? A: The costs are exceptional because of the original circumstance. These are exceptions as the circumstance apply to 5 schools of a total 180.</p> <p>Q: Have Rent to Buy schemes been considered for the modular buildings? A: We can investigate Rent to Buy options.</p> <p>Q: Given the reduction in numbers of Primary children, would other school places be available close by? A: We do need the places in these specific areas. Place provision is monitored very closely for schools.</p> <p>Q: Is the cost for Birkenshaw disproportionate to the total budget of the school? A: This is a two form entry school and the additional school buildings were provided in 2012 for the addition of two year groups required when the Building Schools for the Future funding programme was withdrawn suddenly by a new coalition government..</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Schools Forum support the application of the exceptional circumstances factor for the 2026/2027 financial year but there are concerns about the sustainability of this support.</p> <p>ACTION: Martin Wilby to investigate if Rent to Buy options would be available for the modular buildings at some schools.</p>	MW
11	<p>High Needs Block transfer disapplication 2026/2027</p> <p>The High Needs Safety Valve Block Transfer 2026/2027 report was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>John Bartlett summarised the report for the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2024, as part of the ongoing performance and review of the Safety Valve agreement, the ESFA re-negotiated and agreed revised support for Kirklees Council. The ESFA have extended the agreement to nine years but maintained the overall contribution level of £33.5 million. • One of the key changes for the continuation of the Safety Valve agreement is the level of contribution that is proposed for the schools block over the extended period, which increased from £11.5 million to £24.3 million. • There is a requirement to consult Schools Forum before a Local Authority submits a disapplication request. The deadline for Local Authorities to submit a disapplication request is 17 November 2025. This is likely to be before we receive the final school funding allocations for 2026/2027. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Forum have consistently reviewed and challenged the block transfers, approving the first block transfer of £1.6 million (2022/2023) in November 2021 and subsequently approving £2.1 million (2023/2024) in September 2022, £2.6 million (2024/2025) in October 2023 and £3.6 million (2025/2026) in October 24. In line with the revised (March 2024) Safety valve agreement, the contribution for 2026/2027 is £3.6 million. It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposed £3.6m transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2026/2027. <p>Q: When was the original end point? A: The original 2026/27 end point was extended to 2029/30</p> <p>Q: If the schools block increases, is the £3.6m fixed and the percentage reduced from 1%? A: Yes the £3.6m is fixed and the percentage will be below 1%.</p> <p>Q: How much of the total contribution of £33.5m has been received so far? A: We have received over half of the £33.5m so far and expect all to be received by 2029/30.</p> <p>Q: Would the High Needs Block not achieve statutory duties if this was not agreed? A: The £3.6m contributes to a reduction in the deficit.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the recommendation proposed £3.6m transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2026/2027 is supported but Schools Forum do have serious reservations as the £3.6m transfer is not connected to the actual deficit and this does not address the fundamental question of underfunding of the High Needs sector.</p>	
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There were no items of Any Other Business for discussion.</p>	
13	<p>Confirm minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed above.</p>	
14	<p>Dates and time of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 December 2025 <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	

Signature (Chair)

Date.....

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Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	John Bartlett
Report:	Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2026/2027
Date:	16 January 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To review proposed 2026/2027 Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) allocations.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	Section 8 of the Schools Forum good practice guide: Agreeing other centrally retained budgets, including for local authority statutory responsibilities. Statutory Instrument: The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012

Kirklees Schools Forum

9 January 2025

Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2026/2027

1. Background information

1.1 The Central Schools and Service Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising 2 distinct elements:

- ongoing responsibilities
- historic commitments

2. Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) 2026/2027 Block Allocation

2.1 The CSSB allocations for the 2026/2027 compared to the original 2025/2026 allocations are shown in the table below:

Kirklees Council CSSB Block Allocation				
Components	2025/2026	2026/2027	Year on Year Change	Comments
CSSB Unit of Funding	£43.38	£57.51	£14.13	
Number of Pupils	62,439	61,544	-895	
Historic Commitments	£170,000	£136,000	-£34,000	A further bid for 2026/2027 has been submitted as the assumed 20% year on year reduction is excessive.
Total CSSB	£2,878,604	£3,675,396		

The census data from October 2025 has been incorporated into the final CSSB block allocation that was published in the finalised allocations in December 2025.

