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Schools' Forum

Date: Friday, 16 January 2026
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Online (MS Teams)

All members and named observers of the Dorset Schools Forum are requested to attend this meeting of the Forum. A full list of the current membership and any vacancies can be found here.

A full list of the Schools Forum's powers and responsibilities can be found here

For more information about this agenda please contact Tom Easterbrook, Schools Forum Officer on 10305 224567 or by email to tom.easterbrook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as a silent observer by giving 5 working days' notice to the Schools Forum Officer using the information above.

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Agenda

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1.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**	
	To receive any apologies for absence, noting current vacancies.	
2.	**MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**	3 - 12
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2025, raise any matters arising and review the Action Log,	
3.	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**	
	To receive any declarations of interest.	
4.	**CORRESPONDENCE**	
	a) Chairs Letter to the Secretary of State	13 - 14
	b) F40 Briefing Paper	15 - 16

c) Letter from Cheselbourne Village School 17 - 20

Items for approval

5. DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT BUDGET SETTING FOR 2026-27 21 - 32

To consider a report from:
Lee House, Service Manager (Finance) – Children's Services, Finance & Commercial, Corporate Development Directorate,
For Approval and Consultation

6. EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2026-27: PROPOSED CHANGES AND CENTRAL RETENTION 33 - 80

To consider a report from:
Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager, School Finance and Support, Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
For Approval

Items for Consultation

7. MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2026-27 81 - 106

To consider a report from:
Donna Horlock, Accountant, School Finance and Support Team, Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager, School Finance and Support, Commissioning & Partnerships People – Children Directorate
For Consultation

Items for Information

8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY YEARS PROVISION 107 - 114

To consider a report from Liz Curtis-Jones, Principal Lead for Best Start in Life, Family Help and Young & Thriving, People – Children Directorate
For information

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dorset Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2025

ATTENDANCE RECORD

			26 Sep	7 Nov	16 Jan	27 Feb	27 Mar	3 Jul
MEMBERS								
Secondary Maintained	Phil Jones (Chair)	Head Teacher - Ferndown Upper School	P	P				
	Keith Hales (Vice Chair)	Head Teacher - Beaminster School	P	P				
	Luana Girling	Governor - Lytchett Minster School	P	P				
Primary Maintained	Simon Smith	Head Teacher - Parrett & Axe Primary School	A	P				
	Andrew Johnson	Head Teacher - Conifers Primary School	P	A				
	Barbara Southcott	Governor - Cerne Abbas First School	P	P				
Special Maintained	Clive Padgett	Head Teacher - Yewstock School & College	A	P				
Learning Centre Maintained	David Dinsmore	Head Teacher - Dorchester Learning Centre	P	P				
Secondary Academy	Brian Boyes	Director of Secondary Education - Initio Learning Trust	P	A				
	Nick Rutherford	Head Teacher - Thomas Hardye School, Wessex MAT	P	P				
	Vacancy							
	Vacancy							
Primary Academy	Adam Gough	Head Teacher - Burton Bradstock Primary, Initio	P	P				
	Paul Lavis	Interim Director of Education - SAST	P	P				
	Giles Pugh	Deputy Director of Education and Finance Director - Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education	P	P				
	Debbie Shutts	Chief Financial Officer - Wessex MAT	P	P				
Special Academy	Katherine Seymour	Head Teacher - Wyvern Academy	P	P				
Learning Centre Academy	Kelly Knight	Head Teacher - Harbour Vale School, SAST	P	P				
Early years	Lorraine Clark	Proprietor - Hopscotch Pre-school	P	A				
	Dani Mark	Director - Muddy Monkies Ltd	A	P				
Post-16	Kate Wills	Principal - Coastland College	P	A				
Trade Unions	Sarah Randell	NASUWT - Dorset Teachers' & Support Staff Council	P	P				
NAMED OBSERVERS								
Maintained Learning Centres	Kieren Hasler	Governor - Forum Centre	P	P				
Maintained Special Schools	Bruce Bonwell	Governor- Westfield Arts College	P	A				
Local Authority	Clare Sutton	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	P	P				
Church Schools	Giles Pugh	Deputy Director of Education and Finance Director - Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education	P	P				
Local Authority	Bridget Bolwell	Elected Member	-	P				
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE								
Local Authority	Tom Easterbrook	Schools' Forum Officer, (Clerk)	P	P				

Key	
P	Present
A	Apologies
-	Absent without apologies
n/a	Not applicable

11. **Apologies for Absence and Vacancies**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Andrew Johnson
- Brian Boyes
- Lorraine Clark

The vacancies were noted in accordance with the attendance record. In addition, Adam Gough reminded the Forum that he will be moving to a maintained school from the New Year and will therefore no longer be eligible to sit as an Academy representative after this meeting.

12. **Declarations of Interest**

None

13. **Minutes and Actions from the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Actions

- **Actions 85 and 108** have been on the action log for some time, and the situation has moved on significantly since they were first envisaged. The Forum agreed to close these actions.
- **Actions 220 and 221** relate to information required about Combe House and other independent specialist providers. This will be completed directly after the meeting; therefore, these actions are now closed.
- **Action 2025/02**, concerning the timing of permanent exclusion funding adjustments, has been reviewed. The process is set out in school finance regulations, so this action is closed.
- **Action 2025/03**: As there were no significant changes from the Forum to the policy, it was agreed this action could be removed.
- **Action 2025/04**: Discussed as part of the monitoring report on today's agenda – closed.
- **Action 2025/05**: Discussed today as part of the paper dealing with the de-delegation which funds the service – closed.
- **Action 2025/06**: An update on the RE Advisor is provided as a written appendix to these minutes, as this was missed on the day – action closed.

Any remaining actions will be carried forward to the next meeting in January.

14. **Correspondence**

Forum noted receipt of a letter from the f40 group to the Secretary of State regarding delays to SEND reforms. Members welcomed the continued national lobbying and agreed to receive updates on any response.

15. **Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) Outturn For 2024-25 Q2**

Forum received an update on the Q2 outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant, covering the period to the end of September 2025. Officers reported that the financial position had worsened slightly since the last meeting, with the projected overspend now standing at £52.79 million compared to £52.5 million at Q1. This continues to be driven primarily by pressures within the High Needs Block.

It was noted that issues with the SEND Case Management System remain unresolved and have been escalated to the Council's corporate risk register. While the report does not yet include the full suite of analysis, work is continuing to improve data quality.

Officers outlined the main drivers of the overspend, drawing on findings from the National Audit Office report published in October 2024.These include the rapid growth in Education, Health and Care Plans, which have increased by 140% since 2015, alongside a 35% reduction in funding per plan over the same period. Other pressures include the high cost of independent special school placements, increased reliance on bespoke packages and individual top-up funding, administrative burdens, and shortages of specialist staff. Members noted that misaligned incentives across health and education, and the lack of funding for early intervention, further compound these challenges.

In addition, it was noted that many of the key players in the independent special school space also operate children's social care provision which also continues to be a challenged market. A recent article advocated that the overall market needs significant structural change

Forum acknowledged that Dorset's position reflects these national trends but welcomed the proactive steps taken locally. These include the creation of 323 new special school and alternative provision places, alongside 180 mainstream inclusion places, and investment in early intervention programmes such as the Value in SEND initiative. Despite these efforts, the scale of demand continues to outstrip available resources.

Safety Valve payments from the Department for Education remain paused. Officers confirmed that engagement with the DfE is ongoing, supported by lobbying through the LGA and local MPs. Members expressed concern about the impact of this pause on the Council's ability to deliver its recovery plan.

Forum also noted the significant expansion of the Early Years Block, now £45 million following the introduction of extended childcare entitlements for younger children. While this growth is positive, it adds complexity to financial planning.

During discussion, members highlighted that the lack of capacity in special schools is driving an increasing reliance on specialist-in-mainstream arrangements. While intended as a short-term measure, this approach risks becoming embedded and could lead to escalating costs, inconsistent provision, and pressure on mainstream schools. The Forum requested a review of the current cohort, including numbers, costs, and the impact on the High Needs Block, alongside an update on how sufficiency planning within the wider SEND strategy will address these pressures. Officers confirmed that this analysis will be brought to a future meeting.

Actions:
2025/07 – Provide data on specialist-in-mainstream placements, associated costs, and sufficiency planning for review

16. **Schools Block Transfer 2026-27 to Support Safety Valve**

Forum considered a report on the proposed transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2026–27. Officers outlined the background to the recommendation, noting that similar transfers had been approved in the previous two years as part of Dorset's Safety Valve agreement with the Department for Education. The transfer, estimated at approximately £1.3 million, is intended to demonstrate partnership working and support the Council's efforts to reduce the High Needs Block deficit.

The report highlighted that Dorset Council has invested significantly in inclusive provision during the Safety Valve period. Funding for mainstream inclusion has increased from £4.95 million in 2022–23 to £14.54 million in 2025–26, representing a rise in per-pupil support from £3,749 to £8,388 for children with Education, Health and Care Plans in mainstream settings. Officers stressed that this investment has been made alongside the creation of new specialist places and the development of inclusion hubs, reflecting a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

However, officers also confirmed that contributions from the Department for Education under the Safety Valve programme remain paused. While Dorset Council continues to hold reserves and has committed £47 million to capital investment for new provision, the absence of DfE funding creates uncertainty for the recovery plan. Members were advised that, should the Forum reject the proposed transfer, the local authority may seek a disapplication from the Secretary of State to override the decision, although this would be considered alongside wider engagement with government on SEND funding reform.

Members acknowledged the context and the progress made in developing inclusive provision but expressed strong concerns about continuing the transfer in the current circumstances. The Forum noted that the original Safety Valve agreement was based on three-way partnership between schools, the local authority, and the Department for Education. Members felt that it was inequitable for schools to remain the only active contributor when DfE payments are paused and the Council is awaiting confirmation of future funding.

Several points were raised during debate:

- The transfer was originally intended as a temporary measure to support the Safety Valve agreement. Continuing for a third year risks creating an expectation that schools will routinely subsidise the High Needs Block.
- The scale of the deficit means that the proposed transfer would have minimal impact on the overall position. Members questioned whether £1.3 million against a £52 million overspend represents meaningful progress.
- Schools are facing significant financial pressures, and the sums involved—typically £5,000 to £30,000 per school—could be used to strengthen inclusive practice locally rather than being absorbed into the High Needs Block.
- Members emphasised that rejecting the transfer should not be interpreted as a lack of support for the Council's SEND strategy. The Forum remains committed to partnership working but believes that the Department for Education must resume its role in deficit recovery before schools are asked to contribute further.
- It was agreed that the Forum's position should be communicated clearly to the Secretary of State, highlighting both the rationale for the decision and the ongoing commitment of Dorset schools to inclusion.

Officers confirmed that the local authority will reflect the Forum's views in any engagement with government on a request to disapply and will continue lobbying for a sustainable national solution to SEND funding pressures.

Following discussion, the Forum voted **against** the proposed transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2026–27.

For: 0 Against:14 Abstentions: 1

Actions

- The Chair will write to the Secretary of State setting out the Forum's decision and the reasons for rejecting the transfer, including the expectation that DfE resumes its contribution to the Safety Valve programme.
- Officers to update the Forum in January on any response from the Department for Education and implications for the recovery plan.

17. **Maintained School Funding Decisions 2026-27**

Forum was asked to consider proposals for the de-delegation of funding from maintained schools and the retention of funding for education functions . this follows a consultation that had been undertaken with all maintained schools

De-delegation of Funding
The discussion began with the three proposed areas for de-delegation: trade union facilities, termination of employment costs, and the free school meals eligibility checking service. Officers reported that responses showed strong support for termination of employment costs and free school meals checking, but the trade union facilities proposal attracted mixed views, particularly within the secondary phase where opinions were evenly split.

Members explored the scope of the trade union facilities scheme, which currently covers the release of designated representatives for casework and training. Concerns were raised about the lack of clarity on eligibility for reimbursement and the potential inequity where long-term secondments are funded through the scheme.

Several members questioned whether unions should bear the cost of extended secondments rather than schools. There was broad agreement that clearer guidance is needed, and suggestions were made to introduce a cap on claims, with a limit of 15 days per representative per year considered reasonable to ensure the scheme supports short-term release rather than permanent arrangements.

Officers undertook to review the scheme and provide updated guidance. It was agreed that the Chair would be delegated authority to confirm the views of forum for trade union facilities once this clarification has been provided.

In relation to free school meals, members asked whether eligibility checking would remain necessary in future. Officers confirmed that current arrangements will continue but advised that the Council is exploring the potential for automatic enrolment in the longer term. This would require investment and system changes, and the earliest possible implementation would be September 2026. Officers undertook to bring updates on this work to future meetings.

Following the discussion, maintained members of forum voted foreach proposition by phase. For the avoidance of doubt all outcomes were unanimous

Primary Results

- Free School Meals Eligibility Checking: **For**
- Termination of Employment Costs: **For**
- Trade Union Facilities: **For**

Secondary Results

- Free School Meals Eligibility Checking: **For**
- Termination of Employment Costs: **Against**
- Trade Union Facilities: **Against**

Retention of Funding for Education Functions
The Forum then considered the proposal to retain funding for education functions for maintained schools in 2026–27 to fund the school improvement service Offer for maintained schools.

Officers confirmed that consultation responses indicated strong support for this approach,

Maintained Members of Forum Unanimously Approved the Retention

18. **Annual Review of Places to Be Commissioned By The Local Authority In Local Specialist Provision**

Forum considered the annual consultation on the number of specialist places to be commissioned for September 2026. Officers explained that the Department for Education requires confirmation of commissioned places in academies and colleges by early December, and Dorset Council aims to provide all schools with their commissioned places at the same time for consistency and planning purposes.

The report included a summary table of proposed places across special schools, resource bases, learning centres, and FE colleges. Officers noted that most special schools remain at or near capacity and that resource provision bases are broadly aligned with agreed sizes, though newer hubs are still building towards full occupancy. The Forum acknowledged that these figures are critical for the budget build, the Safety Valve model, and the capital programme.

Members highlighted the strategic importance of place management given the capacity pressures discussed earlier under the DSG item. Concerns were raised about deferred referrals and the risk of a growing backlog of pupils awaiting specialist placements. It was noted that some pupils suitable for specialist provision are currently placed in mainstream settings under specialist arrangements, which may have significant financial and operational implications if prolonged. Members stressed the need for sufficiency planning to ensure that every child is in the right provision at the right time and requested clarity on how upcoming projects will address these gaps.

Specific points were raised regarding the Forum Centre and Woodlands School, with clarification sought on how current Orchard provision is reflected in the commissioning figures. Officers confirmed that these places are included within the Forum Centre total and that Woodlands would represent additional capacity once operational. A correction was noted for the Hardyes CCN base, which should show 10 places rather than 12.

Actions:
2025/08 – Provide detailed update on sufficiency planning and capacity projects, including timelines for new provision.

19. **Any other business**

Forum wished Adam Gough well as he starts a new position as headteacher in a maintained school in Weymouth and thanked him for his work as Academy Member of Schools Forum.

Appendix A: Action Log
APPENDIX B: RE ADVISOR UPDATE

RE Professional Advisor

There were 4 applicants, two were interviewed. David Rees was successfully appointed and his contract is for three years on a self-employed basis. Currently, work is being undertaken looking at an offer of support for all settings around implementation of the 5 year syllabus. In addition, planning for the RE conference has started. It is estimated that David will work approximately 40 hrs p/half term

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Title	Meeting Date	Action	Officer	Expected Completion Date
206	05/07/24	Provide an update on short breaks and post 19 provision for those with complex SEND needs	Paula Golding;#37	16/01/26
214	27/09/24	Rework inclusion incentives paper	Ellen Eager;#22	16/01/26
2025/01	26/09/25	Review and circulate guidance relating to hospitality and gifts	Vanessa Eddey;#23;#Vikki Murphy;#53	16/01/26
2025/07	07/11/25	Provide data on specialist-in-mainstream placements, associated costs, and sufficiency planning for re	Ellen Eager;#22;#Hannah Davis;#59	16/01/26
2025/08	07/11/25	Provide detailed update on sufficiency planning and capacity projects, including timelines for new provis	Sean Cremer;#56;#Jen Furnell;#135	16/01/26

Appendix

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The Dorset Schools Forum

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Schools Forum Decision on Block Transfer and Urgent Need for Engagement

I write on behalf of the Dorset Schools Forum following our meeting on 7 November 2025. After careful consideration, Forum members voted to decline the proposed transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2026–27.

This was not a decision taken lightly. We recognise the severe pressures on High Needs funding and remain committed to inclusive education, as exemplified by Dorset Council's SEND strategy, which we continue to work in partnership with the council to implement, despite our decision.

That being said., schools cannot continue as the sole active partner in the original Safety Valve agreement while the Department for Education has paused its contributions. This is inequitable and unsustainable.

Schools' budgets are already under severe strain. For many, this transfer represents £5,000–£30,000—funds that will, because of our decision, now be used immediately to support schools in their mission to deliver greater inclusivity.

Dorset Council has invested £47m in capital projects, created 323 new special school places and 180 mainstream inclusion places, and absorbs £5m annually in financing costs. Despite this, Dorset Council faces an in-year High Needs overspend of £52.79m, driven by rising EHCP demand and costly independent placements. If funded at the national average per EHCP, Dorset would receive £20m more each year.

The recent Local Area SEND Partnership inspection found that Dorset Council's arrangements "typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND." Your own advisers acknowledged Dorset's inclusive strategy in response to our submission on 20 October, 2025, describing "the innovative and robust approaches you have in place to meet the needs of CYP with SEND."

The scale of the deficit risks not only education but all frontline council services. Every pound diverted to unfunded SEND costs weakens wider support systems for children and families. Delays to national SEND reforms until spring only deepen uncertainty and undermine confidence.

We accept that the original Safety Valve programme has not delivered as intended due predominantly to circumstances beyond everyone's control. A pragmatic financial approach is now essential. We urge the Department for Education to re-engage with Dorset Council and confirm its commitment to a sustainable solution. We would welcome a meeting with you or your officials at the earliest opportunity.

Dorset and its education system have acted responsibly, collaboratively and proactively. We now firmly expect the Department to do the same.

This letter will be shared publicly and copied to all Dorset MPs. Any response will also be published.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Jones.
Chair, Dorset Schools Forum

Campaigning for fairer education funding, reform and investment

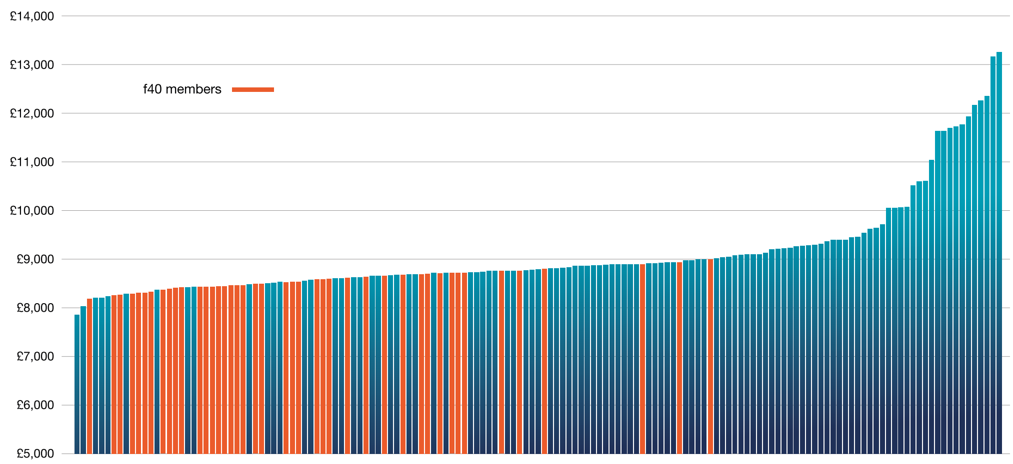
Now is the time to tackle the unfair distribution of education funding and deal with the SEND crisis to ensure all children can reach their potential.

f40 believes that every child should have access to the same resources and opportunities, regardless of where they live or their level of need.

However, our educational landscape continues to be uneven with the continuation of unfair School and High Needs funding, which means some schools receive over £5,000 less per pupil in Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) than others.

High Needs funding is also unfairly distributed, locking in many historic factors that bear no resemblance to today's needs. The lowest funded authority receives just £969 per pupil SEND funding, in comparison to the highest funded area that receives £3,565. Even when area living costs are considered, the differential is grossly unfair and far too wide.

Variation in gross Dedicated Schools Grant allocation per mainstream pupil by local authority 2025-26



While all schools are struggling to make their budgets stretch following a series of disappointing funding settlements, the challenges are exacerbated and the impacts greater for the lowest funded areas.

Headteachers and staff do everything they can to ensure children receive a good education, but the lowest funded schools are forced to make even more tough decisions on where to make cuts; often that is to key teaching staff, resources, pastoral care, and extra-curricular activities. Teacher recruitment and retention is incredibly difficult. Ultimately, it is the pupils who suffer.

Under the current funding system, neighbouring authorities with comparable pupils and demographic can receive wildly different funding levels. There is an example of two local authority areas, located close to each other and with similar pupil numbers, where one receives £30m less in SEND funding annually than the other.

We are at a pivotal time when Government is looking to reform our education system, and we await the eagerly anticipated SEND reforms later this year. We implore Government to be bold and brave in its reforms and to guarantee they are supported with additional funding so they can be successful.

And we urge the Department for Education to act now to review the whole education funding system to ensure money is fairly distributed and targeted where it will have the most impact. If we don't, we will be perpetuating the inequality of opportunity for children and young people.

f40 is campaigning for:

- **A review of the whole education funding system to ensure money is distributed more fairly and targeted towards inclusion and early intervention.**

The SEND Crisis

The number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has doubled since changes to the Code of Practice were introduced in 2014. While the Code was well-intentioned, funding has not kept pace with demand, meaning more and more children are being provided with additional support without sufficient funding to pay for it.

As a result of the mismatch between demand and supply, children are often not being provided with the right support quickly enough, or in the right environment, and local authorities have a cumulative High Needs deficit that is expected to be £5bn by March of next year.

Government has announced plans to extend the statutory override that is holding these deficits off council books for a further two years – until 2028 – but the debts will need to be dealt with at some point, and local authorities are still having to pay interest on those debts.

We agree with Government's direction of travel with regards SEND, particularly around strengthening inclusion and focusing on early intervention, to enable more children to attend their local mainstream school. However, we must equip schools and Early Years providers to succeed with additional funding, resources, training and guidance.

f40 believes the SEND crisis can only be solved with major reform that focuses on early help and achieving better outcomes for children through targeted investment and support in all schools, without the need to go through the rigorous EHCP process, especially for those children who can thrive without one.

The current Early Years and mainstream systems are insufficiently funded or equipped to deal with the increased demand in SEND. Too often, pupils with SEND are absent or leave to be home-schooled, or are transferred into costly specialist provision, when a mainstream place with additional support could have met their needs.

Investing in mainstream schools will enable them to better support all pupils and lead to better outcomes, give parents greater confidence, reduce the pressure on specialist provision, and lower transport costs.

Providing schools with the tools and incentives to be inclusive will:

- Reduce the number of children leaving mainstream schools
- Reduce the demand on State specialist provision
- Reduce the number of children in costly independent provision

f40 is calling on Government to:

- **Substantially invest in mainstream schools to better support children with SEND**
- **Improve clarity around the level of SEND support mainstream schools should offer**
- **Provide training, resources and guidance to mainstream schools to support inclusion**
- **Ensure greater accountability for inclusion and focus on inclusion during inspections**
- **Invest and focus on early intervention**
- **Provide additional funding for local specialist SEND provision**
- **Tighten regulation of independent SEND provision, with emphasis on value for money**
- **Commit to paying off the local authority High Needs deficits**

For more information about f40:
Contact Secretary Karen Westcott at **karen@dtw.co.uk** or on **07545 210067**

f40

[Your Organisation Letterhead]

[Your Organisation Name]

[Your Organisation Address]

jonmoller-gov@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk

Date: Insert

To: Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, and Governing Bodies

Local Authority Maintained Schools in the Dorset Council Area

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors,

Subject: URGENT CALL TO ACTION: Securing Fairer Funding for Dorset Pupils – Support for the F40 Campaign

I am writing to you today regarding the critical financial disparity faced by our schools, particularly concerning **core per-pupil funding** and the **High Needs Block (HNB)**. As chair of governors at Cheselbourne Village School and a parent of a child attending mainstream school I feel this is a rally that has the potential to benefit so many parties within education in Dorset. Especially the children and young people of this county.

Dorset Council is a long-standing member of the **F40 campaign group** (https://www.f40.org.uk/), which represents the lowest-funded local authorities for education in England. Despite national funding reforms, our wonderful pupils continue to receive significantly less funding than the national average, placing immense, unsustainable pressure on our ability to deliver a high-quality, inclusive education.

The Challenge: Unfair Funding for Dorset Pupils

The core issue is twofold, directly impacting every maintained school in Dorset:

1. **Gross Block Funding Disparity:** Dorset schools remain among the lowest funded per pupil nationally. This lack of core funding means less money for teaching staff, services and essential school resources compared to other areas.

2. **High Needs Block (HNB) Crisis:** The HNB, which funds Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision, is chronically underfunded in Dorset. The cost of providing statutory support for pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) is

far outstripping the funding received from the government. This deficit is now so severe that:

- It compromises schools' ability to provide **timely and effective support** for our most vulnerable children.

- It forces the Local Authority to consider actions that impact **mainstream school budgets** to cover the HNB deficit, creating a vicious cycle of underfunding across the entire school system.

Action Required: Lobby Your Local MP and Submit Support

We must now intensify our lobbying efforts to our local Members of Parliament to demand a commitment to **Fairer Funding for Dorset** and to support the F40's key campaign asking for immediate reform.

Our joint Key Asks to the MP will Include:

1. **Demand for High Needs Block Deficit Resolution:** We urgently call for **ring-fenced central government funding** to clear both historic and current High Needs Block deficits in Dorset. Without this intervention, the escalating financial pressure will jeopardize the sustainability of statutory SEND provision and the wider education system.
    a. **The Local Authority is meeting its statutory obligations, but doing so places severe financial strain on them that could ultimately lead to insolvency, threatening essential public services.**

2. **Support F40's Fairer Formula:** Push for urgent changes to the **National Funding Formulae (NFF)** to remove historic unfairness and ensure that Dorset pupils receive funding that genuinely meets their needs, aligning the funding levels for all pupils with those currently better-funded areas.

3. **Prioritise Core Funding:** Stress that a minimum level of core school funding is essential to maintain inclusive mainstream provision, which is the primary form of support for the majority of pupils with SEND.

Below are the Members of Parliament we shall write to when support has reached its desired target to hopefully invoke a discussion at government level.

Constituency	Member of Parliament	Email Address
South Dorset	Lloyd Hatton MP	**lloyd.hatton.mp@parliament.uk**
North Dorset	Simon Hoare MP	**simon.hoare.mp@parliament.uk**
West Dorset	Edward Morello MP	**edward.morello.mp@parliament.uk**
Mid Dorset and North Poole	Vikki Slade MP	**vikki.slade.mp@parliament.uk**

COORDINATED CAMPAIGN SUPPORT

If your school and governing body are in support of this campaign please email a copy of the supporting letter (with any confidential school-specific data redacted) to [Advice from forum members on best way for schools]

We will collate all submitted letters to demonstrate the unified, locality-wide level of concern and collectively submit these to all four Dorset MPs, maximising the impact of our campaign.

