

## Report for Schools Forum

<b>Service Area:</b>	Schools Finance
<b>Presented By:</b>	John Bartlett
<b>Report:</b>	De-Delegation Proposals 2026/2027 – Schools Block Funding
<b>Date:</b>	16 January 2026
<b>Purpose Of Report:</b>	To review proposed 2026/2027 de-delegation rates for maintained schools.
<b>Is a Decision Required?</b>	Yes (by maintained school representatives)
<b>Decision context</b>	<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.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£76.23</b>	<b>£83.49</b>	

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£76.23</b>	<b>£89.40</b>	£83.49	<b>£97.55</b>

- 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.