

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.

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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.