

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PUPIL GROWTH FUNDING FOR 2022/23**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Early Years & Schools Forum (the Forum) on the distribution to schools of the 'Growth Funding' element of the Schools Block for 2022/23.
2. To agree the methodology for funding secondary schools and academies for temporarily admitting pupils over PAN, at the request of NCC, due to Basic Need.

### **Information and Advice**

3. For 2022/23 the ESFA allocated Nottinghamshire £4.217 million (£3.562 million 2021/22) through their growth formula as part of the Schools Block of the DSG.
4. The ESFA's 'Schools revenue funding 2022 to 2023 Operational guide' states that the growth fund can only be used to:
  - support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
  - support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
  - meet the costs of new schools – pre and post start up.
5. Agenda item 3b of the February 2022 Schools Forum meeting detailed the amount of growth funding that NCC had committed through variations of pupil numbers for 2022/23. £1.838 million was committed to new and growing schools and schools that have been required to expand due to Basic Need. The paper also stated that, following the pupil number variations, a balance of £2.379 million of the 2022/23 growth funding allocation remained uncommitted.

### **2022/23 Secondary Growth Fund Allocations**

6. In June 2019 Schools Forum agreed that secondary schools and academies that are expanded, or are consistently admitting pupils over PAN, due to Basic Need, should be funded through the variation of pupil numbers in the local funding formula.
7. For primary to secondary transfers in September 2022, NCC has had a shortage of year 7 places available in some areas. NCC therefore approached schools and academies to admit pupils over PAN as a 'bulge' year group. The shortage of places was due to an increase in the number of pupils requiring a year 7 school place and delays to the delivery of projects to create additional secondary school places.

8. The methodology for funding additional pupils, admitted as part of a bulge year, must be approved by Schools Forum. The DfE's Schools operational guide 2022 to 2023 states that: Methodologies for distributing funding could include:
  - a lump sum payment with clear parameters for calculation (usually based on the estimated cost of making additional provision for a new class, or the estimated start-up costs)
  - a per-pupil rate (usually based on age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU), and reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share)
  - a per-pupil rate, with a maximum ceiling
9. NCC officers feel that a fair and logical method of funding these additional pupils would be to use the minimum per pupil funding level for the academic year. For 2022/23 this would be £5,525 per pupil. Any clawback of funding will be at the discretion of the LA.
10. Table one, below, shows the number of additional places that secondary schools and academies have agreed to admit as 'bulge' year groups and the funding that would be allocated if the 2022/23 MPP was used.

Table one – additional funding allocated for bulge year groups if using MPP, £5,525 per pupil

	PAN	PST offered	Additional pupils	Funding Sept 2022 to March 2023	Funding April 2023 to August 2023
Alderman White School	145	160	15	£ 48,343.75	£ 34,531.25
Bramcote College	120	150	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Carlton Academy	230	260	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Carlton le Willows Academy	300*	330	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Chilwell School	180	210	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Kirkby College	150	180	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Quarrydale Academy	240	270	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
Queen Elizabeth's Academy	180	210	30	£ 96,687.50	£ 69,062.50
South Wolds Academy	150	210	60	£ 193,375.00	£ 138,125.00
<b>Total Allocations</b>			<b>285</b>	<b>£ 918,531.25</b>	<b>£ 656,093.75</b>

\*PAN 240 but consistently offer 300 at PST

### **2022/23 Primary Growth Fund Allocations**

11. NCC have historically used the growth funding to ensure that infant class sizes are not breached, and primary schools do not experience financial detriment as a result of Basic Need expansion.
12. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 25 for the Autumn and Spring terms throughout the lifetime of the growth, i.e., from NCY R to 6.
13. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 15 (1/2 Form of entry) in NCY R, 2, 3 and 5 for the Autumn and Spring terms.
14. Schools Forum has agreed previously to revenue fund schools where exceptional or over PAN allocations have taken place resulting in unavoidable breaches of infant classes. The level of funding to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
15. The number of primary commitments for 2022/23 is very low. This is reflective of the recent reduction in the number of year R pupils entering schools and an overall fall in the primary

school population. **Appendix A** illustrates the fall in the number of pupils requiring a year R place in Nottinghamshire over the last five years.

