

Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	3 July 2026
Report Title:	Funding formulae for 2027-28: Timetable for Consultation
Executive Director:	Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children
Corporate Director:	Jen Furnell, Corporate Director Education & Learning
Report Author: Title: Tel: Email:	Ross Bowell Head of Service – Health, Education and SEND Commissioning 01305 225535 ross.bowell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Presenting Officer:	Ellen Eager, Sufficiency and Funding Manager Health, Education & SEND Commissioning, Commissioning and Partnerships, People – Children Directorate
Report Status:	Public
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	For CONSULTATION Under Forum power/responsibilities: 1(b) (i), (ii), (vii), (viii), (x), (xi) Central spend on Pupil Growth; Admissions; Central Spend on Early Years Block (EYB) Provision; servicing of Schools' Forum, and contribution to responsibilities local authorities hold for all schools 2(a) formula changes including redistributions of school and early years funding 2(b)(iv) administering the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the local authority. 2(d) such other matters concerning the funding of schools which the LA sees fit 2(f) 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.
Recommendation(s):	That Schools' Forum:

	• notes the proposed timeline for consultation for Dedicated Schools Grant Funding formulae for 2027/28. • Provides feedback on the proposal for a mainstream working group
Reason for Recommendation(s):	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 This report sets out the proposed timeline for consultation for Dedicated Schools Grant Funding formulae for 2027/28.	
2. Financial Implications None	
3. Climate Implications None	
4. Other implications None	
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 This is a legislative issue in relation to the constitution of Schools' Forum which requires us to ensure that continuous arrangements are in place for the Council to consult with a legally constituted body over decisions relating to the Schools' Budget as required by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Schools' Forum (England) Regulations 2012, as amended	
6. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Not Applicable	
7. Appendices Appendix A - The Use and Impact of Mainstream Specialist Funding in Dorset (2025/26)	
8. Background Papers	

[Schools' Forum \(England\) Regulations 2012 as amended by subsequent School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations](#)

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.

Report:

This report sets out the proposed timeline for consultation for Dedicated Schools Grant Funding formulae for 2027-28.

Schools' Forum consultation timelines are in large part dictated by:

- the publication of information (e.g. Provisional DSG allocations usually in the 3rd week of December and Early Years Funding Rates usually in late November) and
- deadlines for submission of information (e.g. the Authority Proforma Tool to the DfE by 3rd week in January and funding statements to early years' providers by the end of February.

The table below sets out the expected consultation dates through Forum. These dates are provisional and can be affected by changes to publication dates and submission deadlines, as well as by any changes in regulations relating to Dedicated Schools Grant funding or the operation of Schools Forum.

Block	Formulae	Meeting
Schools	Exceptional Circumstances	06 November 2026
Schools	De-delegation (maintained)	06 November 2026
Schools	Education functions	06 November 2026
Schools	Block transfer (if requested)	06 November 2026
Schools	Main formula elements	15 January 2027
Early years	All	15 January 2027
Central Services	All	15 January 2027
High needs	All	26 March 2027

Officers also work with specific groups through the year to inform the formal Forum consultations and the effective, efficient allocation of funding through the DSG formulae, e.g. the DALCH – Learning Centre Heads, Special School heads through SSHAD, and the Early Years Reference Group.

We propose to add a mainstream school working group during 2026-27, initially focused on the High Needs Block and SEND reform, specifically on reviewing top-up funding methodologies including banding, costed provision, exceptional funding and mainstream specialist top-ups. We would appreciate feedback on this proposal from Forum members.