2.2 The DfE has protected any local authority from having a reduction that takes their total historic commitments funding below the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind. Kirklees Council has already submitted evidence to support a bid for additional resources to meet estimated costs for 2026/2027.

Report for Schools Forum

2.3 The proposed CSSB Allocations for 2026/2027 are compared against the agreed allocations for 2025/2026 shown below:

Budget Heading	Revised Allocation 2025/2026 £	Proposed Allocation 2026/2027 £	Notes
Servicing of Schools Forum	8,016	8,297	
Strategic Learning	34,000	35,190	
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	46,800	48,438	
Pupil Admissions Service	433,264	448,428	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Organisation & Planning	150,592	155,863	
Finance Support Costs	13,208	13,670	EY & HN blocks contribute
Payroll Support Costs	16,016	16,577	EY & HN blocks contribute
Personnel Costs	9,152	9,472	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Reorganisation Support	335,608	347,354	
Historic DSG pension commitments	170,000	136,000	Application to DfE to protect at £170,000. No confirmation yet.
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Specialist Provision Coordination</i>	21,008	21,743	
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Portex ICAN EYSEN</i>	14,248	14,747	
Kirklees Business Solutions (KBS)	80,000	80,000	
Centrally Employed Staff NICS (National Insurance Contributions)		559,892	Received as a separate grant in 25/26, rolled into CSSB for 26/27
Centrally Employed Staff SBSG (School Budget Support Grant)		414,368	Received as a separate grant in 25/26, rolled into CSSB for 26/27
National Copyright Licence charge	453,775	453,775	2026/2027 amount not yet confirmed. This is set nationally and is mandatory.
Per pupil allocation to the Council in respect of statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees	1,092,917	911,582	In effect, this becomes the balancing figure from of the Central Schools and Services Block
TOTAL	£2,878,604	£3,675,396	

2.4 It is proposed that the above allocations are increased by 3.5%, reflecting the anticipated impact of the Local Authority pay award (to be implemented from 1st April 2026), from the 2025/2026 agreed contributions.

2.5 The national copyright licence charge will be updated once the rates are agreed centrally by DfE with the balance of resources reflected within the 'statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees'.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are requested to review and approve the proposed allocations of the Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) for 2026/2027.

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	John Bartlett
Report:	Budget / APT Submission Data 2026/27
Date:	16 January 2026
Purpose Of Report:	Consultation on the proposed local schools funding formula / APT Schools Block allocations for 2026/27
Is a Decision Required?	A consultation response is required to help inform Local Authority decision making
Decision context	The Local Authority proposes and decides. Schools forum Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations

Kirklees Schools Forum

16 January 2026

DSG Proposed Schools Block APT Allocations 2026/27

2026/27 Final Allocations

Schools Block	£412,070,708
Central Schools & Services Block	£3,675,396
High Needs Block	£75,147,094
Early Years Block	£80,319,686
Total	£571,212,884*

*Gross Kirklees allocation

Safety Valve - High Needs Block Transfer (Disapplication Request submitted)

£3.6 million or 0.87% of schools block budget which requires Secretary of State approval.

APT Factor Value Limits 2026/27

Factor changes from 2025/26 submission:

- KS3 basic entitlement proposed submission above 2026/27 APT minimum level. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.
- Primary FSM proposed submission at NFF including ACA. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.
- Secondary FSM proposed submission at NFF including ACA. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.
- Primary FSM6 proposed submission at NFF including ACA. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.
- Secondary FSM6 proposed submission at NFF including ACA. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.
- Primary IDACI bands A-F proposed submission at NFF including ACA. Previously at APT minimum level in 2025/26.

