

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	David Baxter
Report:	Schools Premises Disapplication Request 2025/2026
Date:	11 October 2024
Purpose Of Report:	To confirm the schools premises disapplication requirements for 2025/2026 financial year.
Is a Decision Required?	No, however the view of Schools Forum is important
Decision context	LAs need to discuss with Schools Forum any proposals they intend to put to the Secretary of State about the use of exceptional factors

Kirklees Schools Forum

11 October 2024

Schools Premises disapplication 2025/2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In advance of the publication Schools operational guide for 2025/2026 the ESFA have issued on the 3rd October 2024 a summary policy document confirming that there will be 'no substantial changes to the NFF (National Funding Formula) for 2025/2026'.
- 1.2 The guidance states that Local authorities can apply to the department to use exceptional circumstances relating to school premises. Local authorities should only submit applications where the value of the factor is more than 1% of a school's budget and applies to fewer than 5% of the schools in the local authority's area.

2. Schools Premises Disapplication

- 2.1 The following schools incur additional premises costs (rents), due to individual and unique circumstances that the individual schools operate within and are broadly in line with the disapplications in previous years:

School	Disapplication Amount	Comments
Birkenshaw Primary School	£48,306	<i>Modular Rental charges from September 2018 linked to aborted BSF proposal</i>
Denby Dale First & Nursey	£27,560	<i>Modular Rental charges</i>
Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary	£21,873	<i>Double unit hired Sept 2012 linked to aborted BSF proposal. New DfE school re-build project now underway.</i>
Hanging Heaton CE J & I	£11,500	<i>Rented schools premises (Savile Estates)</i>
Wellhouse J & I	£23,000	<i>Premises rented from the Methodist Church</i>
Total	£132,239	

- 2.2 The five schools listed above all meet the conditions for exceptional circumstances, namely that is more than 1% of schools budget and applies to fewer than 5% of schools in the local authority area.
- 2.3 In addition to meeting the ESFA criteria, the individual agreements with external providers have been requested for review and challenge. The information was subsequently confirmed with Schools asset management team with additional clarification sought where the initial information obtained was inconsistent between the school and the asset management team (e.g. linked to future building plans).
- 2.4 The total amount to be funded in 2025/2026 through the application of the 'exceptional circumstances' disapplication request is £132,239.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools Forum members are requested to review the above application of the exceptional circumstances factor (disapplication request) for the 2025/2026 financial year and indicate their support for the Local Authority's proposal.

David Baxter
Schools Finance Manager
October 2024