16. **Appendix B** lists the primary schools that are eligible to receive allocations of growth funding, as per the criteria listed in paragraphs 12 to 14, in financial year 2022/23.
17. Two academies are eligible to receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> term of financial support, relating to Summer term 2022, payable in financial year 2022/23. This funding amounts to **£33,064**.
18. The arrangements for funding growth in academies is such that the ESFA fund the summer term allocation via a reduction in recoupment from the Schools Block of the DSG. When completing the APT, NCC informed the ESFA of the summer term payments for the two academies. Therefore, a net impact of the summer term payments for academies is **£0**.
19. **£534,895** has been cumulatively allocated to Multi Academy Trusts that have been selected to sponsor presumption free schools scheduled to open in September 2022. This funding is the pre-opening grant that is paid by NCC to support schools with lead in costs prior to opening.
20. Two schools require funding to mitigate the impact of lagged funding due to previous basic need expansions either by PAN + 15 (1/2 FE) or by PAN + 25 (1 FE). These schools will be funded for the Autumn 22 and Spring 23 terms. These payments amount to **£69,278**.
21. Schools eligible for PGF due to breaches in infant class size will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2022.
22. Schools expanded previously which are not recruiting to a sufficiently high level to justify lagged funding have been removed.
23. The total cost of commitments identified in this report for financial year 2022/23 will be **£1.523 million**.
24. The unallocated balance of growth funding for 2022/23 is £0.857m. This has been retained and effectively ring fenced for future growth in the Non-ISB reserve. This approach will protect against the uncertainty around the level of growth funding in future years. The cumulative ring-fenced reserve for future growth now stands at **£6.526 million**.

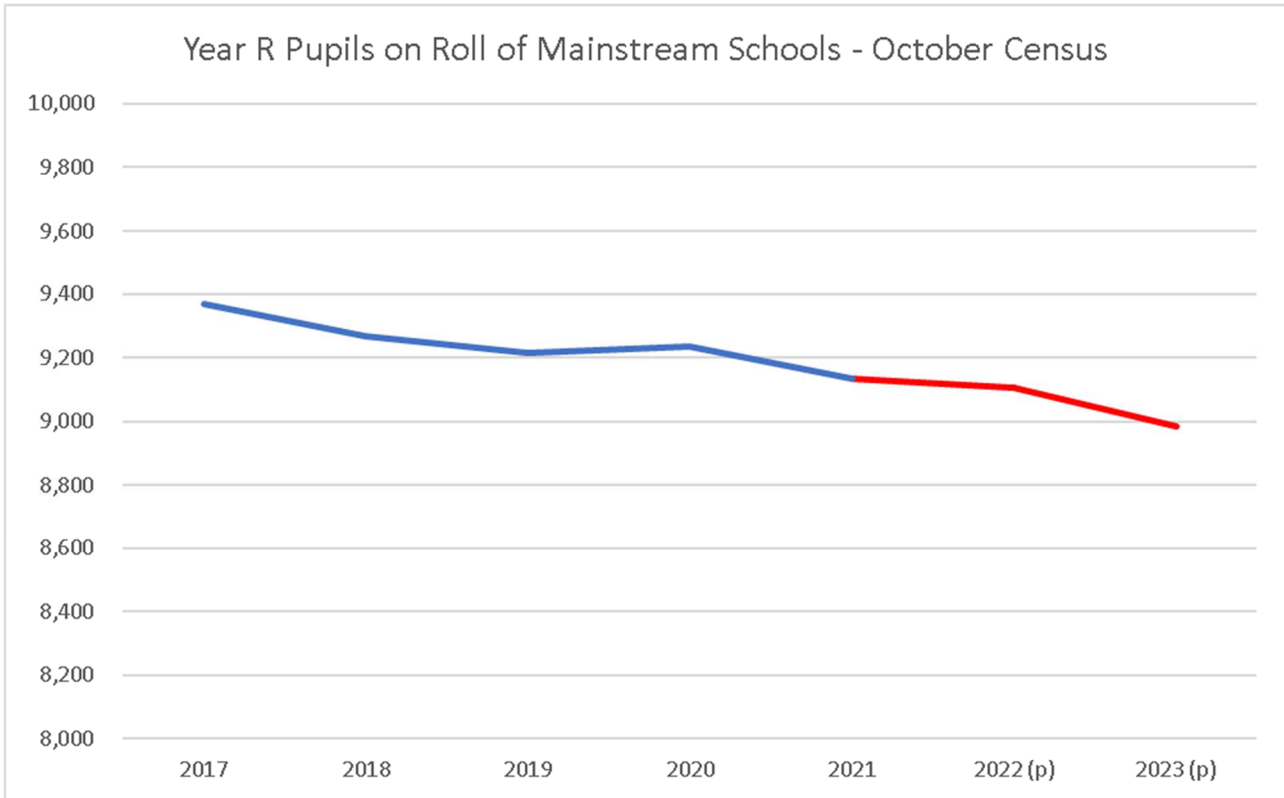
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That the Schools Forum:

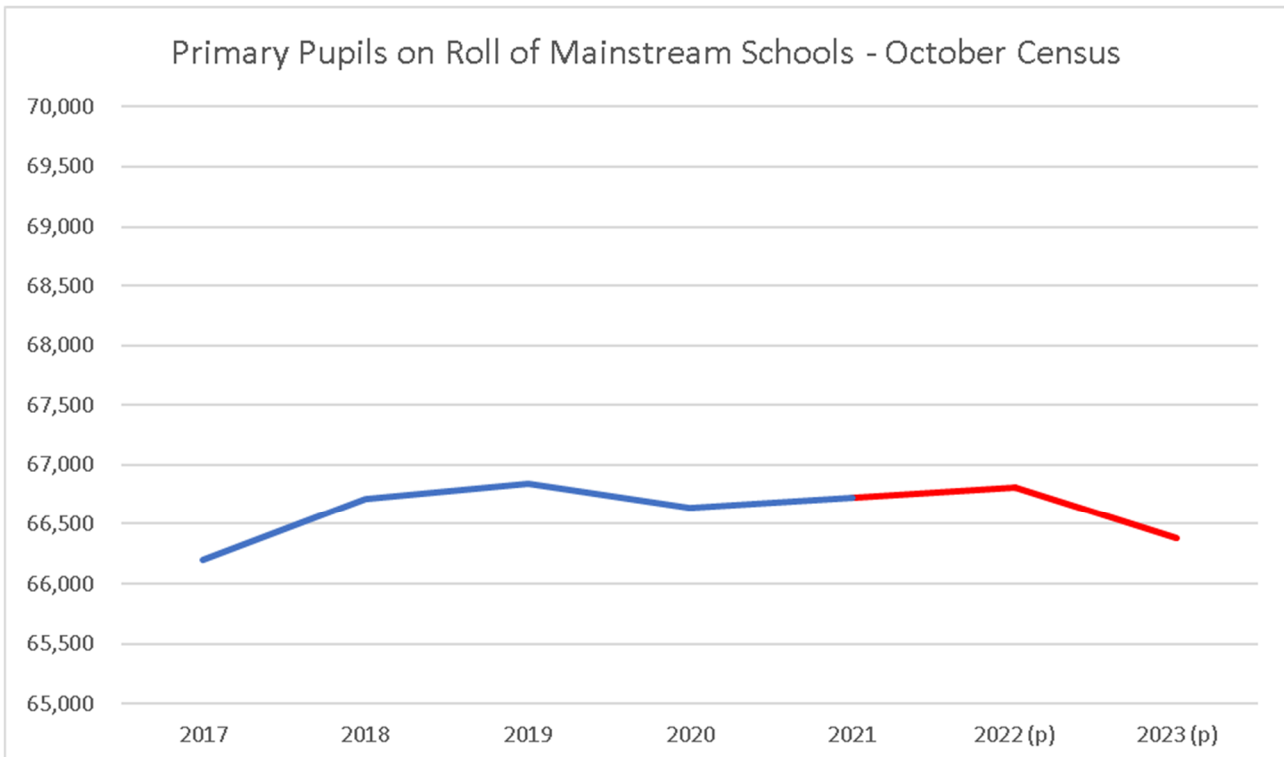
1. Notes the content of the report and agrees the allocations listed in **appendix B** for payment to primary schools for 2022-23.
2. Agrees the methodology for funding secondary schools and academies for admitting additional pupils, as a bulge year group, due to Basic Need.
3. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2022-23.