2026/27 DfE APT December 2025 National Funding Formula Funding Rates

Factor	26-27 NFF including ACA	26-27 APT minimum	26-27 APT maximum	Rate Used	25/26 Rate
Primary basic entitlement	£4,064.69	£3,963.07	£4,166.31		£3,847.65
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,686.97	£5,544.79	£5,829.14	£5,551.08	£5,287.35
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,411.09	£6,250.81	£6,571.37		£5,961.19
Primary FSM	£505.09	£492.46	£517.71		£482.71
Secondary FSM	£505.09	£492.46	£517.71		£482.71
Primary FSM6	£1,210.21	£1,179.95	£1,240.46		£1,033.68
Secondary FSM6	£1,725.29	£1,682.16	£1,768.43		£1,516.38
Primary IDACI F	£240.04	£202.19	£246.04		£192.98
Primary IDACI E	£290.05	£241.60	£297.30		£231.22
Primary IDACI D	£455.08	£382.64	£466.45		£364.59
Primary IDACI C	£500.09	£418.69	£512.59		£399.64
Primary IDACI B	£530.09	£443.79	£543.34		£424.20
Primary IDACI A	£700.12	£587.40	£717.62		£559.87
Secondary IDACI F	£345.06	£288.69	£353.69		£277.43
Secondary IDACI E	£460.08	£386.83	£471.58		£368.69
Secondary IDACI D	£650.11	£546.93	£666.36		£520.46
Secondary IDACI C	£710.12	£595.76	£727.87		£568.05
Secondary IDACI B	£760.13	£637.62	£779.13		£609.01
Secondary IDACI A	£970.16	£814.69	£994.42		£777.41
Primary EAL	£610.10	£594.85	£625.36		£580.22
Secondary EAL	£1,630.28	£1,589.52	£1,671.03		£1,555.39
Primary LPA	£1,200.20	£1,170.20	£1,230.21		£1,145.82
Secondary LPA	£1,825.31	£1,779.68	£1,870.94		£1,740.67
Primary mobility	£985.17	£960.54	£1,009.80		£941.03
Secondary mobility	£1,415.24	£1,379.86	£1,450.62		£1,350.60
Primary lump sum	£152,725.96	£148,907.81	£156,544.11		£145,124.67
Secondary lump sum	£152,725.96	£148,907.81	£156,544.11		£145,124.67
Primary sparsity	£58,609.96	£57,144.71	£60,075.21		£55,974.51
Secondary sparsity	£85,214.48	£83,084.12	£87,344.85		£81,328.82
Middle-school sparsity	£85,214.48	£25,499.84	£87,344.85		£17,064.57
All-through sparsity	£85,214.48	£25,499.84	£87,344.85		£17,064.57
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£55,109.37	£53,731.63	£56,487.10		£54,009.18
Split sites distance funding	£27,604.69	£26,914.57	£28,294.81		£27,004.59
London fringe	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000		1.0000

Full schedule of rates used (highlighted in pink)

Minimum Fund Guarantee (MFG)

This has been set at -0% within a permissible range of -0.5% and 0.0%.

Growth Fund

The Growth Fund has been provisionally set at £0.9 million.

Grants

The following grants are now part of the NFF for 2026/27.

- Mainstream school elements of School Budget Support Grant (SBSG)
- National Insurance Contribution (NICs) Grant

Recommendation

Schools Forum confirm their support for the proposals set out in this report to.

Final decision making by Kirklees Cabinet will take account of the views expressed by Schools Forum.

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Service Area:	Learning and Early Support / Schools Finance
Presented By:	Martin Wilby / John Bartlett
Report:	Growth Fund for 2026/27 – early estimates
Date:	16 January 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To provide Schools Forum with information required to agree the level of Growth Fund for 2026/27
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	Schools Forum are responsible setting a central spend budget and the criteria for allocating growth funding.

Growth Funding

A Dedicated School Grant Central Budget Retention [for mainstream maintained schools and academies] has been agreed by Schools Forum for Growth funding for several years:

Growth funding within the Schools Block

Budget provision	£	Notes
Pupil Growth Fund	600,000	Support in the KS1 primary school phase as per agreed principles and criteria.
Future pupil growth	600,000	Support for normal round bulge classes and permanent expansion as per agreed principles and criteria [current support is focused on bulge classes in the secondary school phase]
TOTAL	£1,200,000	

It is worth noting that the value of this budget has not changed over the years with inflation or changes in funding for schools. For example, secondary AWPU in 2019/20, the first year of funding bulge places, was £3,863 compared to £5,033 in 2024/25, an increase of 30%. The point being there is a real-terms reduction in this budget every year.

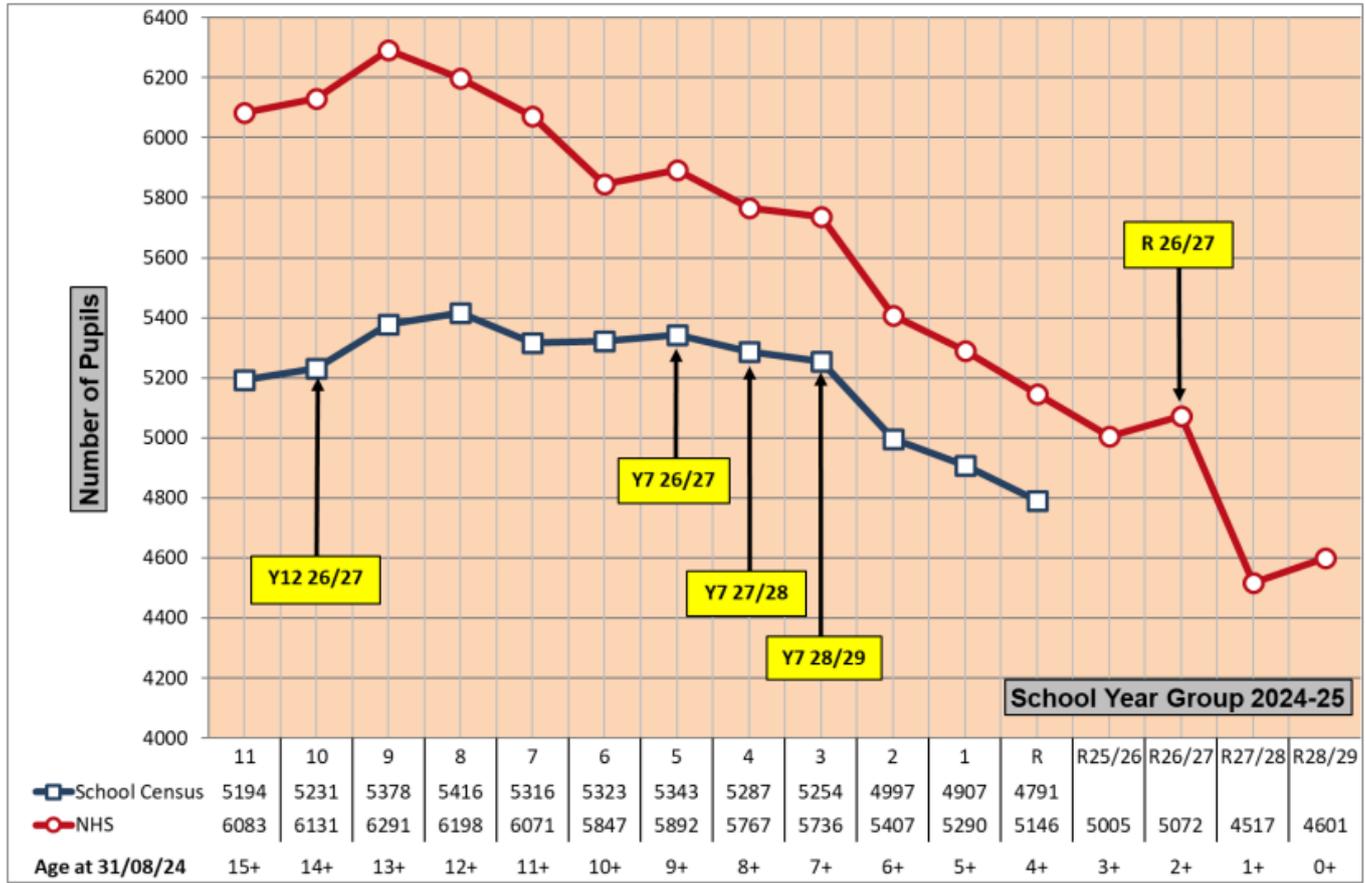
Future pupil growth (currently used for secondary school bulge places in the North of Kirklees)

An update was last shared with Schools Forum in June 2025 which suggested the Future Growth Fund element for the financial year 2025/26 would be up to £249K subject to final confirmation when October 2025 census results are available. It can now be confirmed that the final cost is likely to be £172K leaving an underspend of £428K.

