

Dorset Scheme for Financing Schools 2026

Consultation with Maintained Schools

Launch date	7 September 2026
Closing date	14 September 2026 at 5:00pm

Introduction

This consultation seeks the views of Dorset maintained schools on proposed amendments to the Dorset Scheme for Financing Schools.

Why are we consulting with you?

Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain, to meet the provisions of Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Schedule 14 to that Act.

When making any changes to their schemes, they must consult all maintained schools in their area and then obtain the approval of the members of their schools' forum representing maintained schools, except in the case of presentational changes and changes known as 'directed revisions' requested by the Secretary of State.

How to respond

Please complete the online consultation form by [clicking here](#). Should you need any support with completing the constellation form please use the contact details below.

Publication of results

An analysis of your responses will be published with the Schools' Forum papers on Friday 18 September 2026. This will enable Schools' Forum members to reflect upon what you have said before they meet on Friday 25 September 2026

Contacts

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Queries regarding the contents of the Scheme: Vanessa Eddey

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Change 1: Retention of Financial Records

A new requirement has been added requiring schools to retain financial records, invoices, payroll records and supporting documentation for at least seven years and make them available when required for audit, inspection or investigation.

Do you agree with the proposed addition regarding financial record retention?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

Change 2: Financial Reporting and Chart of Accounts

Section 4.2 has been updated to clarify financial reporting requirements and alignment with the Local Authority chart of accounts, coding structure, and reporting requirements.

Do you agree with the proposed revisions to financial reporting requirements in Section 4.2?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

Change 3: Financial Systems Used by Schools

A new section has been added setting out expectations for schools operating their own financial systems and ensuring information can be provided in the format required by the Local Authority.

Do you agree with the proposed new section covering chart of accounts and financial reporting requirements?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: