

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	John Bartlett
Report:	Schools Premises Disapplication Request 2026/2027
Date:	10 October 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To confirm the school premises disapplication requirements for 2026/2027 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

10 October 2025

Schools Premises Disapplication 2026/2027

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In advance of the publication Schools operational guide for 2026/2027 the DfE have issued on 4th August 2025 a summary policy document confirming that “the individual factors for 2026 to 2027 will operate in the same was as in 2025 to 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.

School	Disapplication Amount	Comments
Birkenshaw Primary School	£48,306	Modular rental charges for years 5 and 6, first installed when Building Schools for the Future funding was withdrawn in 2012.
Denby Dale First & Nursey	£27,560	Modular rental charges
Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary	£19,686	Modular rental charges for years 5 and 6, first installed when Building Schools for the Future funding was withdrawn in 2012. There is a well-developed DfE led plan to rebuild this school at which point this will no longer be required.
Hanging Heaton CE J & I	£11,500	Rented schools premises (Savile Estates)
Wellhouse J & I	£23,000	Premises rented from the Methodist Church
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 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. ~~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 2026/2027 through the application of the ‘exceptional circumstances’ disapplication request is £130,294. ~~The list of schools where disapplication has been sought and subsequently approved has not changed for several years.~~

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools Forum members are asked to agree the application of the exceptional circumstances factor for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Susan Phillips
Schools Senior Finance Officer
October 2025