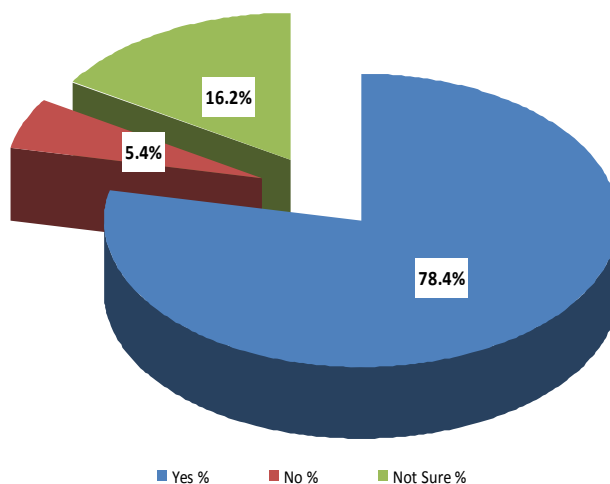


School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 1:

Q1: Do you agree that the primary to secondary ratio should be maintained at 1:1.265 for the 2014-15 financial year?



Comments

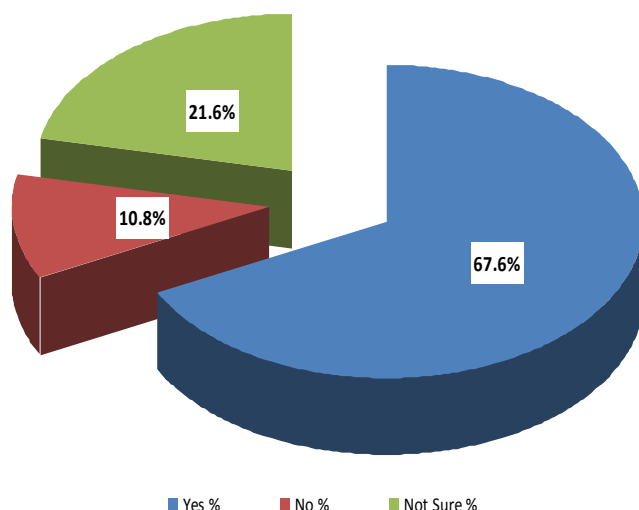
- I think we need a clearer understanding about why, there is such a discrepancy in funding between the 2 phases. Especially as secondary schools clearly have much greater pupil numbers, who contribute to school running costs. A small tweak in favour of the primary schools would probably make a big difference to us and a less significant dent in secondary budgets.
- As already broadly in line with national average.
- Would like to know how it would affect budgets if the ratio was adjusted slightly e.g. 1: 1.25.
- Yes but it is not enough funding in a small primary school.
- Would prefer better weighting to primary!
- Better weighting towards Primary would enable interventions to start earlier so that less problems in secondary.
- The ratio should be in line with the national average 1:1.27. If the indications are that there will be a national ratio in 2015-2016 then it seems sensible to make that adjustment now so that schools can start to prepare for the impact of the national change.
- Would seem fair.
- Last year, heads requested that more work was done on why secondary schools require more money per pupil than primaries; e.g. particularly the high resource demands for very young children. The detail given in the consultation document doesn't say why the disparity should exist.
- Is generally fair.
- Would seem fair.
- We believe that Secondary schools more funding per pupil due to the specialist equipment required. However it is difficult to determine whether the ratio is appropriate. There should be no reduction in Primary funding.
- But I would prefer that this actually matched the national average.
- Keeping the ratio the same should enable calculations to be formulated on an equitable basis.
- It reflects the national average.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 2:

Q2: Do you agree that the 2013-14 AWPU rates should be proportionally adjusted in order to maintain the overall primary to secondary funding ratio of 1:1.265 for 2014-15?



Comments

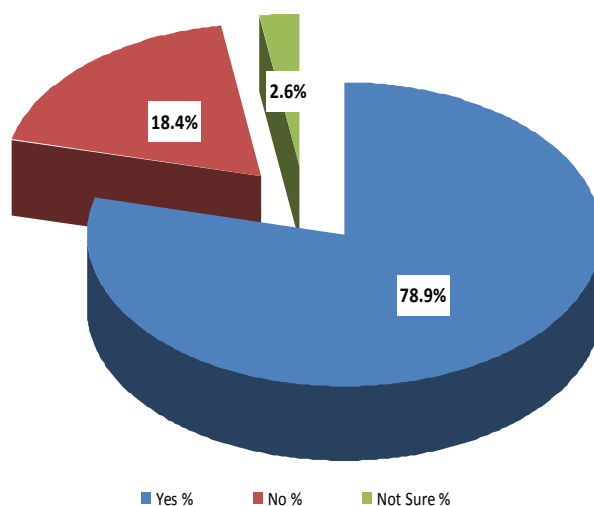
- In a small school can't afford AWPU to drop below £2930.
- The potential options outlined could mean a reduction in Primary AWPU and this would have significant negative impact on our budget position. The consultation notes didn't clarify impact for us and hence we've chosen 'not sure'.
- Would like to know how it would affect budgets if the ratio was adjusted slightly e.g. 1: 1.25.
- We are unsure about the rationale that suggests that older children are more expensive to teach.
- It should be adjusted in favour of primary schools to give children a good start.
- If ratio kept, yes.
- Needs to be done to achieve above.
- They should be adjusted in order to meet the national average ratio of 1:1.27.
- To achieve above this needs to be a yes.
- See answer for question 1. Until this question is resolved, there should be no such assumption.
- I would think this needs to be the case to achieve the above.
- Unable to comment.
- It is my opinion that the AWPU aspect of the formula should be as high as possible to maintain the funding per pupil.
- As with questions 1 it maintains the balance of funding.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 3:

Q3: Do you agree that the same percentage of total funding, deprivation indicators and weightings should be used to allocate deprivation funding in 2014-15?