Predicting the required Growth Funding beyond this time to support the required secondary phase bulge classes is far from an exact science. However, some indicators are available from population and school census data. Chart 1 in the Kirklees School Place Planning Document provides the Kirklees level overview of these key data sets:

Chart 1: Year Group Numbers 2024-25 – NHS Data and Kirklees School Pupil Census

Sources: NHS GP registration data May 2025 - NHS Digital
Kirklees School Census January 2025 – Kirklees Data & Insight



Alongside the data set we have a history of the secondary school bulge places required over time:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL	130	210	178	193	230	152	49

As we move past the peak of demand for Year 7 places the number of required bulge places has started to reduce, meaning less spend has been required from the Future Growth Fund. An exact correlation between the reduction in bulge places and population data or the school census could not be found over a long period of time. The number of bulge places reduced by 44% of the population change in these data sets between 2023/24 and 2024/25 and by 46% between 2024/25 and 2025/26. Whilst this provides an indicator it masks a very complex situation where like for like comparisons do not exist. For example bulge places were required in the North in 2025/26 while surplus places were available in the South.

For Year 7 2026/27 the population evidence suggests a slight increase compared to 2025/26 (+45 pupils). Early indications of the number of secondary school applications for 2026/27 show a similar picture. There is always a degree of unpredictability in relation to parent preferencing and the ability of families to secure a school place outside Kirklees.

The cost of supporting 49 bulge places (2025/26 level) plus 23 (50% of +45 population change) = 72 places x estimated AWPU £5279 for autumn 2026 and spring 2027 (.58 of the year) would cost £220K.

Report for Schools Forum

When the summer 2026 commitment of £53K is added, **a budget of £300K would seem prudent for 2026/27 financial year.** This is a saving of £300k from the 2025/26 level.

It is important to put these estimates into the context of associated risk in order to justify the proposed prudence. This is that not having sufficient funds to support bulge places could result secondary schools refusing to accept unfunded pupils, leading to a breach of the council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places.

Pupil Growth Fund (Mainly used in KS1, primary phase)

KS1 class size rules continue to apply. With falling numbers, budgets in the primary phase continue to be under significant pressure meaning this support is vital. 2025/26 commitments, using the agreed criteria, are over budget at £649K (compared to £544K 2024/25), **reducing the total expected 2025/26 Growth Fund underspend to be £379K.**

£600K is considered to remain a realistic budget in 2026/2027.

The risk of withdrawing this support is an increase in sustainability pressures in the primary phase which is likely to compromise learning outcomes.

Proposal

With a degree of risk, it should be possible to set a Growth Fund for 2026/27 at £0.90M, a saving of £0.30M from 2025/26.

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	John Bartlett
Report:	De-Delegation Proposals 2026/2027 – Schools Block Funding
Date:	16 January 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To review proposed 2026/2027 de-delegation rates for maintained schools.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes (by maintained school representatives)
Decision context	<p>Section 8 of the Schools Forum good practice guide: De-delegation from mainstream maintained schools budgets (separate approval will be required by the primary and secondary phase members of schools forum), for prescribed services to be provided centrally.</p> <p><u>Voting procedures:</u> De-delegation is limited to the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members.</p> <p>Statutory Instrument: The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012</p>

Kirklees Schools Forum

16 January 2026

Maintained Schools

De-Delegation Proposals 2026/2027 – Schools Block Funding

1. Background information

- 1.1 The Schools Operational Guide for 2026/2027 requires the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members of Schools Forum to agree the De-delegated services for the upcoming financial year.
- 1.2 De-delegated services are for maintained schools only. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or de-delegated, for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.
- 1.3 De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or Alternative Provisions. Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, the DfE's presumption is that the Local Authority will offer the service on a buyback basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation.