We understand the pressures on your time, but a unified voice is our strongest asset in securing the necessary investment for our children. Please ensure this issue is also discussed at your next Governing Body meeting.

For more information on the F40 campaign, please visit: https://www.f40.org.uk/

For any queries, please contact Jon Möller on **jonmoller-gov@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk**.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Möller

Chair of Cheselbourne Village School

Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	**16 January 2026**
Report Title:	**Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2026/27**
Executive Director:	**Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children**
Director	**Jen Furnell, Corporate Director of Education and Learning**
Report Authors: **Title:**	**Lee House (Service Manager – Finance)** **Hannah Chapple (Senior Accountant – Finance)** **Vanessa Eddey (Team Manager Schools, Finance & Support)**
Presenting Officer:	**Lee House (Service Manager – Finance)**
Report Status:	**Public**
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	**For APPROVAL & CONSULTATION as detailed in the report** **Under Forum power/responsibilities**: 1(b) (i), (ii), (viii), (x), (xi) Central spend on Pupil Growth; Admissions; servicing of Schools' Forum, and contribution to responsibilities local authorities hold for all schools. and 2b) iv) administering the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the local authority. and 2d) such other matters concerning the funding of schools which the LA sees fit and

	2f) The establishment of priorities where the draft budget strategy indicates that additional money is expected to become available or where a shortfall compared to the current financial year is anticipated. **FOR APPROVAL** 1. The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) requires approval: a. contribution to responsibilities the local authority holds for all schools; £698,904; b. admissions £475,000; c. servicing of Schools' Forum £53,200; d. Dorset SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) £6,000; e. Miscellaneous (purposes not falling within any other paragraph of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, provided the expenditure does not amount in total to more than 0.1% of the authority's overall Schools' Budget) £51,600; f. DSG Premature Retirement commitments £525,400 g. Licences (excl. VAT) £359,000 Please note that formal approval for the High Needs Block will be sought at a subsequent Schools' Forum. **FOR CONSULTATION** a. None
Recommendation(s):	To note the DSG allocations from central government in relation to 2026/27, and the projected spend against those funding allocations in each block, where available. To provide a formal view on the approvals contained in the section above.

Reason for Recommendation(s):	Schools' Forum is sighted on the overall budget allocations for 2026/27 in totality. To meet the requirements to consult with Schools' Forum over decisions relating to the Schools' Budget as required by the Schools' Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Schools' Forum (England) Regulations 2012, and the Schools' and Early Years' (Finance) England Regulations.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	**Schools' Forum members are reminded of their responsibility to make a declaration of interest in any agenda item in which they have an interest, to the Chair or the Clerk, preferably in advance of the meeting.**

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The provisional DSG allocation for 2026/27 was announced by the DfE on the 17 December 2025. Dorset's allocation is £387.2m.

1.2. The overall increase in DSG allocation for Dorset is £16.5m (4.4%). £4.8m of the increase is within the Early Years Block, £4.7m increase in the High Needs Block and £6.9m to the Schools Block.

Table 1: 2026 to 2027 DSG allocations (£), before deductions for national non-domestic rates, and direct funding of high needs places by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) plus the additional funding announcement

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
DSG Allocation	269,608,315	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	387,230,242
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant: indicative allocation					-
Additional high needs allocation					-
Total available funding 2026-27	269,608,315	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	387,230,242
Total available funding 2025-26	262,663,518	2,160,057	60,208,139	45,721,070	370,752,784
£ - Change	6,944,797	9,047	4,688,774	4,834,840	16,477,458
% - Change	2.6%	0.4%	7.8%	10.6%	4.4%

1.3. A breakdown of the DSG allocation, before recoupment and deductions, can be found in Appendix A.

1.4. Increased DSG allocations generally need to cover three factors: Increased need and complexity, increased inflationary-driven or statutory costs and any new responsibilities.

1.5. This report will detail the proposed budgets for the Schools Block, Early Years Block and the Central School Services Block only.

1.6. The High Needs Block will be presented at a future Schools Forum.

1.7. The Early Years Block allocations for Dorset settings is being presented at this Schools Forum meeting in a separate paper.

2. Schools Block

2.1. For detail, please refer to the 'Mainstream Schools' funding formula for 2026/27 Schools' Block' report, contained within this report pack.

2.2. The main change for 2026/27 is the rolling of the school budget support grant (SBSG) and the National Insurance contributions (NICs) grant from 2025 to 2026.

2.3. De-delegation was agreed at the November 2025 Schools Forum, but for completeness is included below:

	Primary phase £	Secondary phase * £
1. Trade Union facilities	1.29	-
2. Termination of employment costs	3.02	-
3. Free school meal checking service	0.65	0.65
Total per pupil	**4.96**	**0.65**

	Primary phase £	Secondary phase * £
functions	15.00	15.00
Total per pupil	**15.00**	**15.00**

2.4. For detail regarding Dorset's pupil growth allocations and requirements, please refer to the 'Mainstream Schools' funding formula for 2026/27 Schools' Block' report, contained within this report pack.

3. Central School Services Block (CSSB)

3.1. The central school services provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of compulsory school age pupils in maintained schools and academies in England. The funding for the block is based on a national funding formula: 90% of the funding is distributed through a basic per pupil factor, and 10% of the funding through a deprivation factor based on the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals within the past six years (FSM6) in mainstream schools

3.2. There are two parts to the formula: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments.

3.3. The historic commitment element was reduced by 20% in 2024/25 and 2025/26, however this was overturned. The historic element has again been reduced by 20% for 2026/27, and again Dorset will submit evidence (showing spend is still occurring) to try and reverse the reduction. If successful, this would increase the contribution to responsibilities the local authority holds on behalf of all schools by £76,800.

3.4. The CSSB funds the School Admission Service, the support for Schools' Forum, national copyright licences, Historic Premature Retirement Compensatory costs (PRC) and Dorset SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education).

3.5. This block also has a Miscellaneous budget and the Central Services to all Schools is a contribution to authority costs for supporting schools. This is a balancing figure that generally reduces each year as other costs within the CSSB rise. Appendix B details the proposed CSSB allocation.

4. **High Needs Block (HNB)**

4.1. The high needs funding block is a single block for local authorities to spend on provision for pupils and students aged 0 to 25, with high needs. Dorset's base budget allocation is £64.9m; an increase of £4.7m.

4.2. The funding for the block is based on a high needs national funding formula covering 12 factors. The most significant factors for Dorset are historic spend, population and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index – IDACI.

4.3. The 2025/26 quarter 2 DSG forecast overspend is £54.279m, the majority within the High Needs Block. The 2025/26 forecast overspend increases the cumulative forecast deficit to £148.59m before Safety Valve partner contributions. Adjusting for partner contributions from the DfE and Dorset Council, the cumulative deficit is forecast to be £112.3m.

4.4. This is a well-documented national issue. According to the Office for Budget Responsibility, councils' total SEND deficit will reach £14bn by 2027-28.

4.5. The Government has announced the extension to the statutory override for the DSG from 2025/26 to March 2028. In practical terms this means that the cumulative overspend on the DSG will not fall to be funded from the Council's reserves but will instead continue to be treated as a separate, negative reserve on the Council's balance sheet.

4.6. Whilst the statutory override remains in place, the cost of servicing a forecast £149m deficit as at March 2026 is around £5m per year. A cost borne by local taxpayers in Dorset, and money which otherwise would be available to invest in local priorities.

4.7. The government has also confirmed that it will "bring forward a full Schools White Paper early in the new year. This will set out substantial plans for reform of special educational needs (SEND) provision to deliver a sustainable system which – first and foremost – supports children and families effectively, and which is also financially sustainable."

4.8. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 17 December 2025 and more information will likely be shared by government early 2026. DSG headlines from the settlement are:

- Contained with the settlement consultation documents the following text in respect of DSG under section 1.5

1. The extension to the DSG Statutory override was extended for a further two years to support local authorities to manage these impacts.
2. The government will bring forward a full Schools White Paper early in the new year. This will set out substantial plans for reform of special educational needs provision to deliver a sustainable system which – first and foremost – supports children and families effectively, and which is also financially sustainable.
3. The 2025 Autumn Budget set out that once the Statutory Override ends at the end of 2027-28, funding will be managed within the overall central government DEL envelope.

4. Local authorities will of course be expected to manage the system effectively and **where this is the case we would not expect local authorities to need to fund future special educational needs costs from general funds.**
5. We recognise that the size of deficits that some councils may accrue while the Statutory Override is in place may not be manageable with local resources alone and will bring forward arrangements to assist with them as part of broader SEND reform plans.
6. Whilst we do not expect local authorities to plan on the basis of having to meet deficits in full, any future support will not be unlimited. Councils must continue to work to keep deficits as low as possible. To support local authorities to do this, we are disseminating best practice and case studies from previous programmes focussed on efficient spending, such as Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value, and providing all local authorities with advisers to help consider how these learnings can be applied.

4.9. Point 4 and 6 in the above lead to a level of concern as Dorset received the highest (best) possible outcome of the Local Area SEND inspection. At the same time remain under review for the Safety Valve programme with payments frozen and no tangible support or recommendations to change practice to deliver the level of financial savings required to achieve in-year balance. It is therefore unclear how these commitments are any different to what has already been put in place across Dorset.

4.10. Dorset receives one of the lowest High Needs Block allocations per EHCP compared with our statistical neighbours, and roughly £4,700 less per high needs pupil than the national average.

4.11. Further disparity is seen on the education funding for which Dorset Council receives some of the lowest levels of education funding out of all local authorities.

4.12. Dorset continue to call for fair funding that acknowledges the current and very real needs of our communities and reflects the significant costs rural authorities.

4.13. The High Needs Block budget for 2026/27 will be presented at a future Schools Forum.

5. Early Years Block (EYB)

5.1. The Early Years Block funds the following entitlements are:

5.1.1. the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months up to 2 years old

5.1.2. the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children

5.1.3. the 15 hours entitlement for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support (formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement)

5.1.4. the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds

5.1.5. the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

5.1.6. Early Years Pupil Premium and The Disability Access fund.

5.2. The EYB allocations change depending on census numbers based and termly headcounts.

5.3. Local Authorities are required to pass-through at least 97% (96% in 2025/26) of the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement, the new working parent entitlements and 3 and 4-year old (universal and additional) funding from the government to early years providers. The (up to) remaining 3%, will be used to contribute towards the Early Years and central teams within Dorset Council.

5.4. There are now three separate hourly funding rates:

Description	£
Hourly funding rate for 9-month-olds up to 2-years for the new working parent entitlement (from 1 September 2024)	10.91
Hourly funding rate for 2-year-olds which will be the same for both the disadvantaged and the working parent entitlements (from 1 April 2024)	8.08
Hourly funding rate for 3 and 4-year-olds for the universal and additional hours entitlements (includes funding for teachers' pay and pensions)	6.01

5.5. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is to give additional funding to support disadvantaged 3 and 4-year-old pupils. The national funding rate is £1.15 per eligible child.

5.6. Dorset's disability access fund allocation is £0.251m, £975 per eligible child.

5.7. The separate Early Years paper has the full analysis of the budget and updates on the consultation with early years providers, together with the recommended level of central retention.

6. Risk and uncertainty

6.1. There is still significant uncertainty and risk within the 2026/27 budget set. This includes:

6.1.1. Pay awards and the impact of employers National Insurance contributions

6.1.2. EHCP numbers increasing more than planned.

6.1.3. Delays with capital programmes resulting in continued use of independent provision.

6.1.4. Government policy changes, including any White paper

6.1.5. EYB rates and new entitlements creating sufficiency and sustainability issues in the sector.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. As set out in this report.

8. Well-being and Health implications

8.1. None identified.

9. Climate Implications

9.1. None identified.

10. Other implications

10.1. None identified.

11. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: Medium
Residual Risk: Medium

12. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

12.1. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

13. Appendices

Appendix A: Dorset 2026/27 DSG allocation after deductions

Appendix B: Dorset 2026/27 DSG allocations including academies funding and spend

14. Background Papers

DSG: technical note 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Government evidence to the STRB

Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

2026 to 2027 DSG allocations (£), after deductions for national non-domestic rates, and direct funding of high needs places by ESFA:

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
2026/27 - Before deducations and place funding	269,608,315	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	387,230,242
2026/27 - After deductions and place funding	266,920,887	2,169,104	59,550,913	50,555,910	379,196,814
Total deductions	- 2,687,428	-	- 5,346,000	-	- 8,033,428
Represented by:					
National Non-Domestic Rates	- 2,687,428				- 2,687,428
Academy Resourced Provision Places			- 626,000		- 626,000
Academy Special School Places			- 900,000		- 900,000
Special Free School Places			- 1,400,000		- 1,400,000
Academy Alternative Provision Places			- 380,000		- 380,000
Further Education and Independent Learning Provider Places			- 2,040,000		- 2,040,000
Total deductions	- 2,687,428	-	- 5,346,000	-	- 8,033,428

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Total Dorset 2026-27 DSG allocations

all figures before recoupment / deductions by EFSA
funding allocations as per DFE guidance published December 2025

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block (CSSB)	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	**TOTAL DSG**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Schools Block - primary	129,679,179				**129,679,179**
Schools Block - secondary	134,370,401				**134,370,401**
Funding through premises factors	4,737,920				**4,737,920**
Pupil Growth & Falling rolls funding	820,815				**820,815**
CSSB		2,169,104			**2,169,104**
CSSB - historic commitments		0			**0**
HNB - DSG allocation			61,159,139		**61,159,139**
HNB - ISP and SPI			971,472		**971,472**
HNB - Special and AP schools			3,641,842		**3,641,842**
HNB - import/export adjustment			-951,000		**-951,000**
HNB - Special units and RP			75,460		**75,460**
Universal free entitlement for 3&4 year olds				12,721,093	**12,721,093**
Additional working entitlement for 3&4 year olds				7,370,476	**7,370,476**
2 year old entitlement				1,983,955	**1,983,955**
2 year old entitlement for working parents				12,462,017	**12,462,017**
Under 2's entitlement				15,336,310	**15,336,310**
Early Years Pupil Premium				431,484	**431,484**
Disability Access Fund				250,575	**250,575**
Original DSG Allocation	269,608,315	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	**387,230,242**
Addition funding:					
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant: indicative allocation					**0**
DSG Reserve					**0**
High needs additional allocation					**0**
Total funding available	269,608,315	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	**387,230,242**
Other movements:					
Block transfer	-1,348,041				**-1,348,041**
From reserve	526,410				**526,410**
Revised available funding	268,786,684	2,169,104	64,896,913	50,555,910	**386,408,611**

Proposed allocation of Dorset 2026-27 DSG funds

as consulted with or approved by Schools Forum, as necessary

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block (CSSB)	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	**TOTAL DSG**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Allocations to Schools *excluding dedelegated items*	269,276,456				**269,276,456**
De-delegated items:					
Trade Union facilities	7,326				**7,326**
Free School Meals eligibility checker	7,711				**7,711**
Termination of employment costs in schools in financial difficulty - contingency	17,151				**17,151**
Education Functions	177,945				**177,945**
Growth fund	360,000				**360,000**
Falling rolls fund	300,000				**300,000**
Growth fund - balance					**0**
School Admissions		475,000			**475,000**
Schools Forum		53,200			**53,200**
Miscellaneous (not more than 0.1% of Schools Budget)		51,600			**51,600**
Licences (ex VAT)		359,000			**359,000**
PRC ongoing		525,400			**525,400**
Dorset SACRE		6,000			**6,000**
Central Services to all schools		698,904			**698,904**
HNB - Places					**0**
HNB - Placements and Direct Payments					**0**
HNB - Top up payments					**0**
HNB - AP & Exceptional Packages					**0**
HNB - NHS support					**0**
HNB - contracts and development					**0**
HNB - support services					**0**
HNB - recharges					**0**
HNB - Other					**0**
Early Years - centrally retained services				1,211,845	**1,211,845**
Early Years - provider budgets 3&4 year olds				19,310,374	**19,310,374**
Early Years - provider budgets 2 year olds (FRAS)				1,907,837	**1,907,837**
Early Years - provider budgets 2 year olds (working Families)				11,983,895	**11,983,895**
Early Years - provider budgets under 2's (working families)				14,745,910	**14,745,910**
Early Years - Pupil Premium				431,484	**431,484**
Early Years - Disability Access Fund				250,575	**250,575**
Early Years - Early SEND support				300,000	**300,000**
Early Years - Exceptional circumstances				80,000	**80,000**
Early Years - Contingency				333,990	**333,990**
	270,146,589	2,169,104	TBC	50,555,910	**322,871,603**

Allocation of funding vs available DSG funds

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block (CSSB)	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	**TOTAL DSG overallocation of funds**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Overallocation of funds	1,359,905	0	TBC	0	**TBC**

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Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	**16 January 2026**
Report Title:	**Early Years Funding Formula 2026–27: Proposed Changes and Central Retention**
Executive Director:	**Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children**
Corporate Director:	**Jen Furnell, Corporate Director for Education and Learning**
Report Author: Title: Tel: Email:	Vanessa Eddey Team Manager – Schools, Finance & Support 01305 225918 vanessa.eddey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Presenting Officer:	**Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager – Schools, Finance & Support, Education Services, Education & Learning, People – Children Directorate**
Report Status:	**Public**
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	**For APPROVAL / ~~CONSULTATION / INFORMATION~~*** **Under Forum power/responsibility**: 1(b)(vii) Central Spend on Early Years Block (EYB) Provision and 2(a) formula changes including redistributions of school and early years funding
Recommendation(s):	That the Schools' Forum consider and comment on the contents of the report, in particular, the proposal to: • Agree the 2026-27 3- & 4-year-old base rate • Agree any changes to the 2026-27 3- &4-year-old supplements • Agree the 2026-27 2-year-old rate for eligible families receiving additional support (FRAS) • Agree the 2026-27 2-year-old rate for children from working families • Agree the 2026-27 under 2s rate for children from working families. • Agree the central retention of £1,211,845.

Reason for Recommendation(s):	• To pass on as much of the rate increase to providers as possible, to support financial sustainability and the LA's sufficiency duty.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Schools' Forum members are reminded of their responsibility to make a declaration of interest in any agenda item in which they have an interest, to the Chair or the Clerk, preferably in advance of the meeting.

- **Executive Summary**

1.1 Background

The report sets out proposed budget and formula for allocation for the Early Years Funding Formula to providers for 2026-27, including the element to be retained for central spend in support of early years providers. Links to background supporting information are shown in Section 9 of this report.

The government have continued with the policy of expanding funded early years entitlements and continue to use a national funding formula (NFF) to determine the funding passed on to Local Authorities (LAs) via the Early Years Block (EYB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Funding is based on attendance and 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year equals one part-time equivalent (PTE).

The early years entitlements are:

- the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months up to 2 years old
- the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children
- the 15 hours entitlement for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support (FRAS, formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement)
- the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

Additional funding available through:

- the disability access fund (DAF) for eligible children accessing the early years entitlements
- the early years pupil premium (EYPP) for eligible children and looked after children accessing the early years entitlements

Changes introduced for 2026-27 are:

- an increased minimum pass-through requirement for local authorities in 2026-27 – the pass-through rate will increase from 96% to 97%.
- The statutory requirement that local authorities will announce their funding rates to childcare providers by 28 February 2026.
- Moving to a termly funding system for 2026-27 – formerly funding was determined and adjusted according to the annual spring census.
- Information on changes to the eligibility criteria for the special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF).

With the roll-out of the new entitlements the EYB of the DSG has increased from £45,721,068 in 2025-26 (adjusted budget) to £50,555,910 in 2026-27. Funding is based on a part-time equivalent (PTE), using attendance in the last spring census and termly data collections in the summer and autumn terms 2025.

Early Years Block	**PTE**	**Rate**	**x 15**	**x 38**	**Total**
3- & 4-year-old universal	3,599.63	£6.20	15	38	£12,721,093
3- & 4-year-old additional	2,085.59	£6.20	15	38	£7,370,475
2-year-old - FRAS	430.77	£8.08	15	38	£1,983,954
2-year-old - working parents	2,705.84	£8.08	15	38	£12,462,018
Under 2s - working parents	2,466.16	£10.91	15	38	£15,336,310
Early Years Pupil Premium					£431,484
Disability Access Fund					£250,575
Total Early Years Block					£50,555,910

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) is split between the age groups as follows:

	PTE	**Rate**	**x 15**	**x 38**	**Total**
3- & 4-year-old	417.380	£1.15	15	38	£273,593
2-year-old	230.420	£1.15	15	38	£151,041
Under 2s	10.450	£1.15	15	38	£6,850
Total Pupil Premium					£431,484
3- & 4-year-old	192.000	£975			£187,200
2-year-old	57.000	£975			£55,575
Under 2s	8.000	£975			£7,800
Total Disability Access Fund					£250,575

1.2 Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF)

The EYNFF calculates an LA hourly funding rate by multiplying a base rate plus additional needs by an Area Cost Adjustment. For 3- and 4-year-old funding, additional needs just uses Free school Meals. The EYNFF for 2-year-olds and under 2s has a different approach to the additional needs factor, using both free school meals (FSM) and the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) as proxies for deprivations, rather than just FSM alone.

For 2026-27 both formulas remain the same but the formula factors have been updated with the latest available data. The DfE have also applied the following updates:

- An inflationary increase to reflect sector specific costs (Average Earnings Growth, CPI at the point of setting rates and the 2026 National Living Wage;
- A further increase to reflect workforce costs the sector has faced since April 2025;
- Funding in respect of the 2025-26 Early Years National Insurance contributions and teachers' pay grant (EYNTPG) has been rolled into 3&4, 2-year-old and under 2 rates according to the proportion of funding each age group received through the EYNTPG.
- An above inflation increase to EYPP to build on the 2025-26 rate of £1.00.

Each LA's funding can vary according to the EYNFF but Dorset remains close to the bottom nationally. The following tables show national average rates and Dorset rates:

3- & 4-year-old	£6.01 - £9.23

2-year-old	£7.66 - £12.74
Under 2s	£10.34 - £17.87

EYB funding rates for Dorset	2025-26	2026-27	Increase	% Increase	Rate with termly funding adjustment	% Increase
3- & 4-year-old universal	£5.71	£6.01	£0.30	5.25%	£6.20	8.58%
3- & 4-year-old additional	£5.71	£6.01	£0.30	5.25%		
2-year-old – FRAS	£7.72	£8.08	£0.36	4.66%		
2-year-old - working parents	£7.72	£8.08	£0.36	4.66%		
Under 2s - working parents	£10.44	£10.91	£0.47	4.50%		
EYPP	£1.00	£1.15	£0.15	15.00%		
DAF	938.00	£975.00	£37.00	3.94%		

For 2026-27, the DfE are permanently moving to a **termly census** for all entitlements, to improve the accuracy of the funding system. There will be 3 headcounts a year rather than the spring count, timed to align with the existing school census dates. The allocation profile will better match the number of weeks early years providers are funded for, e.g., 13 weeks in the summer, 14 weeks in the autumn and 11 weeks in the spring.

The DfE have applied an adjustment to the 3- & 4-year-old rate to support the transition to a termly funding approach. National data has shown an average reduction in volumes by around 2.94%. Part or all of the additional 3- & 4-year-old termly funding adjustment can be used as a contingency budget if required. As the new funding model matches the existing delivery model in Dorset, fluctuations in the funding allocations are not expected. It is therefore possible to use some of the termly funding adjustment to boost the 3- & 4-year-old rate.

1.3 Dorset Early Years Funding rates in 2025-26

	3- & 4-year-old	2-year-old (working and FRAS)	Under 2s
Base rate	£5.45 per hour	£7.43 per hour	£10.05 per hour
Supplement Deprivation - based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (if applicable) Deprivation Band 1 Deprivation Band 2 Deprivation Band 3	 £0.14 per hour £0.26 per hour £0.39 per hour	N/A	N/A

Supplement Low-income Setting – based on EY entitlement income in the previous calendar year between £2,600 - £12,600 £12,601 - £20,000	 £0.80 per hour £0.40 per hour	N/A	N/A
Pupil Premium (if applicable)	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour
Disability Access Fund (if applicable)	£938 per child	£938 per child	£938 per hour

Dorset also received £89,229 Early Years National Insurance contributions and teachers' pay grant (EYNTPG) in 2025-26, which was distributed according to grant conditions to school-based settings. This funding has been rolled into 2026-27 rates

1.4 Funding consultation with Early Years Providers

The funding consultation is in two parts and part 1 ran from 8th to 19th December 2025, covering 3- & 4-year-old supplements and central retention. Please see Appendix A for the funding consultation and Appendix B for the results of the funding consultation. 39 responses were received.

Part 2 of the consultation launched on 5th January and closes on 8th January 2026. The consultation can be seen in Appendix C. A webinar for early years providers was held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 6.30pm to provide an update on both consultations and give the opportunity for questions. Appendix D shows the results of the second consultation. 55 responses were received.

1.4.1 3- and 4-year-old supplements

The second consultation with early years providers included seven options for 3- & 4-year-old funding, which included potential changes to the deprivation and low-income supplements. The consultation closed at 12 noon on 8th January 2026 and the votes for each option are shown below. Full details of responses are shown in Appendix D.

Option	Deprivation Supplement	Low Income Supplement	3- & 4-year-old base rate	Consultation votes
1	**No change**	**No change**	£5.94 per hour	22
2	**Increase deprivation rates and keep the bands the same**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41	**No change**	£5.94 per hour	10
3	**Increase deprivation rates and lower Band 1**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41	**No change**	£5.91 per hour	3

	and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)			
4	**No change**	**Stop paying the low-income supplement**	£5.95 per hour	10
5	**No change**	**Increase qualifying low-income bands by 25%**	£5.94 per hour	3
6	**Increase deprivation rates and lower Band 1:** Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)	**Increase qualifying low-income bands by 25%**	£5.91 per hour	6
7	**Increase deprivation rates and Lower Band 1**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)	**Stop paying the low-income supplement**	£5.92 per hour	1

Votes for options 1 and 2 have been combined as both are affordable at a base rate of £5.94. This has been achieved by a slight reduction in the contingency budget for option 2.

The three options included in this paper are:
- Option 2 – An inflationary increase to deprivation bands and no change to the low-income supplement
- Option 4 – No change to deprivation and stop paying the low-income supplement
- Option 6 – Lower Deprivation Band 1 from 20% to 16% and increase the low-income supplement qualifying income bands by 25%

1.4.2 <u>Funding for 2-year-olds</u>

In Dorset we have the same hourly rate for 2-year-olds from eligible families receiving additional support (FRAS) and 2-year-olds from working families. The base rate is currently £7.43 and there are no supplements paid. DfE rules allow for the same rate to be paid or an enhanced rate for FRAS 2-year-olds, but previously consultations have indicated that one rate for all 2-year-olds is preferred.

In 2026-27 it is proposed to increase the base rate from £7.43 per hour to £7.77 per hour – a 4.85% increase.

1.4.3 **<u>Funding for Under 2s</u>**

In 2026-27 it is proposed to increase the base rate from £10.05 per hour to £10.49 per hour – a 4.38% increase.

1.5 <u>Centrally retained element</u>

In 2025-26, Local authorities have were required to plan to pass-through at least 96% of their 3- and 4-year-old, 2-year-old and Under-2 years funding from the government to early years providers. This excludes early years pupil premium and disability access fund. This pass-through requirement ensures that the vast majority of government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the government's free entitlements. Up to 4% of the remaining funding can be centrally held to pay for central services provided by the LA.

The pass-through rate has been updated to 97% for 2026-27.

In 2025-26 Dorset retained £1,174,268 (2.61%) of the initial Early Years Block (EYB) for central services made available to all early years providers. It was a contribution towards the cost of the Best Start in Life Advisers and management, central teams processing financial transactions, financial system updates, accountancy analysis and audit work to be completed with early years providers.

For 2026-27 it is proposed to increase the previous cash amount of central retention by 3.2% to cover the 2025-26 local government pay award. This would increase central retention by £37,577 to £1,211,845, which is 2.46% of the 2026-27 Early Years Block. The pass-through calculation does not include the £0.19 3- & 4-year-old termly funding adjustment, early years pupil premium and disability access fund.

Pass through calculation

Early Years Block	**Total**	**Funding for Pass-through calculation**	**Central retention**
3- & 4-year-old universal (without termly adjustment)	£12,331,253	£12,331,253	£303,373
3- & 4-year-old additional (without termly adjustment)	£7,144,606	£7,144,606	£175,771
3- & 4-year-old universal (termly adjustment)	£389,840		
3- & 4-year-old additional (termly adjustment)	£225,869		
2-year-old - FRAS	£1,983,954	£1,983,954	£48,809
2-year-old - working parents	£12,462,018	£12,462,018	£306,590
Under 2s - working parents	£15,336,310	£15,336,310	£377,303
Early Years Pupil Premium	£431,484		
Disability Access Fund	£250,575		
Total Early Years Block	£50,555,910	£49,258,141	
Central Retention			**£1,211,845**
			2.460%

Dorset Council's strategy is to support early years providers by setting central retention at an appropriate level to cover costs, which puts more funding into the base rate. Whilst a maximum of 3% of funding could be retained for support services, the percentage retained is kept below this level to pass on more funding to early years providers.

The consultation question on central retention showed 14 agreed, 9 did not agree and 16 didn't agree or disagree (out of a total of 39 respondents).

1.5 <u>Special Educational Needs Inclusion fund (SENIF)</u>

Early SEND support funding in Dorset is for settings with early years children who:

- Have special educational needs or disabilities and are not yet in school

- Do not have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place

Early SEND support is to ensure the inclusion of all children not yet attending school with emerging and additional needs. Payments are made directly to a nursery, pre-school, or childminder to help them meet the needs of children with SEND in their childcare setting. It is a first step of support and intervention. It is hoped that with this additional support, children may not need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and it will afford additional time for intervention and create clarity if an Education Health Care Needs Assessment needs to start at a later stage.

Children do not need to be accessing their early years entitlements to be eligible. More information can be found here Early SEND Support funding | Dorset Nexus

Early SEND support funding can also be known as special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) DfE rules state that all local authorities are required to have a SENIF for all children eligible for the entitlements and who have SEN, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to recognise and support the low-level and emerging needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements. These funds also support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEN services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Children with an Education, Health & Care Plan are funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The maximum amount of funding awarded per term is £850.00 and the digital application form requires details of how the funding would be spent, including costs against each area of support: resources; specialist training; adaptations to the environment; staff time to cover meetings; adult support. When applying for adult support, if the child attends less than 15 hours a week then the amount awarded will be pro-rata based on the child's attendance hours per week.

In 2025-26, £250,000 was contributed towards Early SEND support funding from Early Education Funding. Due to the increasing number of claims on the fund, we have consulted on an increase of £50,000 to increase the Early SEND support funding budget to £300,000. The contribution from each funding stream is shown below.

Funding	Funding 2026-27	SENIF	SENIF as a % of funding
3- and 4-year-old	£20,091,658	£120,854	0.24%
2-year-old FRAS	£1,983,954	£11,934	0.02%
2-year-old working	£12,462,018	£74,961	0.15%
Under 2 working	£15,336,310	£92,251	0.18%
Total	£49,873,850	£300,000	0.60%

We plan to have a consultation on early years SEND funding in 2026 once the DfE publish the white paper and we've had time to work through plans.

1.6 Early Years Budget for 2026-27

When setting the early years budget and creating scenarios for consultation, it is necessary to set aside funds for:

- central retention
- SENIF
- contingency
- exceptional circumstances.

The consultation with early years providers includes seven options for 3- & 4-year-old funding, which includes potential changes to the deprivation and low-income supplements. The three most popular options will be brought forward to the School's Forum to agree the final rates.

As mentioned above, it is proposed to set central retention at £1,211,845 and SENIF at £300,000.

Exceptional circumstances is used to fund early years children struggling to find a place, through the personal circumstances of the family or particular needs of a child not funded through other routes. This funding is agreed by panel, supported by information from the Best Start in Life Advisers. The current budget is £60,000 and it is proposed to increase this budget by £20,000 to £80,000.

1.7 The 2026-27 budget has been prepared with three scenarios for 3- & 4-year-old funding:

	Scenario 1	**Scenario 2**	**Scenario 3**
Consultation Option	**2**	**4**	**6**
3- & 4-year-old Deprivation Supplement	**Increase deprivation rates and keep the bands the same**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41	No Change	**Increase deprivation rates and lower Band 1:** Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)
3- & 4-year-old Low Income Supplement	No Change Qualifying income bands from previous calendar year remain at: £2,730-£13,230 = 42p £13,231-£21,000 = 84p	No Change Qualifying income bands from previous calendar year remain at: £2,730-£13,230 = 42p £13,231-£21,000 = 84p	Increase qualifying low-income bands by 25%: £3,412-£16,537 = 42p £16,538-£26,250 = 84p
3- & 4-year-old Base rate	£5.94	£5.95	£5.91
2-year-old Base rate	£7.77	£7.77	£7.77
Under 2s Base rate	£10.49	£10.49	£10.49

Lowering the IDACI deprivation band to 16% (in Scenario 1 and 3) would increase the number of settings benefiting from this supplement increases from 21 to 49:

Number of settings receiving supplement	IDACI Band 1 remaining at 20%	IDACI Band 1 lowering to 16%
Day Nursery	1	13
Preschool / playgroups	8	17

Childminder	11	16
School based setting	1	3
Total	21	49

Increasing the low-income qualification bands by 25% (in Scenario 3) would mean the number of qualifying settings would increase from 22 to 36.

Schools Forum members are asked to vote on either Scenario 1, 2 or 3.

1 Financial Implications

2.1 Setting funding rates at a level that passes on the maximum amount of funding to providers whilst also ensuring the EYB balances.

2 Well-being and Health implications

3.1 Not Identified.

3 Climate Implications

4.1 Not identified.

4 Other implications

5.1 Not identified.

5 Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

6 Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Appendices

Appendix A: Early Years Consultation document – Part 1

Appendix B: Early Years providers consultation December 2025 feedback

Appendix C: Early Years Consultation document – Part 2

Appendix D: Early Years providers consultation January 2026 feedback

Appendix E: Proposed Early Years Block Budget 2026-27

8 Background Papers

Dedicated schools grant (DGS): 2025 to 2026
Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025

Early years funding: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Statutory guidance for local authorities on the provision of early education and childcare.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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Consultation with Dorset early years providers – Part 1

Funding Decisions for the 2026-27 financial year

3 and 4-year-old supplements

Central Retention

(Consultation on rates to follow once information published by the DfE)

Launch date:	**Monday 8 December 2025**
Respond by:	**Friday 19 December 2025 (23:59)**

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1. INTRODUCTION

About this document

This document is for all Dorset early years providers, the document:

- explains why this consultation is taking place
- provides detail on the consultation questions
- seeks your views

How to respond

To help us analyse your responses efficiently, please use the online system. If for any reason you are unable to, please contact the Early Education Funding Team for a word document version of the form and return it by email to: earlyeducationfunding@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Deadline

This consultation closes at 23.59pm on Friday 19 December 2025

Making enquiries

If your enquiry is about the content of this consultation, please contact Vanessa Eddey vanessa.eddey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 01305 224562.

Consultation Webinar

We will hold a webinar in the first week of January to talk through early education funding proposals for 2026-27 and answer questions. The date will be notified as soon as possible.

Publication of results

An analysis of your responses will be published with the Schools' Forum papers on Friday 9 January 2025. This will enable Schools' Forum members to reflect upon what you have said before they make decisions at their meeting on Friday 16 January 2026.

Funding consultation on rates for 2026-27

A follow up consultation will be published as soon as possible, once rates and the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant for 2026-27 are available.

2. ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION

Why are we consulting you?

The Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 3 and 4-year-olds was introduced in April 2017. Each year the Government publishes guidance setting out the overall framework, funding rates and expectations on local authorities in implementing the EYNFF.

Three government funded entitlements are available:

a. 3 and 4-year-old entitlements

- universal 15 hours entitlement
- additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

b. 2-year-old entitlements

- 15 hours entitlement for eligible families receiving additional support (FRAS). This entitlement was previously referred to as the '2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement'
- 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

c. Under 2s entitlement

- 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

Local authorities are required to consult with early years providers on annual changes to their local formula. The results of this funding consultation will be discussed at the Dorset Schools Forum on Friday 16 January 2026.

Information published by the DfE

Information on rates for 2026-27 has not yet been published by the DfE. There will be a follow-up consultation on rates once information is available.

Current Dorset Funding arrangements (2025-26)

	3- & 4-year-old	**2-year-old (working and FRAS)**	**Under 2s**
Base rate	£5.45 per hour	£7.43 per hour	£10.05 per hour
Supplement Deprivation - based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (if applicable) Deprivation Band 1 Deprivation Band 2 Deprivation Band 3	 £0.14 per hour £0.26 per hour £0.39 per hour	N/A	N/A
Supplement Low Income – based on EY entitlement income in the previous calendar year		N/A	N/A

between £2,730 - £13,230 £13,231 - £21,000	 £0.84 per hour £0.42 per hour		
Pupil Premium (if applicable)	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour
Disability Access Fund (if applicable)	£938 per child	£938 per child	£938 per hour

Early Years Reference Group

The Early Years Reference Group was established in 2025 and meetings have taken place in July and October. The group provides feedback on funding formula impacts, sustainability and the administration of grants. Broad discussions have taken place on elements of the current funding formula and feedback has informed this consultation.

3. CONSULTATION INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

3 and 4-year-old supplements

Funding supplements are amounts of funding paid to providers in addition to the universal hourly base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives. Local authorities may apply a supplement to the base rate for any of the entitlements. When using supplements, local authorities should adhere to the following principles:

- the use of supplements should be transparent and fair and should be open to all providers that meet the eligibility criteria
- for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements, local authorities should not distinguish between the universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional 15 hours for eligible working parents; any supplement should apply equally to both entitlements

The current Dorset local formula includes two supplements for 3- and 4-year-olds:

- Deprivation is a mandatory supplement and uses the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) score for a provider, which is based on the aggregated postcodes of all the children that attended the setting in the previous calendar year. There are three Bands:

  Band 1 – IDACI score between 20% to 24.99% - £0.14 per hour
  Band 2 – IDACI score between 25% to 29.99% - £0.26 per hour
  Band 3 – IDACI score between 30% to 100% - £0.39 per hour

- Low Income (formerly known as Small Setting) is an optional supplement to encourage our smallest settings to take funded 3- and 4-year-old children and is based on the income from funded entitlements in the last calendar year. There are two rates:

  Income between £2,730 - £13,230 - £0.84
  Income between £13,231 - £21,000 - £0.42

In 2025-26 there were no changes to the deprivation supplement. Consultation feedback indicated that the increase in pupil premium in 2025-26 provided sufficient funding in respect of deprivation. The low income supplement had a 2p increase on both levels and an inflationary increase to the income bands.

Deprivation Supplement

Four options available are:

	Option 1		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	
	Existing Rate per hour and IDACI range		Option 1 with Inflationary increase of 1p / 2p per hour	Option 1 with lower Band 1 IDACI score	Combination of Options 2 and 3	
Band 1	£0.14	20% to 24.99%	£0.15	16% to 24.99%	£0.15	16% to 24.99%
Band 2	£0.26	25% to 29.99%	£0.27	25% to 29.99	£0.27	25% to 29.99
Band 3	£0.39	30% +	£0.41	30% +	£0.39	30% +
Number of settings	21		21	49	49	
Cost	No additional money needed from base rate			1p additional deduction from base rate	2p additional deduction from base rate	

The table above summarises the consultation options. An adjustment to the base rate of 1p is required if options cost approximately £30,000.

Options 1 and 2 would not require any adjustment to the base rate. Option 2 is affordable with no rate adjustment as the number of settings qualifying for the deprivation supplement has reduced compared to 2025-26. Option 3 increases the number of settings that qualify for the supplement from 21 to 49 as the range for Band 1 has been reduced from 20% to 16%. Option 4 combines Options 2 and 3 and gives an enhanced rate to a larger number of settings, which would require a 2p deduction from the base rate.

Consultation

Survey Questions

3- and 4-year-old Deprivation Supplement Consultation Question

Please note that the question numbers start at number 4, to match the response form.

4. **Please choose your preferred option in respect of the Deprivation Supplement:**

   (a) Option 1 – No change to existing Rates and Deprivation Bands

   (b) Option 2 – Add an inflationary increase to the existing rates but keep the bands the same.

   (c) Option 3 – Lower the range of the Band 1 IDACI score to give more early years providers access to the Deprivation Supplement

(d) Option 4 – Add an inflationary increase to the existing rates and lower the Band 1 IDACI score to give more early years providers access to the Deprivation Supplement (a combination of Options 2 and 3)

5. **Do you have any comments on the deprivation supplement?**

Low Income Supplement

With the introduction of entitlements for working families of children aged 9 months to 2 years old, the income levels of settings have increased during the last calendar year. The number of settings that would qualify for the supplement has changed as follows:

	2025-26		2026-27	
	42p supplement	84p supplement	42p supplement	84p supplement
Number of settings that qualify	39	48	13	9
Total amount of Low Income supplement paid / forecast to be paid	£32,416	£41,392	£4,650	£6,404

With the reduction in the number of settings that would qualify for the low-income supplement in 2026-27 at the current income levels, it may be better to consider putting this funding towards increasing the base rate for all settings. As the number of settings qualifying for the supplement has reduced, there is a reduction in the budget required for the low-income supplement, which would mean 2p could be added to the base rate. If the low-income supplement is removed altogether, it would be possible to add a further 1p to the base rate. Alternatively, the low-income ranges could be raised to allow more settings to qualify.

Options for consultation:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	No changes to supplement rates or income thresholds	Stop paying the low income supplement	Update the income thresholds by 25%	Update income thresholds by 50%
Income thresholds Lower Upper	 £2,730-£13,230 £13,231-£21,000		 £3,412-£16,537 £16,538-£26,250	 £4,095-£19,845 £19,846-£31,500
Number of settings in receipt of low income supplement	22	0	36	50
Change to the base rate	Add 2p	Add 3p	Add 1p	No change

Consultation

Survey Questions

3- and 4-year-old Low Income Supplement Consultation Question

6. **Please choose your preferred option in respect of the Low-Income Supplement:**

    (a) Option 1 – No change to existing rates and income levels

    (b) Option 2 – Stop paying the low-income supplement

    (c) Option 3 – Update the income thresholds by 25%

    (d) Option 4 – Update the income thresholds by 50%

7. **Do you have any comments on the low income supplement**

Central Retention

Currently Local Authorities have to pass on at least 96% of funding for 3- and 4-year-olds, 2-year-olds and under 2s. This pass-through requirement ensures that most of the government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the government's entitlement offers. Centrally retained funding can be used for central services or services in-kind, including special educational needs and disability (SEND) services. This pass-through requirement is expected to increase to 97% in 2026-27.

In 2025-26 Dorset retained £1,174,268 (2.61%) of the Early Years Block (EYB) for central services made available to all early years providers. It is a contribution towards the cost of the Best Start in Life Advisers and management, central teams processing financial transactions, financial system updates, accountancy analysis and audit work to be completed with early years providers.

For 2026-27 it is proposed to increase central retention by 3.2% to cover the 2025-26 local government pay award. This would increase central retention by £37,577 to £1,211,845, which is 2.65% of the updated 2025-26 Early Years Block. With a full year of the new entitlements for working parents (under 2s to 2 years old) at 30 hours, the overall value of the Early Years Block will increase. The overall central retention percentage will reduce but this cannot be calculated until the Dedicated Schools Grant is published later in December 2025.

Dorset Council's strategy is to support early years providers by setting central retention at the minimum level required to cover costs. Whilst a maximum of 3% of funding could be retained for support services, the percentage retained is kept below this level to pass on more funding to early years providers.

Consultation

Survey Questions

Central Retention Consultation Questions

8. **Do you agree with the increase in central retention to £1,211,845?**

9. **Do you have any comments on central retention?**

Next Steps

Please respond to the consultation and get in touch if you have any questions. Contact details are at the front of the consultation.

We will hold a webinar in early January 2025 as it will be necessary to have a second consultation on rates once the Dedicated Schools Grant is published by the DfE.

We will be submitting a paper to the Dorset Schools Forum, which will be published a week before the meeting. This will have full details of the consultation survey results.

Once the consultation closes on Friday 19th December 2025, we will collate the final results and present them to the Schools Forum Meeting on 16 January 2026 as an update.

Final rates will be published as soon as possible and no later than 28th February 2026.

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Responses to Early Education Funding Consultation on 3- & 4-year-old supplements and central retention

Number of responses	
Childminders	13
Group settings	26
Total	**39**

What is your preferred option for the deprivation supplement?	Number of responses
Option 1 - keep the existing rates per hour and IDACI range	9
Option 2 - keep the existing IDACI ranges with an inflationary increase of 1p or 2p per hour	16
Option 3 - keep the existing rates per hour with a lower band 1 IDACI score	1
Option 4 - lower band 1 IDACI score with an inflationary increase of 1p or 2p per hour	13

Do you have any comments relating to the deprivation supplement?

1. Our setting is not entitled to deprivation supplement despite supporting many families in need.
2. Some setting receive children from very different postcodes and should fairly receive the supplement.
3. It is hard to fully analyse the importance/impact of such supplements for settings as we have never been in receipt of them ourselves. As we are only eligible for the base rate (no deprivation or low income uplift) so any action that does not affect the base rate would be preferable to us.
4. All settings should be looking at their own incomes and working out ways to be sustainable using the other funding rates to cover shortfalls. Therefore the supplements aren't really valid anymore because more families get funding & therefore setting their own business mdl should enable them to make up the shortfall.

What is your preferred option for the low income supplement?	Number of responses
Option 1 - keep the existing supplement rates and income thresholds	13
Option 2 - don't have a low income supplement	12
Option 3 - increase the income thresholds by 25%	9
Option 4 - increase the income thresholds by 50%	5

Do you have any comments on the low income supplement?

1. I think this was useful before all children became funded. Now with the new rates and every child being funded I feel this money could be better used elsewhere.
2. Due to government funding, most childminders and settings are receiving the higher threshold amounts if not above this amount therefore scrap the bands and increase the base rate for everyone.
3. As a setting not eligible for this supplement an increase in base rate would help support our financial sustainability.
4. Everyone is now earning more. Stop low income supplement & make it the same for everyone.
5. I don't think by adding the supplement works for childminders as one year you'll have more 3-4 yr olds the following you won't and I seem to always miss out on the higher rate due to changing supplements.
6. Impacts more settings.
7. Childminders have consistently been left out of the equation when it comes to funding. Having this uplift has meant I have been able to offer the funding without any additional costs to parents as required however without it I would be paid less once a child is 3 years old than what I would charge privately for those hours. Until childminders are given recognition that their funding models are not the same as nurseries we won't be paid fairly. - many childminders have missed out on this supplement due to the way the bands have been set which has not been fair and a point we have continued to raise each year~ childminders should have defaulted for this from the beginning.

Do you agree with the increase in central retention to £1,211,845?	**Number of responses**
Yes	14
No	9
Don't know	16

Do you have any comments about central retention?

1. We understand the theory of retaining funds for your pay increases, but will always struggle to agree that money intended for settings does not make it's way to us. Support to settings is not as it once was. We have always been self sufficient and every year feel less and less supported by the council, team and training offerings.
2. Whilst i accept it is to pay for some services relating to early years, i think taking extra money to cover your pay rises is unacceptable in the current climate. Our staff are working for minimum wage, we can barely afford to pay them as it is, its going up again by another 50p an hour next year, is our funding going to increase significantly to help us cover that or are we sacrificing our funding for you to get a pay rise instead??
3. It was increased significantly in 2025/26

4. We barely have contact with the best start in life advisors and as childminders all ‘benefits’ / places to meet have been taken away from us so over the last 3 years we have recieved less and less support.
5. It would be nice to see a breakdown of how this is spent. We would then be better placed to see if it offers 'value for money'. Also any plans to change or enhance support offered in the coming year might impact thinking. We appreciate the need to cover local government pay awards. However, it is important that settings are supported too. Central government needs to address the long-term underfunding of the early years, the sustainability issues caused by the expansion of 'funded' childcare, the impact of meeting their rules with regards funded places and any increase in funding not tracking increases in staffing costs (minimum wage, NI contributions etc.).

6. I am happy for the central retention to increase. Provided we continue with the best start in life hubs, and early years supports. We desperately need more send support & advice & training & available speech & language support that is small and accessible to send children, not just group sessions. Please continue with this & use the funds to help early years get all children supported as its too late when at school. The send support system is in crisis nationwide & Dorset are making a difference . I really appreciate my early years team & the funding team who are always there for help. Thankyou
7. Awaiting more information to understand if 3.2% is proportional to the rise in hourly rate for settings

8. As a provision, we do not receive significant benefit from this central retention. The majority of external support comes from our Multi-Academy Trust.
9. Not enough information available

10. I do not agree with the central retention percentage. Settings are not getting value for money from central retention. BSILA response times are not acceptable. Their advice is non committal and settings are expected to complete further paperwork which we do not have the time to do.
Funding applications are processed by settings, we should be receiving payment from central government to process the funding that they have forced settings to receive. I propose that parents apply for the funding through their government childcare accounts and choose where they send their children and spend the funding. This will alleviate the enormous amount of paperwork that settings have to undertaken to administer the funding process and remove the need for local government to administer. Therefore, increasing the base rate and helping to ensure the future of settings.

Do you have any other comments regarding early education funding?

1. Increase base rates for 3 and 4 year olds generally for all childminders so that we are not forced to move them on as we can not afford to keep them.
2. It needs to rise significantly, preschools are struggling financially and have been for a few years now, funding has not risen in line with minimum pay rises, we are all struggling to keep afloat

3. Whilst the age bracket pay structure works for nurseries where child: staff ratio changes depending on age, as childminders it causes great fluctuations in the amount we earn as we are restricted to 1:3/1:4 children … meaning we earn a maximum of £30per hour if we have all under 2's, or potentially £16.35 if we have all 3/4yr olds … once our expenses are taken out we are not earning minimum wage if we have all 3/4year olds … and as a childminder it is hard to 'encourage' parents to send their little ones to nursery as the government/council do not pay enough to be able to earn a living wage if I kept them … especially as a nursery environment might not be right for the child! Childminders need a different pay structure as WE ARE NOT THE SAME AS A NURSERY SETTING!
4. It's really important for you to push for next years funding rates asap. We as small businesses need to make our budgets at least a term in advance. We also now have new wage increases to budget for & need to plan staff vs ratios and whether we can afford to offer spaces for children, Parents need to plan & MTD to now start planning for, so need the time to plan & work out what we can offer our parents & remain sustainable.
5. I feel that the rates need to reflect how important this sector is and be high enough to help us retain good quality, qualified staff that we need - so many are leaving the sector due to not enough pay. We are being limited and restricted on how we roll out the funding which makes it hard financially when the rates don't match the hourly rates we have to charge for private hours

6. Unless the funding rates increase to cover our overheads without the need to rely on private hours, we will consider removing 3 and 4 year old funding

Consultation with Dorset early years providers – Part 2

Funding Decisions for the 2026-27 financial year

Early SEND Support Funding

Funding Rates for 2026-27

Launch date:	**Monday 5 January 2026**
Respond by:	**Thursday 8 January 2026 (12:00)**

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1. INTRODUCTION

About this document

This document is for all Dorset early years providers, the document:

- explains why this consultation is taking place
- provides detail on the consultation questions
- seeks your views

How to respond

To help us analyse your responses efficiently, please use the online system. If for any reason you are unable to, please contact the Early Education Funding Team for a word document version of the form and return it by email to: earlyeducationfunding@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Deadline

This consultation closes at 12 noon on Thursday 8 January 2026.

Please accept our apologies for this very short consultation. We have to publish Schools' Forum papers on Friday 9 January 2026 and need the results of the consultation to complete the papers.

Making enquiries

If your enquiry is about the content of this consultation, please contact Vanessa Eddey vanessa.eddey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 01305 224562.

Consultation Webinar

We will hold a webinar on Tuesday 6 January 2026 6.30-7.30pm to talk through early education funding proposals for 2026-27 and answer questions. The Teams link to the meeting was sent on Thursday 18th December, but we will send it again nearer the time.

Publication of results

An analysis of your responses to both consultations will be published with the Schools' Forum papers on Friday 9 January 2026. This will enable Schools' Forum members to reflect upon what you have said before they make decisions at their meeting on Friday 16 January 2026.

2. ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION

Why are we consulting you?

The Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 3 and 4-year-olds was introduced in April 2017. Each year the Government publishes guidance setting out the overall framework, funding rates and expectations on local authorities in implementing the EYNFF. Three government funded entitlements are available:

a. 3 and 4-year-old entitlements

- universal 15 hours entitlement
- additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

b. 2-year-old entitlements

- 15 hours entitlement for eligible families receiving additional support (FRAS). This entitlement was previously referred to as the '2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement'
- 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

c. Under 2s entitlement

- 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents

Local authorities are required to consult with early years providers on annual changes to their local formula. The results of this funding consultation will be discussed at the Dorset Schools Forum on Friday 16 January 2026.

Information published by the DfE

Information on funding rates was published by the DfE on 17 December 2025. To determine 2026-27 rates, the DfE have applied the following factors:

- An inflationary increase to reflect sector specific costs, using forecast Average Earning Growth, Consumer Prices Index and the 2026 National Living Wage;
- A further increase to reflect workforce costs the sector has faced since April 2025;
- Funding in respect of the 2025-26 Early Years National Teachers Pay Grant, which has been rolled into the rates for each age group;

	2025-26	2026-27	Difference	% Difference	Rate with termly funding adjustment
3- & 4-year-old rate	£5.71	£6.01	£0.30	5.3%	£6.20
2-year-old rate	£7.72	£8.08	£0.36	4.7%	
Under 2s rate	£10.44	£10.91	£0.47	4.5%	
Early Years Pupil Premium	£1.00	£1.15	£0.15	15%	
Disability Access Fund	£938	£975	£37.00	3.9%	

The minimum pass-through rate has changed from 96% to 97% from 1 April 2026 and it is now mandatory for LAs to issue funding statements by 28 February 2026.

The DfE is moving to a permanent termly census for all entitlements for 2026-27, rather than the annual spring census. The funding will now be allocated according to the termly pattern of 13 weeks in the summer, 14 weeks in the autumn and 11 weeks in the spring (total 38 weeks). Formerly, the annual census was used to allocate funding in twelfths, e.g., 5/12ths and 7/12ths. An adjustment has been applied to the 3- and 4-year-old rates to support the transition to a termly approach and allow LAs to set a contingency fund to manage any drops in funding. Nationally, 3- and 4-year-old allocations are expected to drop by 2.94%.