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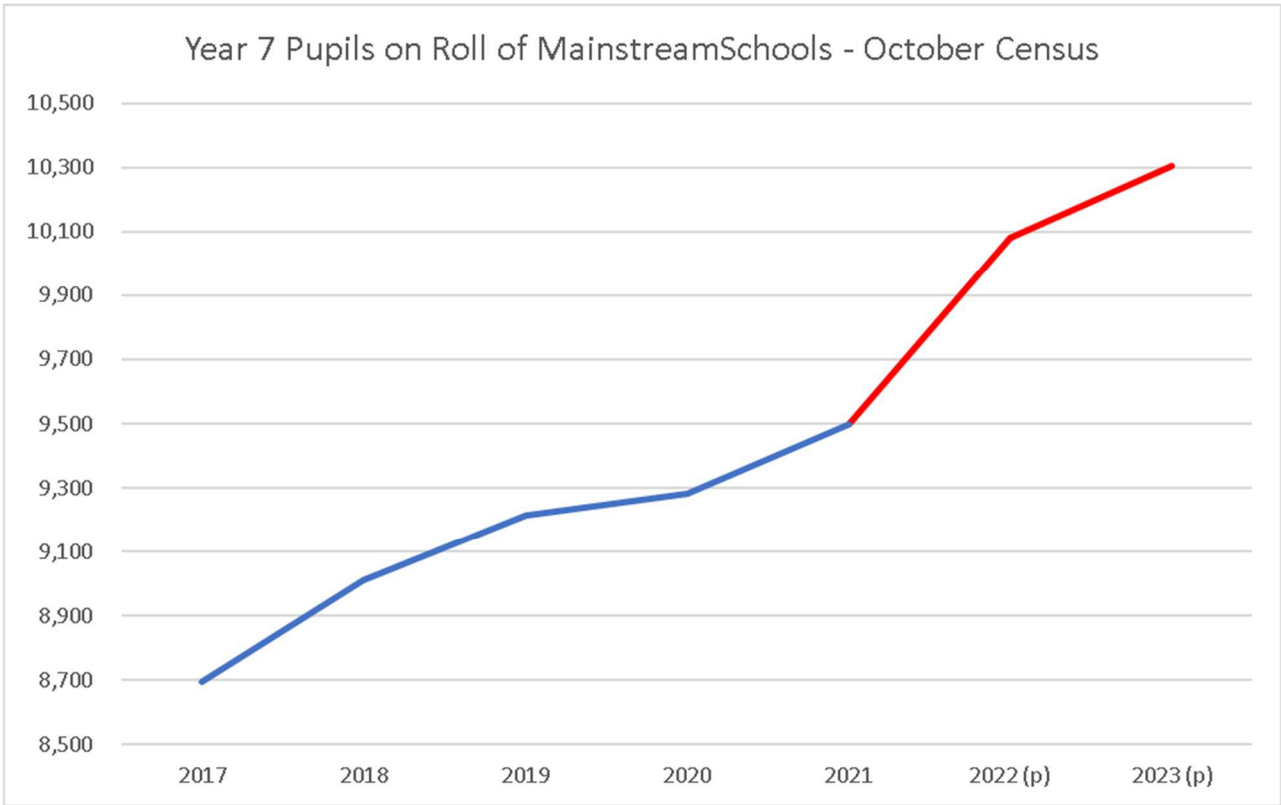
**Pupil Number Data and Projections**