2. De-Delegations proposal for 2026/2027

- 2.1 The cost-of-living pressures continues to impact on all aspects of service delivery within both schools and the services supporting schools.
- 2.2 The current approved de-delegated services and charge rates in operation for the 2025/2026 financial year are shown in the table below:

De-Delegation Description	Primary per pupil rate	Secondary per pupil rate	Notes
School Contingency	£13.44	£16.85	Used to correct funding errors, support schools facing emergencies, pick up costs it would be unfair to ask schools to meet, one-off financial interventions in schools in financial difficulty to help them secure necessary savings.
Voluntary Early Retirement (VER)	£3.05	£3.82	Costs of historic voluntary early retirements
Free school meals eligibility checks	£1.28	£1.60	Customer & Exchequer service checks to identify children eligible to claim free school meals – helps schools maximise their deprivation-related funding
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	£43.61	£43.61	Central payment of salary costs during these leave periods so the school only pays the replacement costs
Trade union facilities time	£7.10	£0.00	Pays for the release from schools of local TU officials to manage casework (competence, attendance, disciplinary etc) involving school staff
Public duties	£0.20	£0.24	School cover costs re staff on jury service, appearing as witnesses in court proceedings, serving as magistrates, serving as governors at another school etc
International new arrivals	£1.96	£2.46	Support to schools dealing with language-related issues of children admitted from different parts of the world
School Improvement Commissioning	£5.59	£14.91	Supports improvement interventions in schools – appropriate support to schools for the cost of implementing improvement action plans, brokering school-to-school support by meeting the cost of releasing staff from other schools to work with the school in need of support.
TOTALS	£76.23	£83.49	

Report for Schools Forum

- 2.3 The De-delegation rates are reviewed and are submitted on the final Authority Pro-Forma Tool (overall allocation of 2026/2027 school finances) in January 2026.
- 2.4 The De-delegations represent probable future costs of service provision for 2026/2027 and needs to consider the impact of both inflationary pressures and academisation which reduces the number of schools contributing to the de-delegated services.

3. Proposed De-Delegation Rates for 2026/2027

- 3.1 Three key components underpin the proposed de-delegated rates for 2026/2027. Firstly, using the October 2025 pupil census data (latest published version), the number of maintained pupils in 2026/2027 is anticipated to reduce by an average of 2,700 pupils mainly due to proposed academisations. Secondly the impact of Local Authority pay award from April 2025 and thirdly, the anticipated level of central financial and operational support for maintained schools that will be required in 2026/2027.
- 3.2 The growing need for exceptional financial support across an increasing number of maintained schools is placing considerable strain on the contingency budget. At the same time reduced economies of scale are putting further pressure on de-delegated budgets limiting both financial flexibility and efficiency.
- 3.3 Taking the above factors into account and to enable the most sustainable position, it is proposed that the de-delegated rates for 2026/2027 are increased by 5.5% in the main, except for base contingency (50%), maternity/ paternity cover (20%) and trade union cover (10%). This would equate to the following per pupil charges:

De-Delegation Description	Primary per pupil rate 2025/2026	Proposed Primary per pupil rate 2026/2027	Secondary per pupil rate 2025/2026	Proposed Secondary per pupil rate 2026/2027
School Contingency	£13.44	£20.16	£16.85	£25.28
Voluntary Early Retirement (VER)	£3.05	£3.22	£3.82	£4.03
Free school meals eligibility checks	£1.28	£1.35	£1.60	£1.69
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	£43.61	£47.97	£43.61	£47.97
Trade union facilities time	£7.10	£8.52	£0.00	£0.00
Public duties	£0.20	£0.21	£0.24	£0.25
International new arrivals	£1.96	£2.07	£2.46	£2.60
School Improvement Commissioning	£5.59	£5.90	£14.91	£15.73
Total	£76.23	£89.40	£83.49	£97.55

- 3.4 There has been pre-engagement with maintained school representatives on 12 Dec 2025 and 9 January 2026 which have helped shape these proposals.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Schools Forum maintained schools representatives only (by phase) are asked to consider and approve the proposed De-delegated rates for 2026/2027.