In Dorset, the 3- and 4-year-old rate increase is £0.30 per hour for 2026-27, which is a 5.3% increase compared to 2025-26. In addition, the DfE have allocated an additional £0.19 towards the termly funding adjustment (as explained in the paragraph above). LAs can use this as a contingency budget, to compensate for any changes to funding with the move from annual to termly census collection. If the whole amount is not needed for contingency some can be added to the 3- and 4-year-old rate, and this is something we plan to do in Dorset.

Current Dorset Funding arrangements (2025-26)

	3- & 4-year-old	**2-year-old (working and FRAS)**	**Under 2s**
Base rate	£5.45 per hour	£7.43 per hour	£10.05 per hour
Supplement Deprivation - based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (if applicable) Deprivation Band 1 (20% - 24.99%) Deprivation Band 2 (25% - 29.99%) Deprivation Band 3 (30% +)	£0.14 per hour £0.26 per hour £0.39 per hour	N/A	N/A
Supplement Low Income – based on EY entitlement income in the previous calendar year between £2,730 - £13,230 £13,231 - £21,000	£0.84 per hour £0.42 per hour	N/A	N/A
Pupil Premium (if applicable)	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour	£1.00 per hour
Disability Access Fund (if applicable)	£938 per child	£938 per child	£938 per hour

Feedback from the first part of the 2026-27 consultation

We received 39 responses to the consultation that closed on 19 December 2025:

Childminders	13
Group settings	26
Total	39

Full details of the consultation responses and comments will be published in the Schools Forum paper going to the meeting on 16 January 2026.

3- & 4-year-old funding Supplements feedback

What is your preferred option for the deprivation supplement?	Number of responses
Option 1 - keep the existing rates per hour and IDACI range	9
Option 2 - keep the existing IDACI ranges with an inflationary increase of 1p or 2p per hour	16
Option 3 - keep the existing rates per hour with a lower band 1 IDACI score	1
Option 4 - lower band 1 IDACI score with an inflationary increase of 1p or 2p per hour	13

Due to the mixed response, we will show three options in this consultation:

1. No change to the deprivation supplement
2. Apply an inflationary increase to the rates
3. Apply an inflation increase to the rates and lower the qualifying IDACI band to 16% (currently 20%).

What is your preferred option for the low income supplement?	Number of responses
Option 1 - keep the existing supplement rates and income thresholds	13
Option 2 - don't have a low income supplement	12
Option 3 - increase the income thresholds by 25%	9
Option 4 - increase the income thresholds by 50%	5

We will show two options in this consultation as there was not a clear steer to stop the low-income supplement. The two options are:

1. Stop the low-income supplement
2. Increase the income thresholds by 25%

Again, feedback was mixed. Some responses supported the continuation of the low-income supplement to encourage settings to take 3- and 4-year-old children. Some responses supported the removal of the low-income supplement so that the base rate can be increased for all settings.

Central Retention feedback

Do you agree with the increase in central retention to £1,211,845?	Number of responses
Yes	14
No	9
Don't know	16

The proposed central retention of £1,211,845 – an increase of £37,577 on last years budget of £1,174,268 - will be included in all scenarios. The 3.2% increase covers the nationally agreed pay rise in 2024-25. Central retention will be 2.43% of the 2026-27 early years entitlements budget of £50,555,910. The new pass-through rate is 97%, which is applied in total by many LAs. Dorset Council appreciates the necessity of passing through as much funding as possible and has kept the increase to a minimum and 0.57% under the allowed maximum.

3. CONSULTATION INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

Early SEND support funding

Early SEND support funding in Dorset is for settings with children who:

- Have special educational needs or disabilities and are not yet in school
- Do not have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place

Early SEND support is to ensure the inclusion of all children not yet attending school with emerging and additional needs. Early SEND Support funding is where we make payments directly to a nursery, pre-school, or childminder to help them meet the needs of children with SEND in their childcare setting. It is a first step of support and intervention. It is hoped that with this additional support, children may not need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and it will afford additional time for intervention and create clarity if an Education Health Care Needs Assessment needs to start at a later stage.

Children do not need to be accessing their early years entitlements to be eligible. More information can be found here Early SEND Support funding | Dorset Nexus

Early SEND support funding can also be known as special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) DfE rules state that all local authorities are required to have a SENIF for all children eligible for the entitlements and who have SEN, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to recognise and support the low-level and emerging needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements. These funds also support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEN services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Children with an Education, Health & Care Plan are funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The maximum amount of funding awarded per term is £850.00 and the digital application form requires details of how you want to spend the funding including costs against each area of support you want to apply for. These areas are: resources; specialist training; adaptations to the environment; staff time to cover meetings; adult support. When applying for adult support, if the child attends less than 15 hours a week then the amount awarded will be pro-rata based on the child's attendance hours per week.

In 2025-26, £250,000 was contributed towards Early SEND support funding from Early Education Funding. Due to the increasing number of claims on the fund, we are consulting on an increase of £50,000 to increase the Early SEND support funding budget to £300,000. The contribution from each funding stream is shown below.

Funding	Funding 2026-27	SENIF	SENIF as a % of funding
3- and 4-year-old	£20,091,658	£120,854	0.24%
2-year-old FRAS	£1,983,954	£11,934	0.02%
2-year-old working	£12,462,018	£74,961	0.15%
Under 2 working	£15,336,310	£92,251	0.18%
Total	£50,555,910	£300,000	0.60%

We plan to have a consultation on early years SEND funding in 2026 once the DfE publish the white paper and we've had time to work through plans. If you have any comments to help us plan this consultation, please let us know in consultation question 5.

Consultation

Survey Questions

Early SEND support funding Question

Please note that the question numbers start at number 4, to match the response form.

4. **Do you agree with the increase of the early SEND support budget by £50,000 from £250,000 to £300,000?**
5. **Do you have any comments about early SEND support funding? Any information will help towards the consultation we plan to run in 2026.**

3 and 4-year-old supplements background information

Funding supplements are amounts of funding paid to providers in addition to the universal hourly base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives. Local authorities may apply a supplement to the base rate for any of the entitlements. When using supplements, local authorities should adhere to the following principles:

- the use of supplements should be transparent and fair and should be open to all providers that meet the eligibility criteria
- for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements, local authorities should not distinguish between the universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional 15 hours for eligible working parents; any supplement should apply equally to both entitlements

The current Dorset local formula includes two supplements for 3- and 4-year-olds:

- Deprivation is a mandatory supplement and uses the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) score for a provider, which is based on the aggregated postcodes of all the children that attended the setting in the previous calendar year. There are three Bands:

  Band 1 – IDACI score between 20% to 24.99% - £0.14 per hour
  Band 2 – IDACI score between 25% to 29.99% - £0.26 per hour
  Band 3 – IDACI score between 30% to 100% - £0.39 per hour

- Low Income (formerly known as Small Setting) is an optional supplement to encourage our smallest settings to take funded 3- and 4-year-old children and is based on the income from funded entitlements in the last calendar year. There are two rates:

  Income between £2,730 - £13,230 - £0.84
  Income between £13,231 - £21,000 - £0.42

In 2025-26 there were no changes to the deprivation supplement. Consultation feedback indicated that the increase in pupil premium in 2025-26 provided sufficient funding in respect of deprivation. The low-income supplement had a 2p increase on both levels and an inflationary increase to the income bands.

2026-27 Funding Options for consultation

All options are based around variations with 3- & 4-year-old rates and supplements and include the following base rates for other funding streams:

- 2-year-old FRAS and working – increase base rate from £7.43 to £7.77 (4.58% increase)
- Under 2s – increase base rate from £10.05 to £10.49 (4.38% increase)

The following table shows seven options for 3- and 4-year-old funding, based on feedback in the first consultation on the deprivation and low-income supplements. If a change increases the cost of a supplement, there is a reduction in the base rate.

You will need to choose one of the seven options:

Option	Deprivation Supplement	Low Income Supplement	3- & 4-year-old base rate
1	**No change**	**No change**	£5.94 per hour
2	**Increase deprivation rates and keep the bands the same**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41	**No change**	£5.94 per hour
3	**Increase deprivation rates and lower Band 1**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)	**No change**	£5.91 per hour
4	**No change**	**Stop paying the low-income supplement**	£5.95 per hour
5	**No change**	**Increase qualifying low-income bands by 25%**	£5.94 per hour
6	**Increase deprivation rates and lower Band 1:** Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)	**Increase qualifying low-income bands by 25%**	£5.91 per hour
7	**Increase deprivation rates and Lower Band 1**: Band 1 - £0.14 to £0.15 Band 2 - £0.26 to £0.27 Band 3 - £0.39 to £0.41 and lower deprivation Band 1 to 16% (reduced from 20%)	**Stop paying the low-income supplement**	£5.92 per hour

Background information on the seven options

Options 1 and 2 have the same base rate as the cost of increasing deprivation rates is affordable without lowering the base rate. It is achieved by a small reduction in the contingency budget. Option 1 is for information and any votes for Options 1 and 2 will be combined.

Option 3 lowers deprivation Band 1 from 20% to 16% (using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, known as IDACI). This makes the deprivation supplement available to 49 settings. Without lowering the bands, the deprivation supplement is available to 21 settings

Number of settings receiving supplement	IDACI Band 1 remaining at 20%	IDACI Band 1 lowering to 16%
Day Nursery	1	13
Preschool / playgroups	8	17
Childminder	11	16
School based setting	1	3
Total	21	49

Option 4 removes the low-income supplement. Whilst this adds money to the base rate, it potentially has implications for settings that currently receive the low-income supplement and their ability to carry on taking 3- and 4-year-olds.

Option 5 keeps the low-income supplement and increases the qualifying income bands by 25%.

Option 6 is a combination of Options 3 and 5.

Option 7 is a combination of Options 3 and 4.

Consultation

Survey Questions

3- and 4-year-old Deprivation Supplement Consultation Question

Please note that the question numbers start at number 4, to match the response form.

6. **Please choose your preferred option in respect of funding rates.**

7. **Do you have any comments on the 2026-27 funding rates?**

Next Steps

Please respond to the consultation and get in touch if you have any questions. Contact details are at the front of the consultation.

We will hold a webinar on Tuesday 6 January 2026 at 6.30pm. Please check you emails for the link to the Teams meeting

We will be submitting a paper to the Dorset Schools Forum, which will be published a week before the meeting. This will have full details of the consultation survey results.

Once the consultation closes on Thursday 8 January 2026 at 12 noon, we will collate the final results and present them to the Schools Forum Meeting on 16 January 2026 as an update.

Final rates will be published as soon as possible and no later than 28 February 2026.

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<u>**Responses to Early Education Funding Consultation on Funding Rates and Early SEND Support funding**</u>

Number of responses	
Childminders	21
Group settings	34
Total	**55**

Do you agree with the increase of the early SEND support budget by £50,000 from £250,000 to £300,000?	**Number of responses**
Yes	45
No	0
Don't know	10

Do you have any comments about the Early SEND Support funding?

1. Yes, it simply isn't enough for some of our children. Eg, we have two children (twins) who both require a very high level of support and one who cannot be left unsupervised at all. EHCNAs were completed in July and have still not gone through. Without EHCPs in place, we cannot claim the higher level of funding and are having to meet the financial shortfall ourselves. It is an impossible situation and very stressful.
2. I think we need a lot more funding for children with SEND
3. The forms need to be streamlined, especially if there are other professionals involved in the child's care and development. Paperwork has become a massive undertaking now, please help us to keep it to a minimum, thanks
4. the threshold for the basic payment needs to be looked at
5. the funding allocation is not fit for purpose if we are taking children with higher needs that require additional adults then the funding needs to adequately reflect that
6. Why is the highest percentage of money being taken from 3 and 4 year old funding which is already grossly underpaid.

7. It would be nice to have a prediction of how this would impact the termly amount settings receive. For many children £850.00 allows us to adequately support children with emerging needs within normal ratios. This amount is not sufficient for those children with complex long term needs or those with medical conditions/safety needs which require high levels of supervision. If the idea is to reduce EHCPs this will need much greater thought. The paperwork around SEND support funding at all levels needs looking at to avoid duplication and to be more time efficient for settings. There is also a need for greater clarity and clearer procedures for anticipatory funding - where children are already being supported by many professionals and their needs (often high level needs) are already identified. Settings are often but in the position of funding additional support needed themselves and children risk not getting the full support they need whilst awaiting a full cycle of a graduated approach . Over recent years with more children with complex needs this has impacted financial sustainability.

8. I think the funding should be done based on the child's need rather than a set amount. Happy to talk about this further.

9. Early SEND spport funding also needs to be carefully considered on an individual basis as sometimes we need to be able to show our graduated response which takes us over our budget for additianl adults. I have found this to be the case with a child who now has an EHCP and will be awarded Specialist in Mainstream funding in reception but nothing to cover the cost of an additional addult for the full amount of hours attended in pre-school.

10. SENIF funding is essential to meet the needs of children with SEND, I fully support the increase. After last nights teams briefing hearing childminders are not offering places to 3/4 year olds due to the low hourly rate. Could a slightly higher percentage be taken from under 2's and 2 year-olds to even out the funding?

11. I have found the SEND funding helpful in supporting the children that I care for who needed it - as a lone worker it has supported the additional costs in time as much of the extra work required for these children I have do complete outside working hours.

12. We welcome the additional funding as we are seeing more children with additional needs.

13. Increasing numbers will need increased budget.

14. I feel that this budget is probably not increased enough. The government are very clearly pressing for less EHCP's and pushing diagnosis from schools so the earlier we can get send support & funding and try to engage parents to get the early help the better outcomes for the children.

15. I understand there is higher level of send support needed but not at the expense of the 3/4 yr old funding rate

16. SEND support will obviously vary across settings so this does need to be reviewed to ensure consistency of funding received across settings

17. It is very nice that they are increasing the support for SEND children but I feel that maybe it would more helpful if they gave all settings support by increasing the funding in general.

18. Yes more money needs to come to Early Years as we have a lot of children with SEND and this is impacting on our budget, staff and resources

What is your preferred option for the 2026-27 funding rates?	Number of responses
Option 1 - keep the deprivation and low income supplement rates the same	22
Option 2 - increase deprivation rates, keep deprivation bands the same and keep low income supplement the same	10
Option 3 - increase deprivation rates, lower deprivation band 1 and keep low income supplement the same	3
Option 4 - keep deprivation supplement the same and remove low income supplement	10
Option 5 - keep deprivation supplement the same and increase low income bands by 25%	3
Option 6 - increase deprivation rates, lower deprivation band 1 and increase low income bands by 25%	6
Option 7 - increase deprivation rates, lower deprivation band 1 and remove low income supplement	1

Do you have any comments on the 2026-27 funding rates?

1. 1 or 4

2. I honestly find this very difficult every year - there are so many options and the temptation is to go for the highest hourly rate option. It's so confusing that I have chosen 'no change'. The base rate for 3-4 YOs is still too low. Our fees are £6.50 per hour. We want to be able to pay our practitioners a reasonable rate, given the high expectations and pressure placed upon them by government and Ofsted. Their pay should reflect their skills and experience and not be less than they could earn stacking shelves in a supermarket. Why do other areas receive higher funding? I understand there should be a London/city weighting but it is very expensive to live/rent/travel in Dorset. It just does not make sense.

3. I seem to have got totally confused by all these figures. My opinion is that every age range should be equal amounts and why not every setting? Just make it fair across the board!

4. Funding is still low

5. Still not enough money. We are facing another massive rise in minimum pay rate, this isn't sustainable

6. The 3 and 4 year old rates are too low and you are going to force early years providers to make a choice on what age children they take which could be detrimental to the child's development!

7. The drop of funding between age bands is very difficult to absorb for childminders if they do not have a young child to offset the older ones. I feel it is necessary to keep the low income addition to the 3&4 yr rates. To enable the childminder to remain viable as the children grow through the bands and the rates decline. However they do need to be increased to cover the increase in income the setting could have when the child is younger.

8. I have chosen option one as a recognition of those settings that might rely on these supplements - we do not receive any. We are a 20 place setting only taking up to 5 two year olds at any one time due to EYFS floor space requirements. . None of the options will increase the base rate significantly enough to keep pace with increased costs. Fundamentally 3 and 4 year old funding has been too low for too long!!

9. It's great to see that a more appropriate rate is being offered for 3&4 year olds

10. Funding is insufficient to fully cover rising salary costs, but acknowledge the rates are set by the Government.

11. As a childminder the current system works against us due to the different rates of funding when children join us its a higher rate, next year they will all move up to the older age ranges and income rates will drop accordingly but the income from the previous year dictates whether we qualify for the uplift - this is very challenging to calculate and budget for and we cannot 'save it' as we will be taxed more on the income - we should be getting one rate as per the 1:3 ratio in the funding model. If the borough have any support for childminders in regards to how we can possibly plan and navigate financially through the constant changes in the rates we will be paid that would be very helpful.

12. The current funding rates along with the restrictions on what we can and cannot charge parents for means that our operating costs are not covered. The continual increase in National Living Wage and overheads that are over and above the increase in the funding rates is putting increased financial pressure on our nursery.

13. I'd propose the basis for the Low Income Supplement needs reassessing. We are a small setting but with an income well above the current threshold. But this year we will make a significant loss due to regulatory requirements to maintain >2 staff in setting despite low child numbers in all sessions so our child/staff ratio is << statutory maxima. We find the base rates, with some PP, are adequate to cover costs (driven by staff cost) when ratios can be maintained close to statutory maxima, but when our ratios in practice fall below about ~75% of statutory ratios when providing minimum safeguarding staffing (of 2 supervisors) we start losing money very quickly so our charity is becoming unsustainable. So I would propose that Low Income Supplement is based on the average number of children attending per session compared to the number which could be supervised by 2 staff and becomes payable if attendance is, say, less than ~75% (to be determined) of statutory maximum for 2 staff; though this will obviously depend upon the age mix. I'd also propose that payment is based on the Autumn #1 plan and grant payment in August and then continues until attendance increases above the threshold assessed at each subsequent half-termly grant submission, so the Supplement is received when needed.

14. As childminders, the current funding system works against us due to the differing funding rates applied as children move through age bands. Children often start in our setting at a higher funding rate, but this drops the following year when they move into an older age band. As a result, our income reduces, yet eligibility for the uplift is still based on the previous year's higher income. This makes budgeting and financial planning extremely challenging. We are also unable to set aside funds from the higher-rate year to offset the reduction, as doing so would result in higher taxation on that income. A single, consistent funding rate aligned with the 1:3 ratio within the funding model would be far more appropriate and sustainable. Do you have any support or guidance on this issue?

15. It does not appear clear from the 7 options, where or how the 19p funding adjustment 'bonus' has been utilised for the 3 & 4 year old funding in Dorset. Please could this be made clearer so it is understood how it has impacted us. Ie how much has been passed through and where it has been allocated. I feel that the response rate to the consultation has been too low and does not provide a county based opinion about the funding rates being decided upon. This must be improved for next year by increasing engagement with settings and not dissuading conversations around funding. The timeline is not adequate enough, having recently been told that providing our parents with one months notice to make adjustments to fees and funding arrangements albeit private fees, is not adequate and we should give more time, I feel it is contradictory to then potentially give providers 1 month in March to ensure our predicted revenue will be sufficient before we accept the funding the following month. This does not give ANY time to make reasonable adjustments and provide parents with notice should we be required to make additional changes. The majority of settings do not understand the funding formulas; or HOW it will impact them or other providers through the decisions being made. This makes the whole consultation process seem irrelevant. More information should be provided about how much financial impact could be made for low income settings and those claiming deprivation bands. As we discussed in the meeting, for the majority of settings who are not eligible for either of these options the consultation is being decided for approximately £400 if based on 10,000 funded hours. This is NOT enough money to make a huge impact on a setting of our size, but the balance of funds could be the difference between surviving or not for a smaller or low income setting. Please could examples of how this is beneficial be supplied? For childminders, the low income assistance is not sufficient in its current format. When able to earn more via under 2's funding they are not eligible potentially for the low income support and get taxed by HMRC on their earnings. Then when the funds are needed they are not able to claim due to the financial year and must wait until the following year where their earnings will be more anyway and then be taxed again… The overall funding rates continue to be less than adequate and DO NOT represent the sector struggles, particularly when there has been such an emphasis on employing apprentices and their wages are increasing the most in April. The admin surrounding the application for funding has increased tenfold. This needs to be reviewed with so many children now accessing funding. Perhaps create a system where only changes are updated? The HMRC reconfirmation process for some parents is not particularly easy and many require our support to ensure this is correct. The helplines are not sufficient or easy to get through to for some parents.

16. We are a large setting in band 1 but our over heads are very high and funding is not covering costs and I am sure the other day nursery is having the same problem. We might recieve a lot of funding from DCC but it is time they thought of the affect that NI, Wages and other out going is impacting on these larger settings and this should now be considered.

Appendix E – Early Years Budget 2026-27

<u>Consultation Scenario 1</u>		<u>Provider Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
3 &4 year old Universal and Additional	£19,310,374	£5.94	
2 year old FRAS	£1,907,837	£7.77	
2 year old working families	£11,983,895	£7.77	
Under 2s working families	£14,745,910	£10.49	
Early Years Pupil Premium	£431,484		
Disability Access Fund	£250,575		
	£48,630,076		£48,630,076
Proposed Central Retention	£1,211,845		
Exceptional Circumstances	£80,000		
Early SEND Support	£300,000		
Contingency	£333,989		
	£1,925,834		£1,925,834
Total Early Years Block			£50,555,910

Appendix E – Early Years Budget 2026-27

Consultation Scenario 2		Provider Rate	Total
3 &4 year old Universal and Additional	£19,329,300	£5.95	
2 year old FRAS	£1,907,837	£7.77	
2 year old working families	£11,983,895	£7.77	
Under 2s working families	£14,745,910	£10.49	
Early Years Pupil Premium	£431,484		
Disability Access Fund	£250,575		
	£48,649,002		£48,649,002
Proposed Central Retention	£1,211,845		
Exceptional Circumstances	£80,000		
Early SEND Support	£300,000		
Contingency	£315,064		
	£1,906,909		£1,906,909
Total Early Years Block			£50,555,910

Appendix E – Early Years Budget 2026-27

Consultation Scenario 3		Provider Rate	Total
3 &4 year old Universal and Additional	£19,320,315	£5.91	
2 year old FRAS	£1,907,837	£7.77	
2 year old working families	£11,983,895	£7.77	
Under 2s working families	£14,745,910	£10.49	
Early Years Pupil Premium	£431,484		
Disability Access Fund	£250,575		
	£48,640,017		£48,640,017
Proposed Central Retention	£1,211,845		
Exceptional Circumstances	£80,000		
Early SEND Support	£300,000		
Contingency	£324,049		
	£1,915,894		£1,915,894
Total Early Years Block			£50,555,910

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Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	**16th January 2026**
Report Title:	**PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE TO THE MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2026-27 ON THE SCHOOLS' BLOCK**
Executive Director:	**Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children**
Corporate Director:	**Jen Furnell, Director for Education and Learning**
Presenting Officer:	**Donna Horlock, Accountant, Schools Finance & Support** **Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager – Schools Finance & Support**
Report Status:	**Public**
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	**For APPROVAL/CONSULTATION/~~INFORMATION~~** **Under Forum power/responsibility**: 1.Consultation on formula changes including redistributions of school and early years funding 2.Consulation on Dis-application for Inadequate Facilities
Recommendation(s):	That the Schools' Forum: 1. Notes the proposed Schools' Block allocation for 2026-27 including the Individual Schools' Budget, and provides any comments; 2. Approves the proposed Pupil Growth allocation 3. Approves the Dis-application for inadequate facilities

Reason for Recommendation(s):	This funding proposal for schools applies the Government's National Funding Formula and includes options for scaling back factors to balance the budget, within DfE allowable thresholds.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	**Schools' Forum members are reminded of their responsibility to make a declaration of interest in any agenda item in which they have an interest, to the Chair or the Clerk, preferably in advance of the meeting.**

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the Mainstream Schools Funding Formula (Schools Block) for the 2026–27 financial year, setting out the draft formula factor values to be applied for Dorset schools delegated budgets, and suggested options available to close the funding gap for discussion.

The funding provided in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block is insufficient to meet the Government's published National Funding Formula (NFF) as announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in November 2025.

A response on exceptional funding applications and the block transfer disapplication may not be received until after the deadline for Authority Proforma Tool (APT) submission in January. Therefore, we will need to submit a draft APT on the assumption that all funding will be approved by the DfE and adjust this if necessary, once feedback is provided by the DfE. Further information on the block transfer disapplication is provided in section 2.5 below.

Discussion and voting needs to be carried out for proposed dis-application of funding for inadequate facilities.

How to distribute the funding available within the thresholds set by DfE, has been provided as three example scenarios for discussion.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The 2026-27 DSG for Dorset was received on 18 December 2025, along with the Authority Proforma Tool (APT). Dorset Schools Block received a total DSG of £269,608,315 before deductions.

2.2 NFF (National Funding Formula) in 2026-27

- The basic entitlement values, FSM6 values, the lump sum and the minimum per pupil funding values have increased to reflect the rolling in of the Schools Budget

Support Grant (SBSG) and the National Insurance Contribution (NICs) Grant from 2025 to 2026
- On top of this, a further 2.11% increase has been applied to the basic entitlement; FSM6 values and the lump sum factors
- A 2.11% increase has also been applied to the IDACI, low prior attainment (LPA), English as an Additional Language (EAL), mobility, sparsity and split sites factors
- A 1.66% uplift has been applied to the FSM factor in the NFF, in line with inflation forecasts
- All primary schools will attract at least £5,115 per pupil, and all secondary schools at least £6,640 per pupil – the minimum per pupil funding levels incorporate the rolled in SBSG and NICs Grant funding, but no further percentage uplift has been applied to the minimum per pupil funding levels for 2026 to 2027 (source DfE NFF 2026-27)
- For each school the total number on roll (NOR) from the 2025-26 October Census is used for calculations

Detailed comparison of NFF funding provided is shown in Appendix A

Basic Entitlement Comparison Summary

	2025-26	**2026-27**	**Diff**	**% Diff**
Basic Entitlement				
Primary	£3,847	£4,064	£217	5.64%
KS3	£5,422	£5,686	£264	4.87%
KS4	£6,113	£6,410	£297	4.86%

2026-27 DSG allocations before deductions for National Non-domestic Rates for Dorset

	Schools Block
DSG Allocation 2026-27	£269,608,315
DSG Allocation 2025-26	£262,663,518
£ Difference	6,944,797
% Change	2.60%

2.4 Key changes to the schools NFF in 2026-27

The 2026-27 baseline has been adjusted to take account of NICs (National Insurance Contributions) Grant and SBSG (Schools Budget Support Grant) which have now been rolled into NFF values for basic entitlement, FSM6 and the lump sum:

Table 1: Factor value uplifts from the rolling in of grants

Factor	SBSG (annualised)	NICs grant	Total
Primary basic per-pupil	£55	£78	£133
KS3 basic per-pupil	£78	£68	£146
KS4 basic per-pupil	£88	£77	£165
Primary FSM6 per-pupil	£49	£75	£124
Secondary FSM6 per-pupil	£72	£60	£132
Lump sum	£2086	£2400	£4486

Although funding through the mainstream schools national funding formula (NFF) is set to increase for 2026-27 by 2.6% for Dorset overall, cost pressures i.e. Inflation 3.8%, National Living Wage increase 4.1% (April 2026) and Wage Growth for last 12 months 4.7% (source: ISBL) questions whether it can be classed as an increase in real terms.