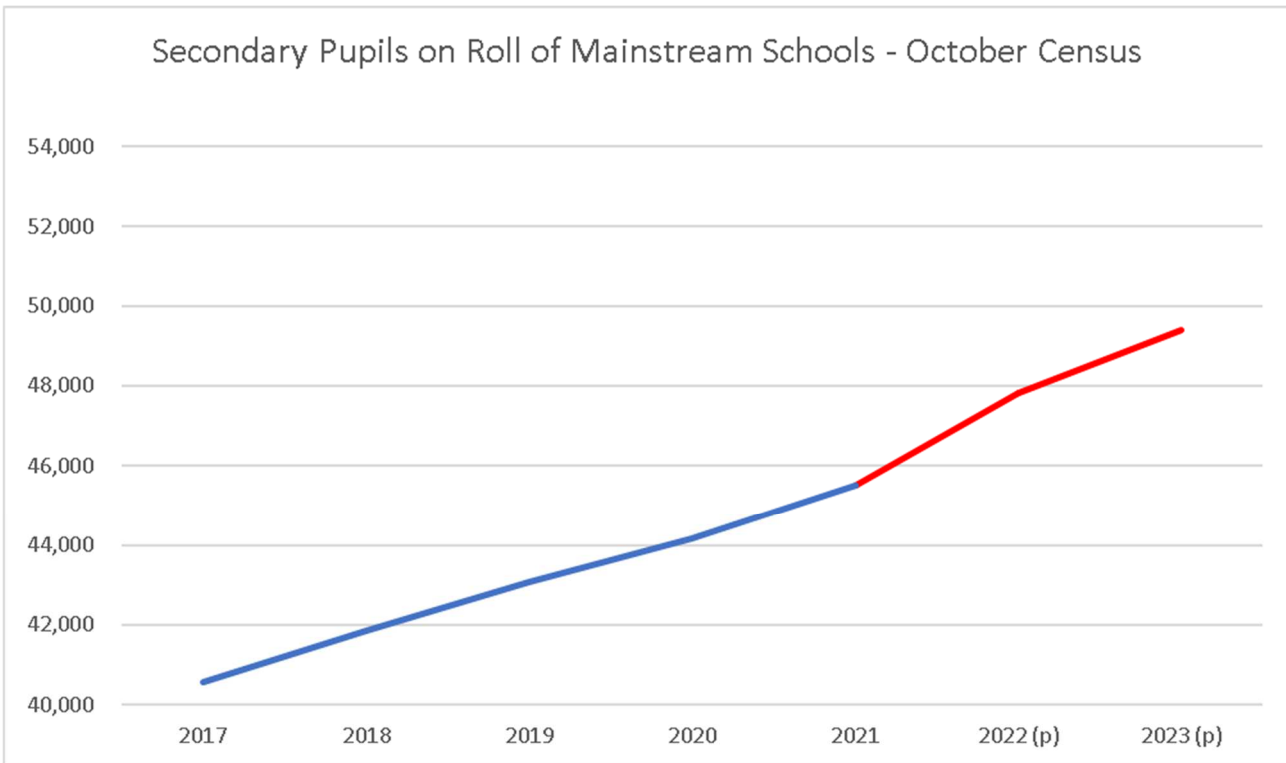
(p) represents projected demand



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**Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2022****Appendix B****A 3<sup>rd</sup> term commitments agreed in 2021 – Summer 2022**

		£
Heymann Primary School	Rushcliffe	16,532
Mapplewells Primary School	Ashfield	16,532
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>33,064</u></b>
Academies recouped through APT x 2 Mapplewells Primary School and Heymann Primary School		-33,064
<b><u>Net Total</u></b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**B Free School revenue funding**

Pre-opening grant for free schools to open in September 2022 – Millside Spencer Academy, Rivendell Flying High Academy and Bingham Primary Academy.

<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>534,895</u></b>
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**C PAN Increase due to basic need – 2 terms support – Autumn 2022 & Spring 2023**

Brookside Primary School	Rushcliffe	34,639
Chetwynd Primary Academy	Broxtowe	34,639
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>69,278</u></b>

<b><u>Total Forecast Expenditure 2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>604,173</u></b>
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NB Any ICS breach will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2022.