When completing the APT, three options have been prepared:

1. Including the block transfer, with MFG at 0%
2. Including the block transfer, with MFG at –0.5%
3. Not including the block transfer, with MFG at 0% (for information)

With the initial assumption that the NFF values as published would be met, there is a shortfall in funding required for Option 1 of £1,359,905 from the budget (£269,608,315 total schools block less growth fund of £133,590, less £1,348,041 block transfer to HNB).

Option 2 has a shortfall of £1,298,955 and Option 3 has a shortfall of £11,864.

Current Position	Option 1 MFG 0% change with HN Block TFR
Schools Block	£269,608,315
Growth Fund	-£133,590
High Needs Block Transfer	-£1,348,041
Budget Available	£268,126,684
Budget Required to meet NFF	£269,486,589
Shortfall	-£1,359,905

Current Position	Option 2 with HN Block TFR MFG -0.5% Change
Schools Block	£269,608,315
Growth Fund	-£133,590
High Needs Block Transfer	-£1,348,041
Budget Available	£268,126,684
Budget Required to meet NFF	£269,425,639
Shortfall	-£1,298,955

Current Position	Option 3 MFG 0% Change without HN Block TFR
Schools Block	£269,608,315
Growth Fund	-£133,590
High Needs Block Transfer	£0
Budget Available	£269,474,725
Budget Required to meet NFF	£269,486,589
Shortfall	-£11,864

2.5 Block Transfer

To support the safety valve program, a transfer of 0.5% of the schools block to the HNB has been requested through a disapplication request, equating to £1,348,041. Calculations are based on this being agreed by DfE in Options 1 and 2. Following the November 2025 School's Forum discussions, careful consideration was given to submitting the disapplication request. The concerns expressed by Schools Forum members that schools are being asked to contribute whilst contributions by the DfE and Dorset Council are paused are understandable. Whilst school leaders' views are fully understood and respected, Dorset Council is not in a position to not request the block transfer, considering the size and risk of the HNB deficit. All possible steps are being taken to demonstrate how the HNB deficit can be stabilized and reduced, to reassure the DfE that safety valve contributions can be re-established.

2.6 Pupil Growth

This is to enable schools experiencing pupil growth to be supported during the 2026-27 financial year. Population trends, along with housing developments, are used to forecast where there will be a need for extra school places in the future.

The need for £360,000 of pupil growth funding has been identified internally to meet demand next financial year and it is proposed that £226,410 of this requirement is made available from the 2025-26 underspend to help close the 2026-27 budget gap. This results in only £133,590 being required from the 2026-27 schools block to fund pupil growth. Agreement internally to use these reserves has been granted.

2.7 Falling Rolls funding DfE allocation

Falling rolls funding is allocated based on falling rolls between the October 2024 and October 2025 census. Officers are proposing to use the un-used £300,000 central falling rolls fund from 2025-26, to meet the revenue costs for mainstream schools. Therefore, a budget of £300,000 is maintained and no additional falling rolls allocation is required for 2026-27 is required.

2.8 Minimum Per Pupil (MPPL)

The minimum per pupil level (MPPL) guarantees a minimum amount of funding for every pupil and it is a compulsory element of the local authority funding formula. Any school whose formula allocation is below the MPPL receives a top up to the minimum levels.

	Primary	Secondary
2026-27 MPPL	£5,115	£6,640
2025-26 MPPL	£4,955	£6,465
% increase	3.23%	2.71%

2.9 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

Minimum Funding Guarantee-protects Per Pupil Funding to help maintain financial stability (maybe due to falling pupil numbers). It cannot decrease by more than a specific percentage from 1 year to the next. The LA has the discretion to set an MFG level of between 0.0% and -0.5% per pupil. Options 1 and 3 reflect 0% and Option 2 reflects -0.5%.

The table below shows the number of schools receiving funding through MFG at -0.5% and 0%, with and without the block transfer.

Adjusted MFG				
Change to MFG 0%	**Primary**	**Middle**	**Secondary**	**Total**
With HNB TFR	18	4	1	£281,637
Without HNB TFR	11	3	1	£196,318

Adjusted MFG				
Change to MFG -0.5%	**Primary**	**Middle**	**Secondary**	**Total**
With HNB TFR	12	2	1	£187,773
Without HNB TFR	6	1	1	£135,925

2.10 De-delegation

As agreed at the November 2025 School's Forum, maintained school budgets will show deductions for de-delegation of free school meals checking service, termination of employment costs and education functions. De-delegation for trade union facilities, was not agreed at Schools Forum for secondary schools but an application to DfE is underway, so this deduction will be included in calculations. If the application is refused by DfE then calculations will be altered to take account.

Maintained school budgets will show the following deductions:

	Primary phase **£**	**Secondary phase *** **£**
1. Trade Union facilities	1.29	-
2. Termination of employment costs	3.02	-
3. Free school meal checking service	0.65	0.65
Total per pupil	**4.96**	**0.65**

Education Functions deductions:

	Primary phase **£**	**Secondary phase *** **£**
functions	15.00	15.00
Total per pupil	**15.00**	**15.00**

2.11 Exceptional premises arrangements

The outcome of the dis-applications is not yet known. If these are refused this will have the result in increasing the available budget to be allocated across all schools.

Appendix C gives details of the proposed disapplication for 2 schools with inadequate facilities. **This is for discussion and to be voted on in this forum session.**

2.12 Notional SEN

Dorset are in line with most local authorities by calculating schools' notional SEN budget using a combination of funding from the basic entitlement factor (5%), the deprivation factors (50-60%), and the low prior attainment factors (100%) in the local funding formula. Officers are not proposing a change in approach for 2026-27 as Dorset remain aligned to the approach followed by most LAs. Appendix D Gives a more detailed explanation of Notional SEN.

2.13 Options

The scenarios summarised in the tables below and detailed in Appendix E test a combination of factors to close the gap to meet the budget, while staying within DfE thresholds. MFG is shown at 0% in Options 1 and 3 and -0.5% in Option 2. All other funding factors have remained as per NFF.

Option 1 adjusts basic entitlement down compared to NFF, to close the £1,359,905 gap.
Option 2 adjusts basic entitlement down compared to NFF, to close the £1,298,955 gap
Option 3 adjusts basic entitlement to close the £11,864 gap.

The table below shows the change in basic entitlement for the three options, with comparisons to the previous year and NFF rates:

	2025-26 Rate	2026-27 NFF Rate	2026-27 Minimum NFF Rate	2026-27 Maximum NFF Rate	Option 1 HNB Tfr and 0% MFG	Option 2 HNB Tfr -0.5% MFG	Option 3 Without HNB Tfr 0% MFG
Primary	£3,833.49	£4,064.00	£3,962.40	£4,165.60	£4,033.14	£4,035.14	£4,063.73
KS3	£5,402.96	£5,686.00	£5,543.85	£5,828.15	£5,642.82	£5,645.63	£5,685.63
KS4	£6,091.53	£6,410.00	£6,249.75	£6,570.25	£6,361.33	£6,364.48	£6,408.58

If MFG is set at -0.5% there is a small increase in the funding allocated out through the formula factors, but it removes some of the protection for schools that potentially need MFG to be at 0%. The analysis in Appendix E shows the schools affected by the different MFG rates.

The total changes in MFG and the minimum per pupil funding level can be seen in the table below:

	Option 1 HNB Tfr and 0% MFG	Option 2 HNB Tfr and -0.5% MFG	Option 3 Without HNB Tfr and 0% MFG
Total Allocation	267,480,454	267,579,830	269,000,759
Minimum per pupil Funding	364,622	358,928	277,545
MFG	281,637	187,773	196,318
Total Allocation after MPPFL and MFG	268,126,713	268,126,532	269,474,621

Option 3 is shown for information. Schools Forum members are asked to express a preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.

2.13 Individual School Budgets (ISB)

Appendix E summarises draft individual school budgets based on Options 1, 2 and 3. Please note that these amounts are provisional at this stage and subject to further work and approval of the APT by the DfE. **The ISB amounts should be treated with caution by schools as they could be subject to change.**

3. Well-being and Health implications

Not applicable

4. Climate Implications

Not applicable

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

7. Not applicable

8. Appendices

Appendix A: Further detail of funding received as part of the DSG for 2025-26

Appendix B: Dorset allowable funding factors

Appendix C: Comparison of DRAFT Mainstream School Budget Allocations in the APT for 2026-27, with comparisons to 2025-26.

Appendix D: Notional SEN

Appendix E: Draft Schols Budgets based on Options 1, 2 and 3

9. Background Papers

Dedicated Schools Grant: Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK **Schools Operational Guidance**: Schools operational guide: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK
Footnote: Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

Appendix A: Schools block comparison to prior year:

	2025-26	2026-27	Diff	% Diff
Basic Entitlement				
Primary	£3,847	£4,064	£217	5.64%
KS3	£5,422	£5,686	£264	4.87%
KS4	£6,113	£6,410	£297	4.86%
Minimum per pupil funding				
Primary	£4,955	£5,115	£160	3.23%
Secondary	£6,465	£6,640	£175	2.71%
Deprivation				
Primary FSM	£495	£505	£10	2.02%
Secondary FSM	£495	£505	£10	2.02%
Primary FSM6	£1,060	£1,210	£150	14.15%
Secondary FSM6	£1,555	£1,725	£170	10.93%
Primary IDACI A	£685	£700	£15	2.19%
Primary IDACI B	£520	£530	£10	1.92%
Primary IDACI C	£490	£500	£10	2.04%
Primary IDACI D	£445	£455	£10	2.25%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£290	£5	1.75%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£240	£5	2.13%
Secondary IDACI A	£950	£970	£20	2.11%
Secondary IDACI B	£745	£760	£15	2.01%
Secondary IDACI C	£695	£710	£15	2.16%
Secondary IDACI D	£635	£650	£15	2.36%
Secondary IDACI E	£450	£460	£10	2.22%
Secondary IDACI F	£340	£345	£5	1.47%
Low Prior Attainment				
Primary LPA	£1,175	£1,200	£25	2.13%
Secondary LPA	£1,785	£1,825	£40	2.24%
English as an Additional Language				
Primary EAL	£595	£610	£15	2.52%
Secondary EAL	£1,595	£1,630	£35	2.19%
Mobility				
Primary Mobility	£965	£985	£20	2.07%
Secondary Mobility	£1,385	£1,415	£30	2.17%
School-Led Funding				
Lump Sum	£145,100	£152,700	£7,600	5.24%
Sparsity				
Primary Sparsity	£57,400	£58,600	£1,200	2.09%
Secondary Sparsity	£83,400	£85,200	£1,800	2.16%
Premises				
Split Site	£81,000	£82,700	£1,700	2.10%

(source: V Eddey)

Appendix B: Allowable funding factor thresholds 2026-27
(source Allowable factor value ranges 2026-27 Pre 16 schools funding: local authority guidance 2026-27)

Factor	**2026-27 (NFF) value including area cost adjustment (ACA)**	**2026-27 APT min. value**	**2026-27 APT max. value**
Primary basic entitlement	£4,064.00	£3,962.40	£4,165.60
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,686.00	£5,543.85	£5,828.15
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,410.00	£6,249.75	£6,570.25
Primary FSM	£505.00	£492.38	£517.63
Secondary FSM	£505.00	£492.38	£517.63
Primary FSM6	£1,210.00	£1,179.75	£1,240.25
Secondary FSM6	£1,725.00	£1,681.88	£1,768.13
Primary IDACI F	£240.00	£234.00	£246.00
Primary IDACI E	£290.00	£282.75	£297.25
Primary IDACI D	£455.00	£443.63	£466.38
Primary IDACI C	£500.00	£487.50	£512.50
Primary IDACI B	£530.00	£516.75	£543.25
Primary IDACI A	£700.00	£682.50	£717.50
Secondary IDACI F	£345.00	£336.38	£353.63
Secondary IDACI E	£460.00	£448.50	£471.50
Secondary IDACI D	£650.00	£633.75	£666.25
Secondary IDACI C	£710.00	£692.25	£727.75
Secondary IDACI B	£760.00	£741.00	£779.00
Secondary IDACI A	£970.00	£945.75	£994.25
Primary EAL	£610.00	£594.75	£625.25
Secondary EAL	£1,630.00	£1,589.25	£1,670.75
Primary LPA	£1,200.00	£1,170.00	£1,230.00
Secondary LPA	£1,825.00	£1,779.38	£1,870.63
Primary mobility	£985.00	£960.38	£1,009.63
Secondary mobility	£1,415.00	£1,379.63	£1,450.38
Primary lump sum	£152,700.00	£148,882.50	£156,517.50
Secondary lump sum	£152,700.00	£148,882.50	£156,517.50
Primary sparsity	£58,600.00	£57,135.00	£60,065.00
Secondary sparsity	£85,200.00	£83,070.00	£87,330.00
Middle-school sparsity	£85,200.00	£83,070.00	£87,330.00
All-through sparsity	£85,200.00	£83,070.00	£87,330.00
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£55,100.00	£53,722.50	£56,477.50
Split sites distance funding	£27,600.00	£26,910.00	£28,290.00
London fringe	1	1	1

Appendix C: Disapplication for Inadequate Facilities for discussion and voting

Reason for Dis-application :
Dorset council has 1 school with inadequate PE facilities, where the allowable costs equate to more than 1% of the individual school budget. We also have one school which has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Kingston Mauward College for use of its farm. This school provides mainstream academic provision with a Land based specialism. It is a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Sciences and use of the farm is integral to its provision.

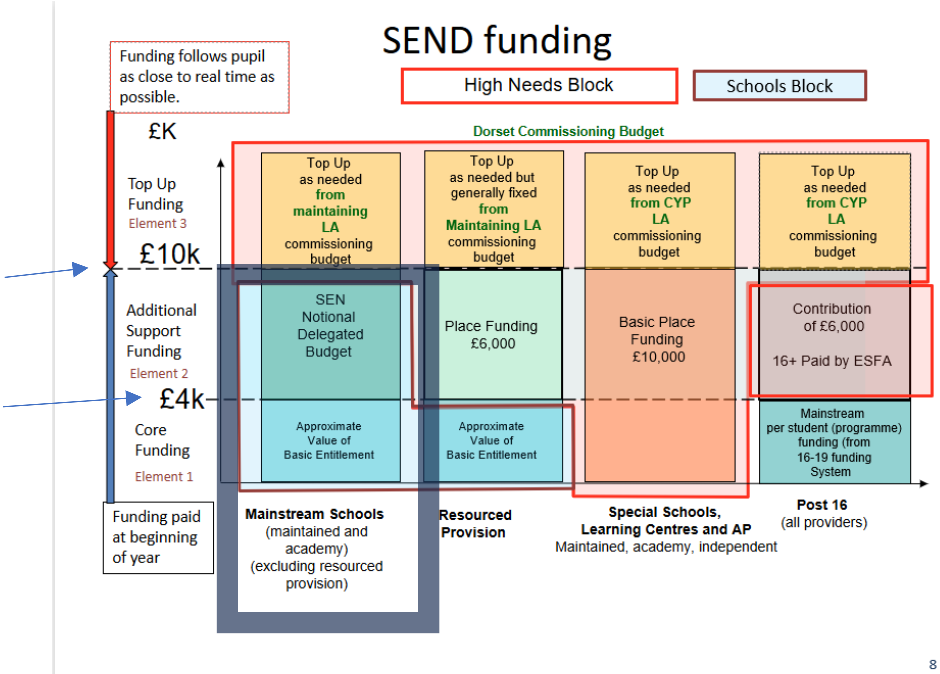
Cheselbourne Village School – Village hall hire for PE and group events throughout the academic year – rental agreement for 26-27 provided to LA – Total £6,495.58

Dorset Studio School - SLA for use of Kingston Maurward farm for provision of land-based specialism in use every day throughout the academic year –SLA for 26-27 provided to LA. These charges are £491.59 per month x 12 (5,899.08) and £105,868 divided into 12 monthly payments – Total £111,767.08

Options considered for use of leisure centre sports are at a greater cost for Cheselbourne Village School
No other options have been considered for Dorset Studio School's farm use.

Total amount for the 2 schools £118,262.66
This £118262.66 disapplication request is funding which will reduce the total funding available across the rest of the schools in Dorset and equates to around £2.77 per pupil. It has not been possible to carry out any detailed modelling without an approved APT.

Appendix D: Notional SEN
This is not extra money given to schools but is an indicative amount within the school's overall budget. Schools are expected to use this to meet the needs of pupils with SEN up to a certain threshold before requesting additional funding.



(M Judd)

The 1st £4k of funding in Mainstream Schools is Basic Entitlement or Core Funding.
There is then the Notional SEN Budget or Additional Support Funding of £6k which together are £10k per pupil from the Schools Block. This 6k part of the budget could cover Teaching Assistant support, or specialist equipment to support any pupil. The school must pay the 1st £10k to support a child with SEND. Above £10k is when top up funding is added (from the High Needs Block). This is for pupils with an EHCP.

The expectation is that the calculation of the notional SEN budget will include a small part of the basic entitlement funding, a larger part of deprivation, FSM6 and IDACI funding reflecting the higher prevalence of lower-level SEN amongst disadvantaged pupils.

Appendix E: Funding Options – see separate sheets

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 1 with HNB TFR 0% MFG

			NOR 2026-27	Basic Entitlement	AEN	School Factors	Total Allocation	Additional Funding to meet MFL	MFG Adjustment	Revised total After MFL andMFG	Revised 2025-26 baseline (incl pay grants)	% change on 25-26	NOR 25-26	Change in NOR	% NOR change
8382037	Thorncombe, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	23	92,762	20,051	212,398	325,211	0	0	325,211	347,944	-6.5%	29	-6	-20.69%
8383350	Piddle Valley Church of England First School	Primary	34	137,127	30,295	214,344	381,765	0	0	381,765	387,282	-1.4%	36	-2	-5.56%
8382009	Cheselbourne Village School	Primary	41	165,359	37,082	221,638	424,078	0	0	424,078	401,771	5.6%	39	2	5.13%
8383352	Powerstock Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	35	141,160	28,733	213,171	383,065	0	0	383,065	393,491	-2.6%	39	-4	-10.26%
8382027	Milborne St Andrew First School	Primary	46	185,524	50,195	213,970	449,690	0	0	449,690	432,589	4.0%	45	1	2.22%
8383338	Marshwood CofE Primary Academy	Primary	46	185,524	28,714	212,238	426,477	0	0	426,477	422,117	1.0%	47	-1	-2.13%
8382014	Portesham Church of England Primary School	Primary	43	173,425	48,581	214,818	436,824	0	0	436,824	497,315	-12.2%	56	-13	-23.21%
8383376	Wimborne St Giles Church of England First School and Nursery	Primary	62	250,055	23,792	204,061	477,908	0	4,303	482,211	455,293	5.9%	56	6	10.71%
8383379	Witchampton Church of England First School	Primary	46	185,524	22,297	212,473	420,294	0	0	420,294	468,753	-10.3%	59	-13	-22.03%
8382036	St Gregory's Church of England Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	50	201,657	52,422	155,519	409,598	0	0	409,598	444,682	-7.9%	60	-10	-16.67%
8382010	Loders CofE Primary Academy	Primary	56	225,856	44,426	212,647	482,929	0	0	482,929	509,336	-5.2%	62	-6	-9.68%
8383010	Corfe Castle Church of England Primary School	Primary	65	262,154	73,921	215,092	551,168	0	0	551,168	493,888	11.6%	62	3	4.84%
8382021	Sixpenny Handley First School	Primary	57	229,889	24,120	211,009	465,019	0	0	465,019	484,829	-4.1%	64	-7	-10.94%
8383317	Cranborne Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary	61	246,022	41,363	206,952	494,337	0	0	494,337	489,654	1.0%	64	-3	-4.69%
8383377	Winterbourne Valley Church of England Aided First School	Primary	57	229,889	58,630	208,589	497,108	0	0	497,108	498,070	-0.2%	64	-7	-10.94%
8382032	Sturminster Marshall First School	Primary	53	213,756	29,485	221,904	465,145	0	0	465,145	513,415	-9.4%	68	-15	-22.06%
8383009	Cerne Abbas Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	63	254,088	35,161	206,259	495,508	0	0	495,508	507,944	-2.4%	68	-5	-7.35%
8383402	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	74	298,452	47,310	178,377	524,139	0	39,131	563,270	547,667	2.8%	71	3	4.23%
8382028	Charmouth Primary School	Primary	73	294,419	96,752	215,067	606,239	0	0	606,239	561,165	8.0%	72	1	1.39%
8382031	St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Lyme Regis	Primary	58	233,922	70,923	155,944	460,789	0	0	460,789	525,246	-12.3%	72	-14	-19.44%
8382012	Pamphill Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School	Primary	68	274,254	27,729	171,976	473,958	0	3,295	477,253	499,576	-4.5%	73	-5	-6.85%
8383331	St George's Church of England Primary School, Langton Matravers	Primary	69	278,287	41,502	155,320	475,109	0	0	475,109	485,714	-2.2%	74	-5	-6.76%
8382018	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Fontmell Magna	Primary	100	403,314	78,186	194,008	675,507	0	20,725	696,232	580,720	19.9%	77	23	29.87%
8383006	St James' Church of England First School, Alderholt	Primary	89	358,949	40,304	175,634	574,888	0	13,624	588,512	556,038	5.8%	82	7	8.54%
8382038	Three Legged Cross First and Nursery School	Primary	76	306,519	62,016	189,275	557,810	0	0	557,810	587,786	-5.1%	84	-8	-9.52%
8383007	Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	Primary	93	375,082	30,930	199,085	605,097	0	0	605,097	564,902	7.1%	84	9	10.71%
8383049	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bradford Abbas	Primary	86	346,850	39,367	204,961	591,178	0	0	591,178	575,272	2.8%	86	0	0.00%
8383321	Sticklands Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	74	298,452	49,369	214,593	562,415	0	0	562,415	601,692	-6.5%	86	-12	-13.95%
8382030	Stower Provost Community School	Primary	91	367,016	42,834	210,430	620,280	0	8,557	628,837	624,239	0.7%	90	1	1.11%
8383051	Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	90	362,983	52,411	207,470	622,864	0	0	622,864	614,762	1.3%	91	-1	-1.10%
8382013	Wool Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	94	379,115	81,794	152,775	613,684	0	962	614,646	609,714	0.8%	93	1	1.08%
8383050	Buckland Newton Church of England Primary School	Primary	88	354,916	73,066	203,147	631,129	0	0	631,129	646,533	-2.4%	93	-5	-5.38%
8383367	Thornford CofE Primary School	Primary	103	415,413	40,263	192,309	647,985	0	0	647,985	619,054	4.7%	98	5	5.10%
8382022	Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	Primary	93	375,082	51,135	207,244	633,460	0	1,486	634,946	667,139	-4.8%	100	-7	-7.00%
8385203	Shillingstone Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	104	419,447	86,609	194,860	700,915	0	0	700,915	665,627	5.3%	100	4	4.00%
8383332	Thorner's Church of England School, Litton Cheney	Primary	100	403,314	60,144	193,983	657,440	0	0	657,440	653,784	0.6%	101	-1	-0.99%
8383364	Symondsbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	108	435,579	74,181	187,649	697,409	0	0	697,409	661,836	5.4%	105	3	2.86%
8383058	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary	103	415,413	89,877	192,259	697,550	0	0	697,550	692,925	0.7%	107	-4	-3.74%
8383017	St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	115	463,811	33,586	155,370	652,767	0	0	652,767	628,188	3.9%	110	5	4.55%
8383345	Salway Ash Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	107	431,546	64,921	187,907	684,374	0	0	684,374	681,585	0.4%	110	-3	-2.73%
8382019	Bere Regis School	Primary	98	395,248	79,454	200,387	675,089	0	566	675,655	738,585	-8.5%	111	-13	-11.71%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 1 with HNB TFR 0% MFG

8382007	Dunbury Church of England Academy	Primary		122	492,043	87,612	262,115	841,770	0	3,459	845,229	805,292	5.0%	114	8	7.02%
8382000	Trinity CofE VA First School	Primary		128	516,242	53,766	158,916	728,924	0	0	728,924	660,280	10.4%	115	13	11.30%
8383702	Lulworth and Winfrith CofE VC Primary School	Primary		103	415,413	83,170	277,832	776,415	0	0	776,415	844,548	-8.1%	116	-13	-11.21%
8383323	Milton-on-Stour Church of England Primary School	Primary		119	479,944	80,028	164,654	724,625	0	0	724,625	707,249	2.5%	117	2	1.71%
8383005	St George's Church of England School, Bourton	Primary		116	467,844	75,876	156,467	700,188	0	0	700,188	694,465	0.8%	119	-3	-2.52%
8383363	Swanage St Mark's Church of England Primary School	Primary		94	379,115	141,670	159,194	679,979	0	0	679,979	783,684	-13.2%	120	-26	-21.67%
8383400	St Catherine's Roman Catholic School	Primary		100	403,314	82,815	155,569	641,698	0	0	641,698	730,898	-12.2%	120	-20	-16.67%
8383401	St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary		82	330,717	48,915	155,544	535,177	0	0	535,177	706,453	-24.2%	120	-38	-31.67%
8383024	Frome Valley CofE VA First School	Primary		120	483,977	90,865	159,693	734,535	0	0	734,535	741,212	-0.9%	122	-2	-1.64%
8383055	West Moors, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary		126	508,176	92,220	154,921	755,316	0	0	755,316	731,167	3.3%	123	3	2.44%
8383319	Durweston CofE VA Primary School	Primary		129	520,275	73,593	170,595	764,463	0	6,663	771,126	743,194	3.8%	123	6	4.88%
8383045	All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		125	504,143	88,448	184,204	776,794	0	0	776,794	760,444	2.2%	126	-1	-0.79%
8382006	Beaminster St Mary's Academy	Primary		139	560,606	128,072	161,262	849,941	0	54,056	903,997	845,192	7.0%	128	11	8.59%
8383342	Parrett and Axe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		131	528,341	112,520	169,055	809,916	0	0	809,916	794,834	1.9%	133	-2	-1.50%
8383026	Puddletown Church of England First School	Primary		128	516,242	80,545	160,248	757,035	0	0	757,035	782,242	-3.2%	135	-7	-5.19%
8382053	Oakhurst Community First School	Primary		141	568,673	130,498	157,490	856,661	0	0	856,661	851,364	0.6%	140	1	0.71%
8382054	Hayeswood First School	Primary		142	572,706	72,897	156,418	802,020	0	0	802,020	781,763	2.6%	141	1	0.71%
8383314	St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Child Okeford	Primary		123	496,076	74,096	176,287	746,459	0	0	746,459	806,122	-7.4%	141	-18	-12.77%
8383369	Trent Young's CofE Primary School	Primary		144	580,772	48,311	159,758	788,841	0	0	788,841	762,536	3.4%	141	3	2.13%
8383021	Maiden Newton, Greenford Church of England Primary School	Primary		143	576,739	109,111	173,364	859,215	0	0	859,215	854,125	0.6%	143	0	0.00%
8383042	St John's Church of England First School, Wimborne	Primary		148	596,905	125,864	156,293	879,062	0	0	879,062	844,493	4.1%	143	5	3.50%
8383325	Hampreston Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary		134	540,441	81,265	155,569	777,275	0	0	777,275	812,671	-4.4%	145	-11	-7.59%
8382257	Henbury View First School	Primary		145	584,805	66,906	157,191	808,902	0	0	808,902	794,351	1.8%	146	-1	-0.68%
8382005	Broadmayne First School	Primary		142	572,706	74,522	166,672	813,899	0	0	813,899	830,264	-2.0%	147	-5	-3.40%
8382011	Colehill First School	Primary		147	592,872	63,195	159,138	815,205	0	0	815,205	817,222	-0.2%	149	-2	-1.34%
			66	6,163	24,856,242	4,230,711	12,365,560	41,452,513	0	156,828	41,609,341	41,824,189	-0.5%	6,355	-192	-3.02%

8383404	St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester	Primary		150	604,971	63,965	157,665	826,601	0	4,454	831,055	831,055	0.0%	150	0	0.00%
8383157	St Mary's Church of England First School, Charminster	Primary		145	584,805	87,633	172,660	845,098	0	0	845,098	851,694	-0.8%	150	-5	-3.33%
8382262	The Prince of Wales School	Primary		156	629,170	88,780	181,005	898,955	0	0	898,955	889,432	1.1%	157	-1	-0.64%
8382034	William Barnes Primary School	Primary		163	657,402	142,011	169,417	968,830	0	0	968,830	939,727	3.1%	159	4	2.52%
8383343	Motcombe CofE VA Primary School	Primary		146	588,838	129,825	158,792	877,455	0	0	877,455	907,732	-3.3%	160	-14	-8.75%
8382001	Bovington Primary School	Primary		180	725,965	133,434	152,878	1,012,278	0	0	1,012,278	942,284	7.4%	170	10	5.88%
8383032	Wareham St Mary Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		162	653,369	170,492	156,143	980,004	0	0	980,004	1,015,623	-3.5%	172	-10	-5.81%
8382033	Wyke Primary School	Primary		160	645,302	118,825	158,972	923,099	0	0	923,099	997,296	-7.4%	172	-12	-6.98%
8383406	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Swanage	Primary		176	709,833	126,053	158,750	994,635	0	0	994,635	1,004,857	-1.0%	182	-6	-3.30%
8383403	Spetisbury CofE VA Primary School	Primary		188	758,230	121,286	158,417	1,037,933	0	0	1,037,933	1,005,734	3.2%	183	5	2.73%
8385201	Stalbridge Church of England Primary School	Primary		189	762,263	163,323	156,443	1,082,028	0	0	1,082,028	1,048,009	3.2%	185	4	2.16%
8383047	Pimperne Church of England VC Primary School	Primary		185	746,131	108,427	161,802	1,016,360	0	0	1,016,360	1,049,826	-3.2%	188	-3	-1.60%
8383693	The Abbey CofE VA Primary School, Shaftesbury	Primary		200	806,628	152,122	155,644	1,114,394	0	0	1,114,394	1,045,454	6.6%	191	9	4.71%
8382004	Beechcroft St Pauls CofE Primary School	Primary		179	721,932	287,930	155,644	1,165,506	0	0	1,165,506	1,211,051	-3.8%	193	-14	-7.25%
8383001	Stoborough Church of England Primary School	Primary		196	790,495	91,090	159,194	1,040,779	0	0	1,040,779	1,004,060	3.7%	193	3	1.55%
8383006	Bridport, St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Primary		200	806,628	231,124	159,471	1,197,223	0	0	1,197,223	1,162,405	3.0%	199	1	0.50%
8382035	Swanage Primary School	Primary		198	798,562	122,425	157,154	1,078,141	0	0	1,078,141	1,093,960	-1.4%	199	-1	-0.50%
8383407	St Mary the Virgin CofE VA Primary School	Primary		203	818,727	125,315	160,692	1,104,734	0	0	1,104,734	1,091,749	1.2%	202	1	0.50%
8383004	Milldown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		205	826,794	174,942	162,135	1,163,871	0	0	1,163,871	1,138,241	2.3%	203	2	0.99%
8382002	Downlands Community School	Primary		174	701,766	135,305	220,410	1,057,481	0	0	1,057,481	1,167,763	-9.4%	203	-29	-14.29%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 1 with HNB TFR 0% MFG

8383304	Blandford St Mary Church of England Primary School	Primary		209	842,926	173,699	160,137	1,176,762	0	10,171	1,186,933	1,162,248	2.1%	204	5	2.45%
8382209	Wyke Regis Infant School and Nursery	Primary		180	725,965	175,341	182,393	1,083,698	0	0	1,083,698	1,191,770	-9.1%	204	-24	-11.76%
8383670	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Weymouth	Primary		200	806,628	167,074	156,093	1,129,795	0	0	1,129,795	1,137,087	-0.6%	206	-6	-2.91%
8383655	St John's Church of England Primary School	Primary		199	802,595	241,050	157,441	1,201,085	0	0	1,201,085	1,217,551	-1.4%	206	-7	-3.40%
8382048	Hillside Community First School	Primary		221	891,324	144,085	157,316	1,192,725	0	0	1,192,725	1,105,109	7.9%	208	13	6.25%
8382216	Southill Primary School	Primary		210	846,959	132,259	170,165	1,149,383	0	0	1,149,383	1,121,996	2.4%	210	0	0.00%
8383652	St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School, Broadwey	Primary		213	859,059	180,948	156,418	1,196,425	0	0	1,196,425	1,186,046	0.9%	213	0	0.00%
8382246	St Ives Primary School	Primary		217	875,191	60,342	156,243	1,091,776	21,722	183	1,113,681	1,109,269	0.4%	216	1	0.46%
8382016	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary		205	826,794	207,759	161,469	1,196,021	0	0	1,196,021	1,245,704	-4.0%	222	-17	-7.66%
8382017	Gillingham Primary School	Primary		234	943,755	184,433	159,915	1,288,102	0	0	1,288,102	1,282,225	0.5%	233	1	0.43%
8382213	Bincombe Valley Primary School	Primary		253	1,020,384	409,715	196,268	1,626,367	0	0	1,626,367	1,521,794	6.9%	241	12	4.98%
8382026	Upton Infants' School	Primary		249	1,004,252	192,494	157,166	1,353,912	0	0	1,353,912	1,352,402	0.1%	254	-5	-1.97%
8383053	Verwood Church of England First School	Primary		263	1,060,716	139,202	159,027	1,358,945	0	0	1,358,945	1,384,315	-1.8%	269	-6	-2.23%
8382003	Bridport Primary School	Primary		267	1,076,848	236,366	162,968	1,476,182	0	0	1,476,182	1,547,228	-4.6%	292	-25	-8.56%
			34	6,675	26,921,210	5,419,073	5,566,301	37,906,584	21,722	14,809	37,943,114	37,962,698	-0.1%	6,789	-114	-1.68%
8382045	Parley First School	Primary		313	1,262,373	226,234	157,241	1,645,847	0	0	1,645,847	1,616,082	1.8%	309	4	1.29%
8382050	Rushcombe First School	Primary		311	1,254,307	92,360	181,560	1,528,227	91,398	0	1,619,625	1,617,850	0.1%	311	0	0.00%
8382029	Sherborne Primary School	Primary		311	1,254,307	263,344	162,191	1,679,841	0	0	1,679,841	1,679,833	0.0%	316	-5	-1.58%
8383028	Sherborne Abbey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		338	1,363,201	351,902	165,354	1,880,457	0	0	1,880,457	1,820,419	3.3%	337	1	0.30%
8383052	Shaftesbury Church of England Primary School	Primary		342	1,379,334	351,721	169,017	1,900,072	0	0	1,900,072	1,873,635	1.4%	337	5	1.48%
8382020	Ferndown First School	Primary		349	1,407,566	257,464	159,027	1,824,057	0	9,139	1,833,196	1,833,093	0.0%	349	0	0.00%
8383202	Wyke Regis Church of England Junior School	Primary		335	1,351,102	371,341	182,948	1,905,390	0	0	1,905,390	1,949,533	-2.3%	350	-15	-4.29%
8382025	Manor Park Church of England First School	Primary		324	1,306,737	318,515	156,966	1,782,219	0	0	1,782,219	1,905,401	-6.5%	354	-30	-8.47%
8382044	Upton Junior School	Primary		343	1,383,367	308,672	158,417	1,850,456	0	0	1,850,456	1,881,248	-1.6%	358	-15	-4.19%
8383408	Conifers Primary School	Primary		326	1,314,804	411,474	221,520	1,947,798	0	0	1,947,798	2,102,253	-7.3%	359	-33	-9.19%
8383372	Sandford St Martin's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		340	1,371,268	224,307	169,017	1,764,591	0	1,744	1,766,335	1,860,030	-5.0%	360	-20	-5.56%
8382040	Wimborne First School	Primary		369	1,488,229	200,859	167,130	1,856,218	45,647	0	1,901,865	1,881,506	1.1%	365	4	1.10%
8383002	Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School	Primary		354	1,427,732	381,934	167,907	1,977,573	0	0	1,977,573	2,004,516	-1.3%	372	-18	-4.84%
8382201	Chickerell Primary Academy	Primary		390	1,572,925	311,645	152,931	2,037,501	0	0	2,037,501	2,116,865	-3.7%	410	-20	-4.88%
8382024	Lytchett Matravers Primary School	Primary		414	1,669,720	218,447	162,468	2,050,635	76,743	0	2,127,378	2,146,088	-0.9%	418	-4	-0.96%
8383700	Holy Trinity Church of England VC Primary School & Community Nursery	Primary		425	1,714,085	484,384	248,715	2,447,184	0	0	2,447,184	2,438,840	0.3%	431	-6	-1.39%
8382214	Radipole Primary School	Primary		437	1,762,482	274,724	194,048	2,231,254	45,349	717	2,277,320	2,290,951	-0.6%	440	-3	-0.68%
8383701	St George's Community Primary School	Primary		409	1,649,554	447,442	161,858	2,258,854	0	0	2,258,854	2,358,342	-4.2%	443	-34	-7.67%
8382015	Damers First School	Primary		471	1,899,609	461,859	160,359	2,521,827	0	0	2,521,827	2,569,822	-1.9%	483	-12	-2.48%
			19	6,901	27,832,699	5,958,629	3,298,672	37,090,000	259,137	11,600	37,360,738	37,946,306	-1.5%	7,102	-201	-2.83%
8384033	West Moors Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		231	1,116,769	317,221	218,357	1,652,347	0	0	1,652,347	1,670,908	-1.1%	239	-8	-3.35%
8384020	Cranborne Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		268	1,307,846	218,213	216,392	1,742,452	0	0	1,742,452	1,932,483	-9.8%	310	-42	-13.55%
8384009	Emmanuel Middle Church of England Voluntary Aided School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,071,541	301,302	171,348	2,544,191	0	102	2,544,293	2,554,851	-0.4%	439	-2	-0.46%
8384034	Lockyer's Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,053,834	243,002	163,245	2,460,081	63,870	2,894	2,526,845	2,559,126	-1.3%	443	-6	-1.35%
8384802	St Mary's Church of England Middle School, Puddletown	Middle-deemed Secondary		443	2,139,201	335,764	169,572	2,644,537	0	0	2,644,537	2,615,891	1.1%	446	-3	-0.67%
			5	1,816	8,689,191	1,415,503	938,915	11,043,608	63,870	2,996	11,110,474	11,333,259	-2.0%	1,877	-61	-3.25%
8384029	Allenbourn Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		497	2,376,307	309,596	177,342	2,863,245	19,893	17,839	2,900,977	2,977,299	-2.6%	511	-14	-2.74%
8384031	Dorchester Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		525	2,532,696	521,039	170,238	3,223,973	0	28,843	3,252,815	3,317,118	-1.94%	536	-11	-2.05%
8384604	St Michael's Church of England Middle School, Colehill	Middle-deemed Secondary		562	2,699,629	411,947	152,882	3,264,458	0	0	3,264,458	3,377,526	-3.35%	587	-25	-4.26%
8384184	Ferndown Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		601	2,905,211	576,331	169,905	3,651,448	0	0	3,651,448	3,609,085	1.2%	608	-7	-1.15%
8384006	St Osmund's Church of England Middle School, Dorchester	Middle-deemed Secondary		709	3,422,884	552,317	152,929	4,128,131	0	0	4,128,131	4,121,684	0.2%	716	-7	-0.98%
			5	2,894	13,936,727	2,371,230	823,296	17,131,253	19,893	46,682	17,197,828	17,402,713	-1.2%	2,958	-64	-2.16%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 1 with HNB TFR 0% MFG

8384003	Dorset Studio School	Secondary		329	1,950,613	556,190	349,701	2,856,503	0	48,722	2,905,226	2,847,697	2.0%	336	-7	-2.08%
8384001	The Swanage School	Secondary		354	2,090,246	501,644	250,592	2,842,481	0	0	2,842,481	2,752,977	3.3%	342	12	3.51%
8384179	Sturminster Newton High School	Secondary		545	3,231,972	649,438	191,452	4,072,862	0	0	4,072,862	4,015,223	1.44%	548	-3	-0.55%
8384505	Beaminster School	Secondary		617	3,659,810	600,033	275,355	4,535,198	0	0	4,535,198	4,376,042	3.64%	604	13	2.15%
8384002	The Sir John Colfox Academy	Secondary		661	3,917,435	706,596	1,951,831	6,575,862	0	0	6,575,862	6,713,344	-2.0%	700	-39	-5.57%
8384000	All Saints' Church of England School, Weymouth	Secondary		595	3,567,283	881,911	183,225	4,632,419	0	0	4,632,419	5,396,411	-14.2%	700	-105	-15.00%
8384511	Shaftesbury School	Secondary		698	4,126,938	892,340	191,828	5,211,105	0	0	5,211,105	5,248,080	-0.7%	718	-20	-2.79%
8384007	Atlantic Academy Portland	All-through		772	4,021,800	1,149,394	183,780	5,354,975	0	0	5,354,975	5,027,552	6.5%	746	26	3.49%
8385401	The Woodroffe School	Secondary		739	4,412,182	618,816	182,115	5,213,112	0	0	5,213,112	5,445,711	-4.3%	787	-48	-6.10%
8384022	Ferndown Upper School	Secondary		908	5,558,379	974,203	309,488	6,842,070	0	0	6,842,070	6,419,474	6.6%	860	48	5.58%
8384024	The Purbeck School	Secondary		867	5,140,929	907,054	184,613	6,232,596	0	0	6,232,596	6,059,447	2.9%	864	3	0.35%
			11	7,085	41,677,588	8,437,619	4,253,977	54,369,184	0	48,722	54,417,907	54,301,958	0.2%	7,205	-120	-1.67%
8384004	The Wey Valley School	Secondary		982	5,835,120	1,460,034	195,990	7,491,144	0	0	7,491,144	7,465,451	0.3%	995	-13	-1.31%
8384510	The Blandford School	Secondary		988	5,853,170	954,626	346,950	7,154,746	0	0	7,154,746	7,105,703	0.7%	1,006	-18	-1.79%
8384504	Queen Elizabeth's School	Secondary		1,030	6,322,965	873,096	261,258	7,457,319	0	0	7,457,319	7,792,936	-4.31%	1,107	-77	-6.96%
8384512	The Gryphon School	Secondary		1,186	7,029,366	1,195,307	200,985	8,425,657	0	0	8,425,657	8,323,754	1.2%	1,199	-13	-1.08%
8384005	Budmouth College	Secondary		1,245	7,377,381	1,485,747	208,755	9,071,883	0	0	9,071,883	9,025,663	0.5%	1,262	-17	-1.35%
8384035	Lytchett Minster School	Secondary		1,285	7,620,338	1,201,600	222,630	9,044,567	0	0	9,044,567	8,854,315	2.1%	1,284	1	0.08%
8384615	The Thomas Hardye School	Secondary		1,344	8,220,550	1,432,776	230,400	9,883,726	0	0	9,883,726	9,581,024	3.2%	1,336	8	0.60%
8384503	Gillingham School	Secondary		1,391	8,254,402	1,243,142	460,725	9,958,269	0	0	9,958,269	9,741,730	2.2%	1,387	4	0.29%
			8	9,451	56,513,291	9,846,327	2,127,693	68,487,311	0	0	68,487,311	67,890,577	0.9%	9,576	-125	-1.97%
				40,985	200,426,947	37,679,091	29,374,416	267,480,454	364,622	281,637	268,126,713	268,661,701	-0.20%	41,862	-877	-2.27%

Appendix E: Funding Options
Option 2 with HNB TFR -0.5% MFG

			NOR 2026-27	Basic Entitlement	AEN	School Factors	Total Allocation	Additional Funding to meet MFL	MFG Adjustment	Revised total After MFL andMFG	Revised 2026-27 baseline (incl pay grants)	% change on 25-26	NOR 25-26	Change in NOR	% NOR change
8382037	Thorncombe, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	23	92,808	20,051	212,398	325,257	0	0	325,257	347,944	-6.5%	29	-6	-20.69%
8383350	Piddle Valley Church of England First School	Primary	34	137,195	30,295	214,344	381,833	0	0	381,833	387,282	-1.4%	36	-2	-5.56%
8382009	Cheselbourne Village School	Primary	41	165,441	37,082	221,638	424,160	0	0	424,160	401,771	5.6%	39	2	5.13%
8383352	Powerstock Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	35	141,230	28,733	213,171	383,135	0	0	383,135	393,491	-2.6%	39	-4	-10.26%
8382027	Milborne St Andrew First School	Primary	46	185,616	50,195	213,970	449,782	0	0	449,782	432,589	4.0%	45	1	2.22%
8383338	Marshwood CofE Primary Academy	Primary	46	185,616	28,714	212,238	426,569	0	0	426,569	422,117	1.1%	47	-1	-2.13%
8382014	Portesham Church of England Primary School	Primary	43	173,511	48,581	214,818	436,910	0	0	436,910	497,315	-12.1%	56	-13	-23.21%
8383376	Wimborne St Giles Church of England First School and Nursery	Primary	62	250,179	23,792	204,061	478,032	0	2,789	480,820	455,293	5.6%	56	6	10.71%
8383379	Witchampton Church of England First School	Primary	46	185,616	22,297	212,473	420,386	0	0	420,386	468,753	-10.3%	59	-13	-22.03%
8382036	St Gregory's Church of England Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	50	201,757	52,422	155,519	409,698	0	0	409,698	444,682	-7.9%	60	-10	-16.67%
8382010	Loders CofE Primary Academy	Primary	56	225,968	44,426	212,647	483,041	0	0	483,041	509,336	-5.2%	62	-6	-9.68%
8383010	Corfe Castle Church of England Primary School	Primary	65	262,284	73,921	215,092	551,298	0	0	551,298	493,888	11.6%	62	3	4.84%
8382021	Sixpenny Handley First School	Primary	57	230,003	24,120	211,009	465,133	0	0	465,133	484,829	-4.1%	64	-7	-10.94%
8383317	Cranborne Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary	61	246,144	41,363	206,952	494,459	0	0	494,459	489,654	1.0%	64	-3	-4.69%
8383377	Winterbourne Valley Church of England Aided First School	Primary	57	230,003	58,630	208,589	497,222	0	0	497,222	498,070	-0.2%	64	-7	-10.94%
8382032	Sturminster Marshall First School	Primary	53	213,862	29,485	221,904	465,251	0	0	465,251	513,415	-9.4%	68	-15	-22.06%
8383009	Cerne Abbas Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	63	254,214	35,161	206,259	495,634	0	0	495,634	507,944	-2.4%	68	-5	-7.35%
8383402	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	74	298,600	47,310	178,377	524,287	0	37,059	561,346	547,667	2.5%	71	3	4.23%
8382028	Charmouth Primary School	Primary	73	294,565	96,752	215,067	606,385	0	0	606,385	561,165	8.1%	72	1	1.39%
8382031	St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Lyme Regis	Primary	58	234,038	70,923	155,944	460,905	0	0	460,905	525,246	-12.2%	72	-14	-19.44%
8382012	Pamphill Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School	Primary	68	274,390	27,729	171,976	474,094	0	1,633	475,727	499,576	-4.8%	73	-5	-6.85%
8383331	St George's Church of England Primary School, Langton Matravers	Primary	69	278,425	41,502	155,320	475,247	0	0	475,247	485,714	-2.2%	74	-5	-6.76%
8382018	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Fontmell Magna	Primary	100	403,514	78,186	194,008	675,707	0	18,014	693,721	580,720	19.5%	77	23	29.87%
8383000	St James' Church of England First School, Alderholt	Primary	89	359,127	40,304	175,634	575,066	0	11,382	586,448	556,038	5.5%	82	7	8.54%
8382038	Three Legged Cross First and Nursery School	Primary	76	306,671	62,016	189,275	557,962	0	0	557,962	587,786	-5.1%	84	-8	-9.52%
8383007	Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	Primary	93	375,268	30,930	199,085	605,283	0	0	605,283	564,902	7.1%	84	9	10.71%
8383049	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bradford Abbas	Primary	86	347,022	39,367	204,961	591,350	0	0	591,350	575,272	2.8%	86	0	0.00%
8383321	Sticklands Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	74	298,600	49,369	214,593	562,563	0	0	562,563	601,692	-6.5%	86	-12	-13.95%
8382030	Stower Provost Community School	Primary	91	367,198	42,834	210,430	620,462	0	6,283	626,745	624,239	0.4%	90	1	1.11%
8383051	Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	90	363,163	52,411	207,470	623,044	0	0	623,044	614,762	1.3%	91	-1	-1.10%
8382013	Wool Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	94	379,303	81,794	152,775	613,872	0	0	613,872	609,714	0.7%	93	1	1.08%
8383050	Buckland Newton Church of England Primary School	Primary	88	355,092	73,066	203,147	631,305	0	0	631,305	646,533	-2.4%	93	-5	-5.38%
8383367	Thornford CofE Primary School	Primary	103	415,619	40,263	192,309	648,191	0	0	648,191	619,054	4.7%	98	5	5.10%
8382022	Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	Primary	93	375,268	51,135	207,244	633,646	0	0	633,646	667,139	-5.0%	100	-7	-7.00%
8385203	Shillingstone Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	104	419,655	86,609	194,860	701,123	0	0	701,123	665,627	5.3%	100	4	4.00%
8383332	Thorner's Church of England School, Litton Cheney	Primary	100	403,514	60,144	193,983	657,640	0	0	657,640	653,784	0.6%	101	-1	-0.99%
8383364	Symondsbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	108	435,795	74,181	187,649	697,625	0	0	697,625	661,836	5.4%	105	3	2.86%
8383058	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary	103	415,619	89,877	192,259	697,756	0	0	697,756	692,925	0.7%	107	-4	-3.74%
8383017	St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	115	464,041	33,586	155,370	652,997	0	0	652,997	628,188	3.9%	110	5	4.55%
8383345	Salway Ash Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	107	431,760	64,921	187,907	684,588	0	0	684,588	681,585	0.4%	110	-3	-2.73%
8382019	Bere Regis School	Primary	98	395,444	79,454	200,387	675,285	0	0	675,285	738,585	-8.6%	111	-13	-11.71%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 2 with HNB TFR -0.5% MFG

8382007	Dunbury Church of England Academy	Primary		122	492,287	87,612	262,115	842,014	0	300	842,314	805,292	4.6%	114	8	7.02%
8382000	Trinity CofE VA First School	Primary		128	516,498	53,766	158,916	729,180	0	0	729,180	660,280	10.4%	115	13	11.30%
8383702	Lulworth and Winfrith CofE VC Primary School	Primary		103	415,619	83,170	277,832	776,621	0	0	776,621	844,548	-8.0%	116	-13	-11.21%
8383323	Milton-on-Stour Church of England Primary School	Primary		119	480,182	80,028	164,654	724,863	0	0	724,863	707,249	2.5%	117	2	1.71%
8383005	St George's Church of England School, Bourton	Primary		116	468,076	75,876	156,467	700,420	0	0	700,420	694,465	0.9%	119	-3	-2.52%
8383363	Swanage St Mark's Church of England Primary School	Primary		94	379,303	141,670	159,194	680,167	0	0	680,167	783,684	-13.2%	120	-26	-21.67%
8383400	St Catherine's Roman Catholic School	Primary		100	403,514	82,815	155,569	641,898	0	0	641,898	730,898	-12.2%	120	-20	-16.67%
8383401	St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary		82	330,881	48,915	155,544	535,341	0	0	535,341	706,453	-24.2%	120	-38	-31.67%
8383024	Frome Valley CofE VA First School	Primary		120	484,217	90,865	159,693	734,775	0	0	734,775	741,212	-0.9%	122	-2	-1.64%
8383055	West Moors, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary		126	508,428	92,220	154,921	755,568	0	0	755,568	731,167	3.3%	123	3	2.44%
8383319	Durweston CofE VA Primary School	Primary		129	520,533	73,593	170,595	764,721	0	3,402	768,123	743,194	3.4%	123	6	4.88%
8383045	All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		125	504,393	88,448	184,204	777,044	0	0	777,044	760,444	2.2%	126	-1	-0.79%
8382006	Beaminster St Mary's Academy	Primary		139	560,884	128,072	161,262	850,219	0	50,064	900,283	845,192	6.5%	128	11	8.59%
8383342	Parrett and Axe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		131	528,603	112,520	169,055	810,178	0	0	810,178	794,834	1.9%	133	-2	-1.50%
8383026	Puddletown Church of England First School	Primary		128	516,498	80,545	160,248	757,291	0	0	757,291	782,242	-3.2%	135	-7	-5.19%
8382053	Oakhurst Community First School	Primary		141	568,955	130,498	157,490	856,943	0	0	856,943	851,364	0.7%	140	1	0.71%
8382054	Hayeswood First School	Primary		142	572,990	72,897	156,418	802,304	0	0	802,304	781,763	2.6%	141	1	0.71%
8383314	St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Child Okeford	Primary		123	496,322	74,096	176,287	746,705	0	0	746,705	806,122	-7.4%	141	-18	-12.77%
8383369	Trent Young's CofE Primary School	Primary		144	581,060	48,311	159,758	789,129	0	0	789,129	762,536	3.5%	141	3	2.13%
8383021	Maiden Newton, Greenford Church of England Primary School	Primary		143	577,025	109,111	173,364	859,501	0	0	859,501	854,125	0.6%	143	0	0.00%
8383042	St John's Church of England First School, Wimborne	Primary		148	597,201	125,864	156,293	879,358	0	0	879,358	844,493	4.1%	143	5	3.50%
8383326	Hampreston Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary		134	540,709	81,265	155,569	777,543	0	0	777,543	812,671	-4.3%	145	-11	-7.59%
8382257	Henbury View First School	Primary		145	585,095	66,906	157,191	809,192	0	0	809,192	794,351	1.9%	146	-1	-0.68%
8382005	Broadmayne First School	Primary		142	572,990	74,522	166,672	814,183	0	0	814,183	830,264	-1.9%	147	-5	-3.40%
8382011	Colehill First School	Primary		147	593,166	63,195	159,138	815,499	0	0	815,499	817,222	-0.2%	149	-2	-1.34%
			66	6,163	24,868,568	4,230,711	12,365,560	41,464,839	0	130,925	41,595,764	41,824,189	-0.5%	6,355	-192	-3.02%

8383404	St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester	Primary		150	605,271	63,965	157,665	826,901	0	787	827,688	831,055	-0.4%	150	0	0.00%
8383157	St Mary's Church of England First School, Charminster	Primary		145	585,095	87,633	172,660	845,388	0	0	845,388	851,694	-0.7%	150	-5	-3.33%
8382262	The Prince of Wales School	Primary		156	629,482	88,780	181,005	899,267	0	0	899,267	889,432	1.1%	157	-1	-0.64%
8382034	William Barnes Primary School	Primary		163	657,728	142,011	169,417	969,156	0	0	969,156	939,727	3.1%	159	4	2.52%
8383343	Motcombe CofE VA Primary School	Primary		146	589,130	129,825	158,792	877,747	0	0	877,747	907,732	-3.3%	160	-14	-8.75%
8382001	Bovington Primary School	Primary		180	726,325	133,434	152,878	1,012,638	0	0	1,012,638	942,284	7.5%	170	10	5.88%
8383032	Wareham St Mary Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		162	653,693	170,492	156,143	980,328	0	0	980,328	1,015,623	-3.5%	172	-10	-5.81%
8382033	Wyke Primary School	Primary		160	645,622	118,825	158,972	923,419	0	0	923,419	997,296	-7.4%	172	-12	-6.98%
8383406	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Swanage	Primary		176	710,185	126,053	158,750	994,987	0	0	994,987	1,004,857	-1.0%	182	-6	-3.30%
8383403	Spetisbury CofE VA Primary School	Primary		188	758,606	121,286	158,417	1,038,309	0	0	1,038,309	1,005,734	3.2%	183	5	2.73%
8385201	Stalbridge Church of England Primary School	Primary		189	762,641	163,323	156,443	1,082,406	0	0	1,082,406	1,048,009	3.3%	185	4	2.16%
8383047	Pimperne Church of England VC Primary School	Primary		185	746,501	108,427	161,802	1,016,730	0	0	1,016,730	1,049,826	-3.2%	188	-3	-1.60%
8383693	The Abbey CofE VA Primary School, Shaftesbury	Primary		200	807,028	152,122	155,644	1,114,794	0	0	1,114,794	1,045,454	6.6%	191	9	4.71%
8382004	Beechcroft St Pauls CofE Primary School	Primary		179	722,290	287,930	155,644	1,165,864	0	0	1,165,864	1,211,051	-3.7%	193	-14	-7.25%
8383001	Stoborough Church of England Primary School	Primary		196	790,887	91,090	159,194	1,041,171	0	0	1,041,171	1,004,060	3.7%	193	3	1.55%
8383006	Bridport, St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Primary		200	807,028	231,124	159,471	1,197,623	0	0	1,197,623	1,162,405	3.0%	199	1	0.50%
8382035	Swanage Primary School	Primary		198	798,958	122,425	157,154	1,078,537	0	0	1,078,537	1,093,960	-1.4%	199	-1	-0.50%
8383407	St Mary the Virgin CofE VA Primary School	Primary		203	819,133	125,315	160,692	1,105,140	0	0	1,105,140	1,091,749	1.2%	202	1	0.50%
8383004	Milldown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		205	827,204	174,942	162,135	1,164,281	0	0	1,164,281	1,138,241	2.3%	203	2	0.99%
8382002	Downlands Community School	Primary		174	702,114	135,305	220,410	1,057,829	0	0	1,057,829	1,167,763	-9.4%	203	-29	-14.29%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 2 with HNB TFR -0.5% MFG

8383304	Blandford St Mary Church of England Primary School	Primary		209	843,344	173,699	160,137	1,177,180	0	4,619	1,181,799	1,162,248	1.7%	204	5	2.45%
8382209	Wyke Regis Infant School and Nursery	Primary		180	726,325	175,341	182,393	1,084,058	0	0	1,084,058	1,191,770	-9.0%	204	-24	-11.76%
8383670	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Weymouth	Primary		200	807,028	167,074	156,093	1,130,195	0	0	1,130,195	1,137,087	-0.6%	206	-6	-2.91%
8383655	St John's Church of England Primary School	Primary		199	802,993	241,050	157,441	1,201,483	0	0	1,201,483	1,217,551	-1.3%	206	-7	-3.40%
8382048	Hillside Community First School	Primary		221	891,766	144,085	157,316	1,193,167	0	0	1,193,167	1,105,109	8.0%	208	13	6.25%
8382216	Southill Primary School	Primary		210	847,379	132,259	170,165	1,149,803	0	0	1,149,803	1,121,996	2.5%	210	0	0.00%
8383652	St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School, Broadwey	Primary		213	859,485	180,948	156,418	1,196,851	0	0	1,196,851	1,186,046	0.9%	213	0	0.00%
8382246	St Ives Primary School	Primary		217	875,625	60,342	156,243	1,092,210	21,288	0	1,113,498	1,109,269	0.4%	216	1	0.46%
8382016	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary		205	827,204	207,759	161,469	1,196,431	0	0	1,196,431	1,245,704	-4.0%	222	-17	-7.66%
8382017	Gillingham Primary School	Primary		234	944,223	184,433	159,915	1,288,570	0	0	1,288,570	1,282,225	0.5%	233	1	0.43%
8382213	Bincombe Valley Primary School	Primary		253	1,020,890	409,715	196,268	1,626,873	0	0	1,626,873	1,521,794	6.9%	241	12	4.98%
8382026	Upton Infants' School	Primary		249	1,004,750	192,494	157,166	1,354,410	0	0	1,354,410	1,352,402	0.1%	254	-5	-1.97%
8383053	Verwood Church of England First School	Primary		263	1,061,242	139,202	159,027	1,359,471	0	0	1,359,471	1,384,315	-1.8%	269	-6	-2.23%
8382003	Bridport Primary School	Primary		267	1,077,382	236,366	162,968	1,476,716	0	0	1,476,716	1,547,228	-4.6%	292	-25	-8.56%
			34	6,675	26,934,560	5,419,073	5,566,301	37,919,934	21,288	5,407	37,946,628	37,962,698	0.0%	6,789	-114	-1.68%
8382045	Parley First School	Primary		313	1,262,999	226,234	157,241	1,646,473	0	0	1,646,473	1,616,082	1.9%	309	4	1.29%
8382050	Rushcombe First School	Primary		311	1,254,929	92,360	181,560	1,528,849	90,776	0	1,619,625	1,617,850	0.1%	311	0	0.00%
8382029	Sherborne Primary School	Primary		311	1,254,929	263,344	162,191	1,680,463	0	0	1,680,463	1,679,833	0.0%	316	-5	-1.58%
8383028	Sherborne Abbey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		338	1,363,877	351,902	165,354	1,881,133	0	0	1,881,133	1,820,419	3.3%	337	1	0.30%
8383052	Shaftesbury Church of England Primary School	Primary		342	1,380,018	351,721	169,017	1,900,756	0	0	1,900,756	1,873,635	1.4%	337	5	1.48%
8382020	Ferndown First School	Primary		349	1,408,264	257,464	159,027	1,824,755	0	70	1,824,825	1,833,093	-0.5%	349	0	0.00%
8383202	Wyke Regis Church of England Junior School	Primary		335	1,351,772	371,341	182,948	1,906,060	0	0	1,906,060	1,949,533	-2.2%	350	-15	-4.29%
8382025	Manor Park Church of England First School	Primary		324	1,307,385	318,515	156,966	1,782,867	0	0	1,782,867	1,905,401	-6.4%	354	-30	-8.47%
8382044	Upton Junior School	Primary		343	1,384,053	308,672	158,417	1,851,142	0	0	1,851,142	1,881,248	-1.6%	358	-15	-4.19%
8383408	Conifers Primary School	Primary		326	1,315,456	411,474	221,520	1,948,450	0	0	1,948,450	2,102,253	-7.3%	359	-33	-9.19%
8383372	Sandford St Martin's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		340	1,371,948	224,307	169,017	1,765,271	0	0	1,765,271	1,860,030	-5.1%	360	-20	-5.56%
8382040	Wimborne First School	Primary		369	1,488,967	200,859	167,130	1,856,956	44,909	0	1,901,865	1,881,506	1.1%	365	4	1.10%
8383002	Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School	Primary		354	1,428,440	381,934	167,907	1,978,281	0	0	1,978,281	2,004,516	-1.3%	372	-18	-4.84%
8382201	Chickerell Primary Academy	Primary		390	1,573,705	311,645	152,931	2,038,281	0	0	2,038,281	2,116,865	-3.7%	410	-20	-4.88%
8382024	Lytchett Matravers Primary School	Primary		414	1,670,548	218,447	162,468	2,051,463	75,915	0	2,127,378	2,146,088	-0.9%	418	-4	-0.96%
8383700	Holy Trinity Church of England VC Primary School & Community Nursery	Primary		425	1,714,935	484,384	248,715	2,448,034	0	0	2,448,034	2,438,840	0.4%	431	-6	-1.39%
8382214	Radipole Primary School	Primary		437	1,763,356	274,724	194,048	2,232,128	44,475	0	2,276,603	2,290,951	-0.6%	440	-3	-0.68%
8383701	St George's Community Primary School	Primary		409	1,650,372	447,442	161,858	2,259,672	0	0	2,259,672	2,358,342	-4.2%	443	-34	-7.67%
8382015	Damers First School	Primary		471	1,900,551	461,859	160,359	2,522,769	0	0	2,522,769	2,569,822	-1.8%	483	-12	-2.48%
			19	6,901	27,846,501	5,958,629	3,298,672	37,103,802	256,075	70	37,359,948	37,946,306	-1.5%	7,102	-201	-2.83%
8384033	West Moors Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		231	1,117,323	317,221	218,357	1,652,901	0	0	1,652,901	1,670,908	-1.1%	239	-8	-3.35%
8384020	Cranborne Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		268	1,308,495	218,213	216,392	1,743,101	0	0	1,743,101	1,932,483	-9.8%	310	-42	-13.55%
8384009	Emmanuel Middle Church of England Voluntary Aided School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,072,568	301,302	171,348	2,545,219	0	0	2,545,219	2,554,851	-0.4%	439	-2	-0.46%
8384034	Lockyer's Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,054,853	243,002	163,245	2,461,100	62,851	0	2,523,951	2,559,126	-1.4%	443	-6	-1.35%
8384802	St Mary's Church of England Middle School, Puddletown	Middle-deemed Secondary		443	2,140,262	335,764	169,572	2,645,599	0	0	2,645,599	2,615,891	1.1%	446	-3	-0.67%
			5	1,816	8,693,501	1,415,503	938,915	11,047,919	62,851	0	11,110,769	11,333,259	-2.0%	1,877	-61	-3.25%
8384029	Allenbourn Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		497	2,377,485	309,596	177,342	2,864,423	18,714	4,221	2,887,358	2,977,299	-3.0%	511	-14	-2.74%
8384031	Dorchester Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		525	2,533,952	521,039	170,238	3,225,229	0	12,173	3,237,403	3,317,118	-2.4%	536	-11	-2.05%
8384604	St Michael's Church of England Middle School, Colehill	Middle-deemed Secondary		562	2,700,968	411,947	152,882	3,265,797	0	0	3,265,797	3,377,526	-3.3%	587	-25	-4.26%
8384184	Ferndown Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		601	2,906,653	576,331	169,905	3,652,889	0	0	3,652,889	3,609,085	1.2%	608	-7	-1.15%
8384006	St Osmund's Church of England Middle School, Dorchester	Middle-deemed Secondary		709	3,424,582	552,317	152,929	4,129,829	0	0	4,129,829	4,121,684	0.2%	716	-7	-0.98%
			5	2,894	13,943,641	2,371,230	823,296	17,138,167	18,714	16,394	17,173,275	17,402,713	-1.3%	2,958	-64	-2.16%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 2 with HNB TFR -0.5% MFG

8384003	Dorset Studio School	Secondary		329	1,951,580	556,190	349,701	2,857,470	0	34,978	2,892,448	2,847,697	1.6%	336	-7	-2.08%
8384001	The Swanage School	Secondary		354	2,091,282	501,644	250,592	2,843,518	0	0	2,843,518	2,752,977	3.3%	342	12	3.51%
8384179	Sturminster Newton High School	Secondary		545	3,233,574	649,438	191,452	4,074,465	0	0	4,074,465	4,015,223	1.5%	548	-3	-0.55%
8384505	Beaminster School	Secondary		617	3,661,625	600,033	275,355	4,537,012	0	0	4,537,012	4,376,042	3.7%	604	13	2.15%
8384002	The Sir John Colfox Academy	Secondary		661	3,919,377	706,596	1,951,831	6,577,804	0	0	6,577,804	6,713,344	-2.0%	700	-39	-5.57%
8384000	All Saints' Church of England School, Weymouth	Secondary		595	3,569,051	881,911	183,225	4,634,187	0	0	4,634,187	5,396,411	-14.1%	700	-105	-15.00%
8384511	Shaftesbury School	Secondary		698	4,128,984	892,340	191,828	5,213,152	0	0	5,213,152	5,248,080	-0.7%	718	-20	-2.79%
8384007	Atlantic Academy Portland	All-through		772	4,023,795	1,149,394	183,780	5,356,969	0	0	5,356,969	5,027,552	6.6%	746	26	3.49%
8385401	The Woodroffe School	Secondary		739	4,414,369	618,816	182,115	5,215,300	0	0	5,215,300	5,445,711	-4.2%	787	-48	-6.10%
8384022	Ferndown Upper School	Secondary		908	5,561,133	974,203	309,488	6,844,824	0	0	6,844,824	6,419,474	6.6%	860	48	5.58%
8384024	The Purbeck School	Secondary		867	5,143,478	907,054	184,613	6,235,145	0	0	6,235,145	6,059,447	2.9%	864	3	0.35%
			11	7,085	41,698,249	8,437,619	4,253,977	54,389,845	0	34,978	54,424,823	54,301,958	0.2%	7,205	-120	-1.67%
8384004	The Wey Valley School	Secondary		982	5,838,013	1,460,034	195,990	7,494,036	0	0	7,494,036	7,465,451	0.4%	995	-13	-1.31%
8384510	The Blandford School	Secondary		988	5,856,071	954,626	346,950	7,157,648	0	0	7,157,648	7,105,703	0.7%	1,006	-18	-1.79%
8384504	Queen Elizabeth's School	Secondary		1,030	6,326,098	873,096	261,258	7,460,452	0	0	7,460,452	7,792,936	-4.3%	1,107	-77	-6.96%
8384512	The Gryphon School	Secondary		1,186	7,032,851	1,195,307	200,985	8,429,142	0	0	8,429,142	8,323,754	1.3%	1,199	-13	-1.08%
8384005	Budmouth College	Secondary		1,245	7,381,038	1,485,747	208,755	9,075,540	0	0	9,075,540	9,025,663	0.6%	1,262	-17	-1.35%
8384035	Lytchett Minster School	Secondary		1,285	7,624,116	1,201,600	222,630	9,048,345	0	0	9,048,345	8,854,315	2.2%	1,284	1	0.08%
8384615	The Thomas Hardye School	Secondary		1,344	8,224,623	1,432,776	230,400	9,887,799	0	0	9,887,799	9,581,024	3.2%	1,336	8	0.60%
8384503	Gillingham School	Secondary		1,391	8,258,494	1,243,142	460,725	9,962,361	0	0	9,962,361	9,741,730	2.3%	1,387	4	0.29%
			8	9,451	56,541,304	9,846,327	2,127,693	68,515,324	0	0	68,515,324	67,890,577	0.9%	9,576	-125	-1.31%
				40,985	200,526,323	37,679,091	29,374,416	267,579,830	358,928	187,773	268,126,532	268,661,701	-0.20%	41,862	-877	-2.09%

Appendix E: Funding Options

Option 3 without HNB TFR

			NOR 2026-27	Basic Entitlement	AEN	School Factors	Total Allocation	Additional Funding to meet MFL	MFG Adjustment	Revised total After MFL andMFG	Revised 2025-26 baseline (incl pay grants)	% change on 25-26	NOR 25-26	Change in NOR	% NOR change
8382037	Thorncombe, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	23	93,466	20,051	212,398	325,915	0	0	325,915	347,944	-6.3%	29	-6	-20.69%
8383350	Piddle Valley Church of England First School	Primary	34	138,167	30,295	214,344	382,805	0	0	382,805	387,282	-1.2%	36	-2	-5.56%
8382009	Cheselbourne Village School	Primary	41	166,613	37,082	221,638	425,332	0	0	425,332	401,771	5.9%	39	2	5.13%
8383352	Powerstock Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	35	142,231	28,733	213,171	384,135	0	0	384,135	393,491	-2.4%	39	-4	-10.26%
8382027	Milborne St Andrew First School	Primary	46	186,932	50,195	213,970	451,097	0	0	451,097	432,589	4.3%	45	1	2.22%
8383338	Marshwood CofE Primary Academy	Primary	46	186,932	28,714	212,238	427,884	0	0	427,884	422,117	1.4%	47	-1	-2.13%
8382014	Portesham Church of England Primary School	Primary	43	174,740	48,581	214,818	438,140	0	0	438,140	497,315	-11.9%	56	-13	-23.21%
8383376	Wimborne St Giles Church of England First School and Nursery	Primary	62	251,951	23,792	204,061	479,804	0	2,407	482,211	455,293	5.9%	56	6	10.71%
8383379	Witchampton Church of England First School	Primary	46	186,932	22,297	212,473	421,701	0	0	421,701	468,753	-10.0%	59	-13	-22.03%
8382036	St Gregory's Church of England Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	50	203,187	52,422	155,519	411,127	0	0	411,127	444,682	-7.5%	60	-10	-16.67%
8382010	Loders CofE Primary Academy	Primary	56	227,569	44,426	212,647	484,642	0	0	484,642	509,336	-4.8%	62	-6	-9.68%
8383010	Corfe Castle Church of England Primary School	Primary	65	264,142	73,921	215,092	553,156	0	0	553,156	493,888	12.0%	62	3	4.84%
8382021	Sixpenny Handley First School	Primary	57	231,633	24,120	211,009	466,762	0	0	466,762	484,829	-3.7%	64	-7	-10.94%
8383317	Cranborne Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary	61	247,888	41,363	206,952	496,203	0	0	496,203	489,654	1.3%	64	-3	-4.69%
8383377	Winterbourne Valley Church of England Aided First School	Primary	57	231,633	58,630	208,589	498,851	0	0	498,851	498,070	0.2%	64	-7	-10.94%
8382032	Sturminster Marshall First School	Primary	53	215,378	29,485	221,904	466,767	0	0	466,767	513,415	-9.1%	68	-15	-22.06%
8383009	Cerne Abbas Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	63	256,015	35,161	206,259	497,435	0	0	497,435	507,944	-2.1%	68	-5	-7.35%
8383402	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull	Primary	74	300,716	47,310	178,377	526,403	0	36,867	563,270	547,667	2.8%	71	3	4.23%
8382028	Charmouth Primary School	Primary	73	296,652	96,752	215,067	608,472	0	0	608,472	561,165	8.4%	72	1	1.39%
8382031	St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Lyme Regis	Primary	58	235,696	70,923	155,944	462,563	0	0	462,563	525,246	-11.9%	72	-14	-19.44%
8382012	Pamphill Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School	Primary	68	276,334	27,729	171,976	476,038	0	1,215	477,253	499,576	-4.5%	73	-5	-6.85%
8383311	St George's Church of England Primary School, Langton Matravers	Primary	69	280,397	41,502	155,320	477,220	0	0	477,220	485,714	-1.7%	74	-5	-6.76%
8382018	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Fontmell Magna	Primary	100	406,373	78,186	194,008	678,566	0	17,666	696,232	580,720	19.9%	77	23	29.87%
8383000	St James' Church of England First School, Alderholt	Primary	89	361,672	40,304	175,634	577,610	0	10,902	588,512	556,038	5.8%	82	7	8.54%
8382038	Three Legged Cross First and Nursery School	Primary	76	308,843	62,016	189,275	560,135	0	0	560,135	587,786	-4.7%	84	-8	-9.52%
8383007	Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	Primary	93	377,927	30,930	199,085	607,942	0	0	607,942	564,902	7.6%	84	9	10.71%
8383049	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bradford Abbas	Primary	86	349,481	39,367	204,961	593,809	0	0	593,809	575,272	3.2%	86	0	0.00%
8383321	Sticklands Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	74	300,716	49,369	214,593	564,678	0	0	564,678	601,692	-6.2%	86	-12	-13.95%
8382030	Stower Provost Community School	Primary	91	369,799	42,834	210,430	623,063	0	5,773	628,837	624,239	0.7%	90	1	1.11%
8383051	Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	90	365,736	52,411	207,470	625,617	0	0	625,617	614,762	1.8%	91	-1	-1.10%
8382013	Wool Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	94	381,991	81,794	152,775	616,560	0	0	616,560	609,714	1.1%	93	1	1.08%
8383050	Buckland Newton Church of England Primary School	Primary	88	357,608	73,066	203,147	633,821	0	0	633,821	646,533	-2.0%	93	-5	-5.38%
8383367	Thornford CofE Primary School	Primary	103	418,564	40,263	192,309	651,136	0	0	651,136	619,054	5.2%	98	5	5.10%
8382022	Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	Primary	93	377,927	51,135	207,244	636,305	0	0	636,305	667,139	-4.6%	100	-7	-7.00%
8385203	Shillingstone Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	104	422,628	86,609	194,860	704,097	0	0	704,097	665,627	5.8%	100	4	4.00%
8383332	Thorner's Church of England School, Litton Cheney	Primary	100	406,373	60,144	193,983	660,499	0	0	660,499	653,784	1.0%	101	-1	-0.99%
8383364	Symondsbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	108	438,883	74,181	187,649	700,712	0	0	700,712	661,836	5.9%	105	3	2.86%
8383058	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary	103	418,564	89,877	192,259	700,701	0	0	700,701	692,925	1.1%	107	-4	-3.74%
8383017	St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary	115	467,329	33,586	155,370	656,285	0	0	656,285	628,188	4.5%	110	5	4.55%
8383345	Salway Ash Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary	107	434,819	64,921	187,907	687,647	0	0	687,647	681,585	0.9%	110	-3	-2.73%
8382019	Bere Regis School	Primary	98	398,246	79,454	200,387	678,087	0	0	678,087	738,585	-8.2%	111	-13	-11.71%

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8382007	Dunbury Church of England Academy	Primary		122	495,775	87,612	262,115	845,502	0	0	845,502	805,292	5.0%	114	8	7.02%
8382000	Trinity CofE VA First School	Primary		128	520,157	53,766	158,916	732,839	0	0	732,839	660,280	11.0%	115	13	11.30%
8383702	Lulworth and Winfrith CofE VC Primary School	Primary		103	418,564	83,170	277,832	779,565	0	0	779,565	844,548	-7.7%	116	-13	-11.21%
8383323	Milton-on-Stour Church of England Primary School	Primary		119	483,584	80,028	164,654	728,266	0	0	728,266	707,249	3.0%	117	2	1.71%
8383005	St George's Church of England School, Bourton	Primary		116	471,393	75,876	156,467	703,736	0	0	703,736	694,465	1.3%	119	-3	-2.52%
8383363	Swanage St Mark's Church of England Primary School	Primary		94	381,991	141,670	159,194	682,854	0	0	682,854	783,684	-12.9%	120	-26	-21.67%
8383400	St Catherine's Roman Catholic School	Primary		100	406,373	82,815	155,569	644,757	0	0	644,757	730,898	-11.8%	120	-20	-16.67%
8383401	St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary		82	333,226	48,915	155,544	537,685	0	0	537,685	706,453	-23.9%	120	-38	-31.67%
8383024	Frome Valley CofE VA First School	Primary		120	487,648	90,865	159,693	738,206	0	0	738,206	741,212	-0.4%	122	-2	-1.64%
8383055	West Moors, St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	Primary		126	512,030	92,220	154,921	759,170	0	0	759,170	731,167	3.8%	123	3	2.44%
8383319	Durweston CofE VA Primary School	Primary		129	524,221	73,593	170,595	768,409	0	2,717	771,126	743,194	3.8%	123	6	4.88%
8383045	All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		125	507,966	88,448	184,204	780,618	0	0	780,618	760,444	2.7%	126	-1	-0.79%
8382006	Beaminster St Mary's Academy	Primary		139	564,858	128,072	161,262	854,193	0	49,804	903,997	845,192	7.0%	128	11	8.59%
8383342	Parrett and Axe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		131	532,349	112,520	169,055	813,924	0	0	813,924	794,834	2.4%	133	-2	-1.50%
8383026	Puddletown Church of England First School	Primary		128	520,157	80,545	160,248	760,950	0	0	760,950	782,242	-2.7%	135	-7	-5.19%
8382053	Oakhurst Community First School	Primary		141	572,986	130,498	157,490	860,974	0	0	860,974	851,364	1.1%	140	1	0.71%
8382054	Hayeswood First School	Primary		142	577,050	72,897	156,418	806,364	0	0	806,364	781,763	3.1%	141	1	0.71%
8383314	St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Child Okeford	Primary		123	499,839	74,096	176,287	750,222	0	0	750,222	806,122	-6.9%	141	-18	-12.77%
8383369	Trent Young's CofE Primary School	Primary		144	585,177	48,311	159,758	793,246	0	0	793,246	762,536	4.0%	141	3	2.13%
8383021	Maiden Newton, Greenford Church of England Primary School	Primary		143	581,113	109,111	173,364	863,589	0	0	863,589	854,125	1.1%	143	0	0.00%
8383042	St John's Church of England First School, Wimborne	Primary		148	601,432	125,864	156,293	883,589	0	0	883,589	844,493	4.6%	143	5	3.50%
8383325	Hampreston Church of England Voluntary Aided First School	Primary		134	544,540	81,265	155,569	781,375	0	0	781,375	812,671	-3.9%	145	-11	-7.59%
8382257	Henbury View First School	Primary		145	589,241	66,906	157,191	813,338	0	0	813,338	794,351	2.4%	146	-1	-0.68%
8382005	Broadmayne First School	Primary		142	577,050	74,522	166,672	818,243	0	0	818,243	830,264	-1.4%	147	-5	-3.40%
8382011	Colehill First School	Primary		147	597,368	63,195	159,138	819,701	0	0	819,701	817,222	0.3%	149	-2	-1.34%
			66	6,163	25,044,768	4,230,711	12,365,560	41,641,039	0	127,351	41,768,390	41,824,189	-0.1%	6,355	-192	-3.02%

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8383404	St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester	Primary	150	609,560	63,965	157,665	831,189	0	0	831,189	831,055	0.0%	150	0	0.00%
8383157	St Mary's Church of England First School, Charminster	Primary	145	589,241	87,633	172,660	849,534	0	0	849,534	851,694	-0.3%	150	-5	-3.33%
8382262	The Prince of Wales School	Primary	156	633,942	88,780	181,005	903,727	0	0	903,727	889,432	1.6%	157	-1	-0.64%
8382034	William Barnes Primary School	Primary	163	662,388	142,011	169,417	973,816	0	0	973,816	939,727	3.6%	159	4	2.52%
8383343	Motcombe CofE VA Primary School	Primary	146	593,305	129,825	158,792	881,921	0	0	881,921	907,732	-2.8%	160	-14	-8.75%
8382001	Bovington Primary School	Primary	180	731,471	133,434	152,878	1,017,784	0	0	1,017,784	942,284	8.0%	170	10	5.88%
8383032	Wareham St Mary Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	162	658,324	170,492	156,143	984,959	0	0	984,959	1,015,623	-3.0%	172	-10	-5.81%
8382033	Wyke Primary School	Primary	160	650,197	118,825	158,972	927,993	0	0	927,993	997,296	-6.9%	172	-12	-6.98%
8383406	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Swanage	Primary	176	715,216	126,053	158,750	1,000,019	0	0	1,000,019	1,004,857	-0.5%	182	-6	-3.30%
8383403	Spetisbury CofE VA Primary School	Primary	188	763,981	121,286	158,417	1,043,684	0	0	1,043,684	1,005,734	3.8%	183	5	2.73%
8385201	Stalbridge Church of England Primary School	Primary	189	768,045	163,323	156,443	1,087,810	0	0	1,087,810	1,048,009	3.8%	185	4	2.16%
8383047	Pimperne Church of England VC Primary School	Primary	185	751,790	108,427	161,802	1,022,019	0	0	1,022,019	1,049,826	-2.6%	188	-3	-1.60%
8383693	The Abbey CofE VA Primary School, Shaftesbury	Primary	200	812,746	152,122	155,644	1,120,512	0	0	1,120,512	1,045,454	7.2%	191	9	4.71%
8382004	Beechcroft St Pauls CofE Primary School	Primary	179	727,408	287,930	155,644	1,170,981	0	0	1,170,981	1,211,051	-3.3%	193	-14	-7.25%
8383001	Stoborough Church of England Primary School	Primary	196	796,491	91,090	159,194	1,046,775	0	0	1,046,775	1,004,060	4.3%	193	3	1.55%
8383006	Bridport, St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Primary	200	812,746	231,124	159,471	1,203,341	0	0	1,203,341	1,162,405	3.5%	199	1	0.50%
8382035	Swanage Primary School	Primary	198	804,619	122,425	157,154	1,084,197	0	0	1,084,197	1,093,960	-0.9%	199	-1	-0.50%
8383407	St Mary the Virgin CofE VA Primary School	Primary	203	824,937	125,315	160,692	1,110,944	0	0	1,110,944	1,091,749	1.8%	202	1	0.50%
8383004	Milldown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary	205	833,065	174,942	162,135	1,170,142	0	0	1,170,142	1,138,241	2.8%	203	2	0.99%
8382002	Downlands Community School	Primary	174	707,089	135,305	220,410	1,062,804	0	0	1,062,804	1,167,763	-9.0%	203	-29	-14.29%

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8383304	Blandford St Mary Church of England Primary School	Primary		209	849,320	173,699	160,137	1,183,155	0	3,778	1,186,933	1,162,248	2.1%	204	5	2.45%
8382209	Wyke Regis Infant School and Nursery	Primary		180	731,471	175,341	182,393	1,089,204	0	0	1,089,204	1,191,770	-8.6%	204	-24	-11.76%
8383670	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Weymouth	Primary		200	812,746	167,074	156,093	1,135,913	0	0	1,135,913	1,137,087	-0.1%	206	-6	-2.91%
8383655	St John's Church of England Primary School	Primary		199	808,682	241,050	157,441	1,207,173	0	0	1,207,173	1,217,551	-0.9%	206	-7	-3.40%
8382048	Hillside Community First School	Primary		221	898,084	144,085	157,316	1,199,485	0	0	1,199,485	1,105,109	8.5%	208	13	6.25%
8382216	Southill Primary School	Primary		210	853,383	132,259	170,165	1,155,807	0	0	1,155,807	1,121,996	3.0%	210	0	0.00%
8383652	St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School, Broadwey	Primary		213	865,574	180,948	156,418	1,202,940	0	0	1,202,940	1,186,046	1.4%	213	0	0.00%
8382246	St Ives Primary School	Primary		217	881,829	60,342	156,243	1,098,414	15,084	183	1,113,681	1,109,269	0.4%	216	1	0.46%
8382016	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary		205	833,065	207,759	161,469	1,202,292	0	0	1,202,292	1,245,704	-3.5%	222	-17	-7.66%
8382017	Gillingham Primary School	Primary		234	950,913	184,433	159,915	1,295,260	0	0	1,295,260	1,282,225	1.0%	233	1	0.43%
8382213	Bincombe Valley Primary School	Primary		253	1,028,124	409,715	196,268	1,634,107	0	0	1,634,107	1,521,794	7.4%	241	12	4.98%
8382026	Upton Infants' School	Primary		249	1,011,869	192,494	157,166	1,361,529	0	0	1,361,529	1,352,402	0.7%	254	-5	-1.97%
8383053	Verwood Church of England First School	Primary		263	1,068,761	139,202	159,027	1,366,990	0	0	1,366,990	1,384,315	-1.3%	269	-6	-2.23%
8382003	Bridport Primary School	Primary		267	1,085,016	236,366	162,968	1,484,350	0	0	1,484,350	1,547,228	-4.1%	292	-25	-8.56%
			34	6,675	27,125,398	5,419,073	5,566,301	38,110,772	15,084	3,961	38,129,817	37,962,698	0.4%	6,789	-114	-1.68%
8382045	Parley First School	Primary		313	1,271,947	226,234	157,241	1,655,422	0	0	1,655,422	1,616,082	2.4%	309	4	1.29%
8382050	Rushcombe First School	Primary		311	1,263,820	92,360	181,560	1,537,740	81,885	0	1,619,625	1,617,850	0.1%	311	0	0.00%
8382029	Sherborne Primary School	Primary		311	1,263,820	263,344	162,191	1,689,355	0	0	1,689,355	1,679,833	0.6%	316	-5	-1.58%
8383028	Sherborne Abbey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Primary		338	1,373,541	351,902	165,354	1,890,797	0	0	1,890,797	1,820,419	3.9%	337	1	0.30%
8383052	Shaftesbury Church of England Primary School	Primary		342	1,389,796	351,721	169,017	1,910,533	0	0	1,910,533	1,873,635	2.0%	337	5	1.48%
8382020	Ferndown First School	Primary		349	1,418,242	257,464	159,027	1,834,733	0	0	1,834,733	1,833,093	0.1%	349	0	0.00%
8383202	Wyke Regis Church of England Junior School	Primary		335	1,361,350	371,341	182,948	1,915,638	0	0	1,915,638	1,949,533	-1.7%	350	-15	-4.29%
8382025	Manor Park Church of England First School	Primary		324	1,316,649	318,515	156,966	1,792,130	0	0	1,792,130	1,905,401	-5.9%	354	-30	-8.47%
8382044	Upton Junior School	Primary		343	1,393,859	308,672	158,417	1,860,948	0	0	1,860,948	1,881,248	-1.1%	358	-15	-4.19%
8383408	Conifers Primary School	Primary		326	1,324,776	411,474	221,520	1,957,770	0	0	1,957,770	2,102,253	-6.9%	359	-33	-9.19%
8383372	Sandford St Martin's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Primary		340	1,381,668	224,307	169,017	1,774,992	0	0	1,774,992	1,860,030	-4.6%	360	-20	-5.56%
8382040	Wimborne First School	Primary		369	1,499,516	200,859	167,130	1,867,506	34,359	0	1,901,865	1,881,506	1.1%	365	4	1.10%
8383002	Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School	Primary		354	1,438,560	381,934	167,907	1,988,401	0	0	1,988,401	2,004,516	-0.8%	372	-18	-4.84%
8382201	Chickerell Primary Academy	Primary		390	1,584,855	311,645	152,931	2,049,432	0	0	2,049,432	2,116,865	-3.2%	410	-20	-4.88%
8382024	Lytchett Matravers Primary School	Primary		414	1,682,384	218,447	162,468	2,063,299	64,079	0	2,127,378	2,146,088	-0.9%	418	-4	-0.96%
8383700	Holy Trinity Church of England VC Primary School & Community Nursery	Primary		425	1,727,085	484,384	248,715	2,460,185	0	0	2,460,185	2,438,840	0.9%	431	-6	-1.39%
8382214	Radipole Primary School	Primary		437	1,775,850	274,724	194,048	2,244,622	31,981	717	2,277,320	2,290,951	-0.6%	440	-3	-0.68%
8383701	St George's Community Primary School	Primary		409	1,662,066	447,442	161,858	2,271,365	0	0	2,271,365	2,358,342	-3.7%	443	-34	-7.67%
8382015	Damers First School	Primary		471	1,914,017	461,859	160,359	2,536,235	0	0	2,536,235	2,569,822	-1.3%	483	-12	-2.48%
			19	6,901	28,043,801	5,958,629	3,298,672	37,301,102	212,304	717	37,514,124	37,946,306	-1.1%	7,102	-201	-2.83%
8384033	West Moors Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		231	1,125,240	317,221	218,357	1,660,818	0	0	1,660,818	1,670,908	-0.6%	239	-8	-3.35%
8384020	Cranborne Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		268	1,317,768	218,213	216,392	1,752,373	0	0	1,752,373	1,932,483	-9.3%	310	-42	-13.55%
8384009	Emmanuel Middle Church of England Voluntary Aided School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,087,255	301,302	171,348	2,559,905	0	0	2,559,905	2,554,851	0.2%	439	-2	-0.46%
8384034	Lockyer's Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		437	2,069,414	243,002	163,245	2,475,661	48,290	2,894	2,526,845	2,559,126	-1.3%	443	-6	-1.35%
8384802	St Mary's Church of England Middle School, Puddletown	Middle-deemed Secondary		443	2,155,428	335,764	169,572	2,660,765	0	0	2,660,765	2,615,891	1.7%	446	-3	-0.67%
			5	1,816	8,755,105	1,415,503	938,915	11,109,522	48,290	2,894	11,160,706	11,333,259	-1.5%	1,877	-61	-3.25%
8384029	Allenbourn Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		497	2,394,333	309,596	177,342	2,881,271	1,867	17,839	2,900,977	2,977,299	-2.6%	511	-14	-2.74%
8384031	Dorchester Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		525	2,551,908	521,039	170,238	3,243,185	0	9,630	3,252,815	3,317,118	-1.94%	536	-11	-2.05%
8384604	St Michael's Church of England Middle School, Colehill	Middle-deemed Secondary		562	2,720,107	411,947	152,882	3,284,936	0	0	3,284,936	3,377,526	-2.74%	587	-25	-4.26%
8384184	Ferndown Middle School	Middle-deemed Secondary		601	2,927,250	576,331	169,905	3,673,486	0	0	3,673,486	3,609,085	1.8%	608	-7	-1.15%
8384006	St Osmund's Church of England Middle School, Dorchester	Middle-deemed Secondary		709	3,448,850	552,317	152,929	4,154,096	0	0	4,154,096	4,121,684	0.8%	716	-7	-0.98%
			5	2,894	14,042,448	2,371,230	823,296	17,236,974	1,867	27,469	17,266,310	17,402,713	-0.8%	2,958	-64	-2.16%

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8384003	Dorset Studio School	Secondary		329	1,965,410	556,190	349,701	2,871,300	0	33,925	2,905,226	2,847,697	2.0%	336	-7	-2.08%
8384001	The Swanage School	Secondary		354	2,106,103	501,644	250,592	2,858,338	0	0	2,858,338	2,752,977	3.8%	342	12	3.51%
8384179	Sturminster Newton High School	Secondary		545	3,256,489	649,438	191,452	4,097,380	0	0	4,097,380	4,015,223	2.05%	548	-3	-0.55%
8384505	Beaminster School	Secondary		617	3,687,573	600,033	275,355	4,562,961	0	0	4,562,961	4,376,042	4.27%	604	13	2.15%
8384002	The Sir John Colfox Academy	Secondary		661	3,947,152	706,596	1,951,831	6,605,579	0	0	6,605,579	6,713,344	-1.6%	700	-39	-5.57%
8384000	All Saints' Church of England School, Weymouth	Secondary		595	3,594,343	881,911	183,225	4,659,479	0	0	4,659,479	5,396,411	-13.7%	700	-105	-15.00%
8384511	Shaftesbury School	Secondary		698	4,158,245	892,340	191,828	5,242,412	0	0	5,242,412	5,248,080	-0.1%	718	-20	-2.79%
8384007	Atlantic Academy Portland	All-through		772	4,052,308	1,149,394	183,780	5,385,483	0	0	5,385,483	5,027,552	7.1%	746	26	3.49%
8385401	The Woodroffe School	Secondary		739	4,445,652	618,816	182,115	5,246,582	0	0	5,246,582	5,445,711	-3.7%	787	-48	-6.10%
8384022	Ferndown Upper School	Secondary		908	5,600,542	974,203	309,488	6,884,232	0	0	6,884,232	6,419,474	7.2%	860	48	5.58%
8384024	The Purbeck School	Secondary		867	5,179,928	907,054	184,613	6,271,595	0	0	6,271,595	6,059,447	3.5%	864	3	0.35%
			11	7,085	41,993,745	8,437,619	4,253,977	54,685,341	0	33,925	54,719,267	54,301,958	0.8%	7,205	-120	-1.67%
8384004	The Wey Valley School	Secondary		982	5,879,384	1,460,034	195,990	7,535,408	0	0	7,535,408	7,465,451	0.9%	995	-13	-1.31%
8384510	The Blandford School	Secondary		988	5,897,571	954,626	346,950	7,199,147	0	0	7,199,147	7,105,703	1.3%	1,006	-18	-1.79%
8384504	Queen Elizabeth's School	Secondary		1,030	6,370,927	873,096	261,258	7,505,281	0	0	7,505,281	7,792,936	-3.69%	1,107	-77	-6.96%
8384512	The Gryphon School	Secondary		1,186	7,082,690	1,195,307	200,985	8,478,981	0	0	8,478,981	8,323,754	1.9%	1,199	-13	-1.08%
8384005	Budmouth College	Secondary		1,245	7,433,345	1,485,747	208,755	9,127,847	0	0	9,127,847	9,025,663	1.1%	1,262	-17	-1.35%
8384035	Lytchett Minster School	Secondary		1,285	7,678,145	1,201,600	222,630	9,102,374	0	0	9,102,374	8,854,315	2.8%	1,284	1	0.08%
8384615	The Thomas Hardye School	Secondary		1,344	8,282,906	1,432,776	230,400	9,946,082	0	0	9,946,082	9,581,024	3.8%	1,336	8	0.60%
8384503	Gillingham School	Secondary		1,391	8,317,019	1,243,142	460,725	10,020,886	0	0	10,020,886	9,741,730	2.9%	1,387	4	0.29%
			8	9,451	56,941,988	9,846,327	2,127,693	68,916,007	0	0	68,916,007	67,890,577	1.5%	9,576	-125	-1.31%
				40,985	201,947,252	37,679,091	29,374,416	269,000,759	277,545	196,318	269,474,621	268,661,701	0.30%	41,862	-877	-2.09%

Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	**16 January 2026**
Report Title:	**Annual review of the arrangements for early years provision**
Executive Director:	**Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children**
Report Authors: **Titles:** **Emails:**	Liz Curtis-Jones (Principal Lead for Best Start in Life) Vanessa Eddey (Early Education Funding) liz.curtis-jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk vanessa.eddey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Presenting Officers:	**Liz Curtis-Jones.** Principal Lead for Best Start in Life **Vanessa Eddey.** Team Manager, Schools Finance & Support
Report Status:	**Public**
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	**For INFORMATION** **Under Forum power/responsibility: 4(a)(i)** acting as the conduit for information relating to Children's Services budgets, and particularly schools' and early years' funding, for relevant colleagues in schools and early years settings, to ensure the work of the Schools' Forum becomes a central part of the local education context;
Recommendation(s):	• Members are asked to support a joined-up approach that brings together school-age childcare and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, while also helping improve children's early development and school readiness in Dorset • Members are invited to comment on the approach of the national childcare policy and progress to date

Reason for Recommendation(s)	To keep the Schools' Forum up to date with the local and national agendas and programme of planned business enabling us to: • improve outcomes for children • support families and attendance • align with national policy and funding • deliver value for money. • strengthen community partnerships
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	**Schools' Forum members are reminded of their responsibility to make a declaration of interest in any agenda item in which they have an interest, to the Chair or the Clerk, preferably in advance of the meeting.**

1. Executive Summary

The Childcare Act 2006, and Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance, gives local authorities a duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, childcare provision for children aged 0-14 and up to 19 for children with disabilities. The provision should be sufficient to meet the requirements of more parents/carers to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work, and for their child to access their free entitlement childcare place.

We are also required to:

a) providing information, advice, and assistance to parents on childcare provision in the area
b) providing information, advice, and training to childcare providers

We have seen significant changes in the funded childcare offer since the announcement from central Government in March 2023 to expand the 'free' childcare offer and most recently the requirement to:

- publish a Dorset 'Best Start Local Plan' by 31/03/2026
- formally carry out an annual childcare sufficiency assessment and publish following Cabinet approval (DC is due Spring 2026)
- expand and enhance the current wraparound Childcare (school-age focus)
- integrate the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme with school-age childcare and summer learning
- deliver targeted early years 'evidence based' interventions to support 76.4% of all Dorset children and 55% of children eligible for Free School Meals to achieve a Good Level of Development at the end of EYFS in 2028
- strengthen partnerships and strategic co-ordination through the Best Start in Life Local Plan

The expanded childcare offer included:

- by September 2025 eligible working parents of children from 9 months old will be entitled to 30 hours per week of free childcare during term time (38 weeks); this continues up to the child's school start date.
- from September 2026, all primary school pupils whose families require it should have access to wraparound childcare (both before and after school, 8 am–6 pm)

For the academic year 2024/2025, we have spent £32.57m on early years funding and the Early Years Early Education Funding Team have processed 22,582 claims; a 44.7% increase in claims on the previous academic year.
Aligned with the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023–2033 and underpinned by the Healthy Child Programme, the Best Start Local Plan will fulfil our statutory duties under the Children Act 2006 and 2016. It ensures universal and targeted health support from pregnancy

through early childhood, tackling inequalities early and improving social mobility. By integrating health and education priorities, we aim to raise Good Level of Development (GLD) attainment and strengthen lifelong wellbeing for every child.

2. **Wraparound care**
Dorset was allocated £2.4 million for the 2-year programme, most of which is being allocated to schools and private, voluntary, and independent providers. The programme comes to an end in March 2026, but the ambition to ensure parents and carers have sufficient school-age childcare continues into the next financial year.

To date, the programme has allocated over £1m of funding to 64 schools and childcare settings to either expand their existing provision or create new childcare before and after school. Through this funding, these settings have created over 1000 new childcare places for primary school-aged children in Dorset.

Despite the programme coming to an end in March, funding continues be allocated to settings who want to create new provision to meet local demand, and to those who require sustainability funding to keep their provision up and running. In December 2025, the government announced their commitment to ensure progress made within the 2-year wraparound programme will be continued, as well as taking on new responsibilities relating to the Free Breakfast Club Scheme and school-age childcare sufficiency.

3. **Providing information, advice, and training to early years providers**
There are 287 registered childcare providers in Dorset offering early education funding; this includes 111 childminders, 129 'group' providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors and 47 school-based nurseries. Other providers include holiday clubs and wraparound settings before and after school.

We have two central posts leading on the delivery of early years policy and strategy providing matrix management for 18 Best Start in Life Advisors across the county.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to early years settings which includes prioritising free support to those who are:
- in the process of setting up a childcare business
- registered, and not yet had their first inspection
- graded 'less than good' at their latest Ofsted inspection
- provide early education and childcare to vulnerable children and require additional support

Of the 255 settings with an inspection outcome on the 'Early Years Register', <2% are 'Less than Good' and >98% are 'Met, Good or Outstanding'.

We target support to settings who have children with additional needs referred to us from Health Services through a statutory Section 23 Notification, those with lower-level needs and those identified through the increased support offer.

Currently we are supporting 276 children across the county. We have developed an Early Years SEND Support Power BI report that will help us to share information with schools in a timely manner to ensure children and families are well supported in that move into school from the early years.

4. **IMPOWER Project - Strengthening ambition for the early years to reception pathway**
Work continues to embed Valuing SEND (VSEND) across early years and throughout our schools as we prepare for the 2026 Early Years –Reception cohort.

In partnership with Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists we are working to support inclusive practice using VSEND to identify the needs of our most vulnerable children. In addition to this, we are developing the tool to continue to focus on training needs as well as focusing on children during key phase transfer times.

Recent partnership meetings have focused on refining the VSEND tool, strengthening parent radar information, and improving readiness across settings. Locality data shows increasing uptake of VSEND, supporting more consistent planning for children with SEND.

Our aims for schools and SENCOs include:

- Improved communication and enhanced support for SENDCOs and schoolteachers
- Further rollout of VSEND practice
- Strengthened transition planning
- Continued development of both the 'EY to Reception' and 'Moving On' pathways.
- Schools and settings can expect clearer information about children joining Reception in September 2026

Our aims for children and their families:

- To benefit from a more joined-up journey and improve confidence in mainstream provision
- Supporting families to understand the school offer for their children in relation to their individual needs
- Beginning early identification and preparation for the 2027 School Risers
- Gathering parent and carer feedback to strengthen the pathway through the parent tool
- To support families those children are not attending an early years setting to access their entitlements as well as those who are considered vulnerable to achieving their full potential for example, children whose family are in the armed forces, children with Child Protection Plans or Children in Need.

5. Financial Implications.

Completion of an Early Years Spring Census drives the level of funding which is paid to Dorset Council through the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Dorset Council then distribute this funding to providers, based on a funding formula that uses actual hours the child attends the setting. This is changing to a termly census for 2026-27.

The early years entitlements are:

- the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months up to 2 years old
- the 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children
- the 15 hours entitlement for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support (FRAS, formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement)
- the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

Funding levels for providers have been set for 2025 to 2026 as follows:

- under 2s will be funded at £10.44 per hour from April 2025.
- 2-year-old funding is £7.72 per hour from 1st April 2025.
- 3-&4-year-old funding base rate is £5.71 per hour. Additional supplements are paid to settings in areas of deprivation and small settings with income levels less than £20,000 in the last calendar year.
- Early Years Pupil Premium Funding is provided when settings support children from a range of disadvantaged groups £1.00 per hour.

- Disability Access Funding (DAF) can be used to support reasonable adjustments enabling children with disabilities to access early years entitlements. This will increase from £881 per annum to £975.

6. Current funding arrangements:

- Funding comes to Dorset through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is a ringfenced grant from the government to be used in accordance with regulations.

- Allocated in **4 blocks** which are not specifically ringfenced however, there are restrictions on their use which makes movement of funding between the blocks difficult:

    1. the **Schools Block** which pays for mainstream schools' budgets
    2. a **Central Services Schools Block**
    3. the **Early Years Block** (EYB) which pays for the free entitlement to nursery funding for all 3&4 years olds for 15 hours and for those with eligible working parents for 30 hours and also for 15 hours for the 40% most deprived 2-year-olds
    4. the **High Needs Block** (HNB) which pays for pupils whose additional SEND provision cost is more than 10k (generally those with SEN).

- The Early Years Block (EYB) is based on the spring census. Current EYB values have been updated by the Spring 2025 census:

3- & 4-year-old universal	£12,059,803
3- & 4-year-old additional	£7,145,564
2-year-old - FRAS	£1,680,777
2-year-old - working parents	£10,111,635
Under 2s - working parents	£14,096,196
Early Years Pupil Premium	£394,470
Disability Access Fund	£232,624
Total Early Years Block	£45,721,068

- We have recently re-formed the Dorset Early Years Reference Group, a sub-group of the Schools Forum to ensure consultation with early years providers about funding is invited. All providers can attend however, attendance is currently low. As this is a new approach, we will continue to offer the opportunity to meet with us and provide their feedback.

- This group will be:
    - led and facilitated by the Early Education Funding Manager and has no decision-making powers but consists of representatives from early years providers.
    - providing information to feed into regular update papers for Schools Forum
    - meeting regularly to discuss early years funding related agendas

7. Capital Funding

In 2023 the DfE announced a childcare reforms programme which seeks to increase the availability of funded early years childcare, and the availability of term-time wraparound childcare for primary school aged children. To enable this, Dorset Council were allocated £550,847 from the Childcare Expansion Capital grant. Early years were allocated 80% of this figure, and the remaining 20% was allocated to the wraparound programme.

The £440,677.60 for early years has all been allocated to settings. This funding has been used to create approximately 96 new early years places through settings that have undergone refurbishments, reconfiguration or entirely new buildings. For example, Orchard Day Nursery in Verwood have created a new bespoke building to meet demand and created 24 new places for 9-month-old babies.

£110,169.40 of capital grant for the wraparound programme was fully allocated to schools and voluntary and community providers so far. This has been used towards larger purchases over £500 for the sole purpose of improving the extended/new wraparound provision, for example:

- Fixed Assets (Storage containers, play equipment)
- To create an inclusive space (Sensory area, accessible toilets)
- To make small adjustments to physical space (New lighting, fencing or carpet)

Two examples of the capital funding for wraparound provision:

- Broadmayne First School who installed a new trim trail for the children to enjoy at the club
- Beaminster St Mary's Academy who installed a new fence around their modular building to ensure children were safe and could access the outside area

8. School-based Nurseries

The School Based Nurseries Capital Grant is a one-off grant (of £150,000) available for eligible schools in England to bid for capital funding. The funding must be used solely for capital expenditure to create new nursery provision or expand existing provision.

- Eligible schools are invited to apply for funding during three phases: Phase 1 (academic year 2024 to 2025), Phase 2 (academic year 2025 to 2026) and Phase 3 (academic year 2026 to 2027).
- Dorset Council works in partnership with maintained schools and multi-academy trust leads to demonstrate support for applications by providing and submitting an approval letter or form.
- During Phase 1, three Dorset schools were successful in securing funding.
- We are currently in Phase 2 and have supported seven schools to submit applications. Several other schools have chosen to wait until Phase 3 due to the level of detail required for the application. We expect to receive outcomes during January and February and are confident that the information and guidance we provided helped schools to submit strong applications.

9. Early SEND Support Funding

Wherever possible, children in the early years with additional needs will have their needs met in their local provision and information is published online about how this funding can support their child access their early years funding entitlements. Early years settings do not have a notional SEN budget as schools do; there is an early years inclusion fund called Early SEND Support (ESS) Funding.

This funding is for children not yet statutory school age who have additional needs or a disability (SEND). It is demand-led and aimed at helping providers deliver early intervention for children lower level or emerging SEN as well as for those with an EHCP. In Dorset, we offer this to all children in the early years and do not limit eligibility to those children accessing early education funding.

ESS can be paid from either the Early Years Block (EYB) or High Needs Block (HNB). In Dorset we use the HNB for all SEN including early years. Budgets are scrutinised and we monitor the impact of demand closely.

Applications are made via the online form and parent/carer consent is required before we review the application.

10. Well-being and Health implications

Expansion of the funded childcare offer: Access to work for parents and carers will contribute towards economic growth, reduced poverty, skill development and improved quality of life for families. Access to quality early years provision supports cognitive skills, social and emotional development and communication and language skills in readiness for school.

The early years curriculum also supports physical health promoting healthy habits including nutrition and exercise. Often the early detection of developmental delays are also picked up leading to effective interventions.

11. Climate Implications

Not applicable

12. Other implications

Nothing additional identified

13. Risk Assessment
Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: **low**
Residual Risk: **low**

14. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Expansion of the funded childcare offer: As part of their consultation on the new childcare funding arrangements, the Government published an Equality Impact Assessment. Their conclusion reflected there are some positive, negative, and neutral impacts however, overall, the decision was taken to roll out the new arrangements.

Through the provision of information, advice and training we support providers to consider all aspects identified in the equalities impact assessment, carry out risk assessments and support settings to plan for mitigations

15. Appendices

No additional information provided

16. Background Papers

No additional information provided

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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