Comments

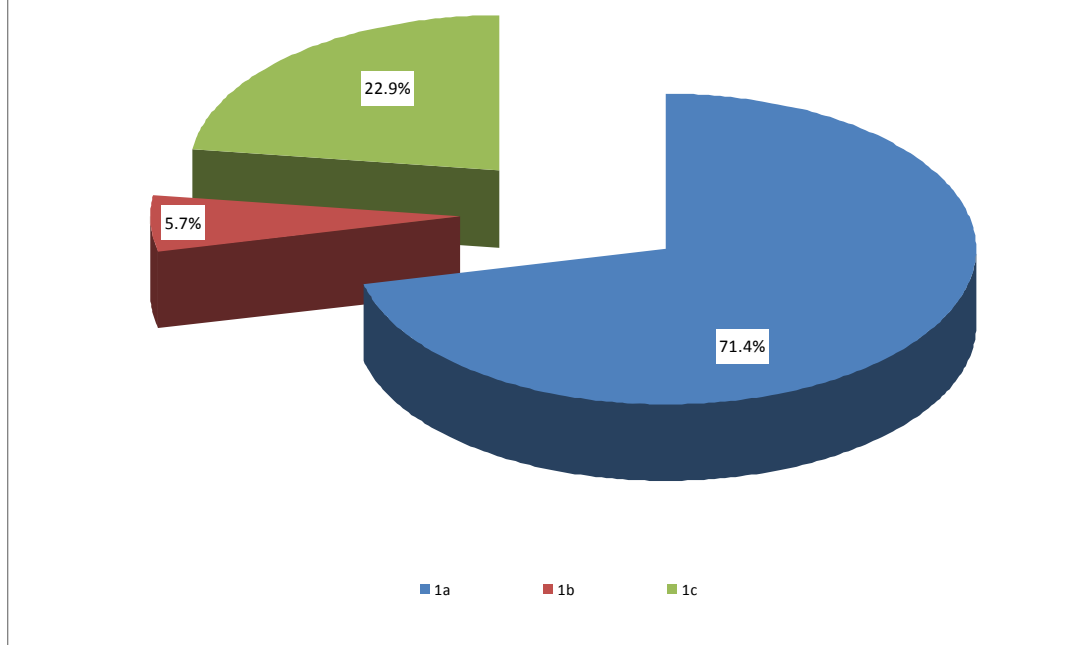
- Greater weighting should be given to FSM as IDACI doesn't identify pockets of deprivation that exist within a generally un-deprived area. Some significantly un-deprived cancel out the few deprived.
- While deprivation funding is not a significant factor in our school context we have benefited from separate PP funding this year and believe same balance of allocation should be maintained.
- Neither FSM or IDACI are ideal as they do not always present a true picture but they are the best that we have.
- Greater weighting given to FSM as areas that are perceived as relatively 'well off' can still have pockets of deprivation.
- Greater weighting should be given to FSM as IDACI doesn't identify pockets of deprivation that exist within a generally un-deprived area. Some significantly un-deprived cancel out the few deprived.
- IDACI doesn't identify pockets of deprivation that exist within all areas. So un-deprived cancel out the few deprived. Greater weighting should be given to FSM.
- Greater weighting should be given to FSM as IDACI doesn't identify pockets of deprivation that exist within a generally un-deprived area. Some significantly un-deprived cancel out the few deprived.
- My preference would be that this is lowered. Deprivation is addressed through the pupil premium.
- This may have a negative impact on our budget as our catchments is increasingly wider as we take just under 50% of pupils from out of catchments which may skew our deprivation factors.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 4:

Q4: Which of the options (1a, 1b or 1c) do you think is the most appropriate for distributing funding through the prior attainment factor?



Comments

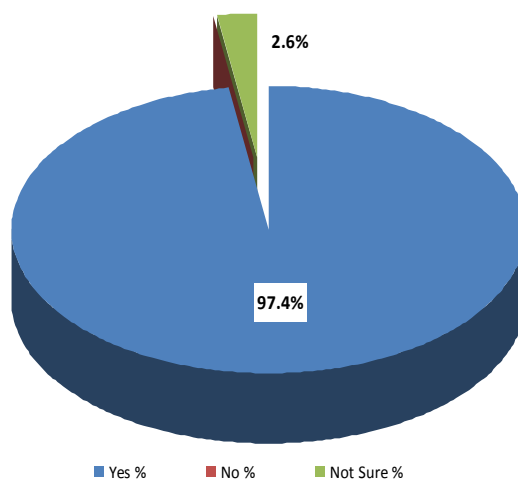
- I think prior attainment should be what it says and mean prior to a child starting school, so prior attainment for most primary schools should be measured on achievement on entry to foundation stage, not on exit.
- If primary schools put early intervention in, then secondary schools need less intervention.
- Given our school context option 1a indicates a manageable loss to 14/15 funds however other options are indicative of much greater loss which would be difficult to manage without negative impact.
- So long as there is a gains cap in place.
- This model requires no additional funding and the impact on the AWPU across the three phases is even.
- Different options will have different outcomes for schools.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 5:

Q5: Do you agree that a fixed unit value of £3,000 should be used to allocate funding through the Looked after Children factor in 2014-15?



Comments

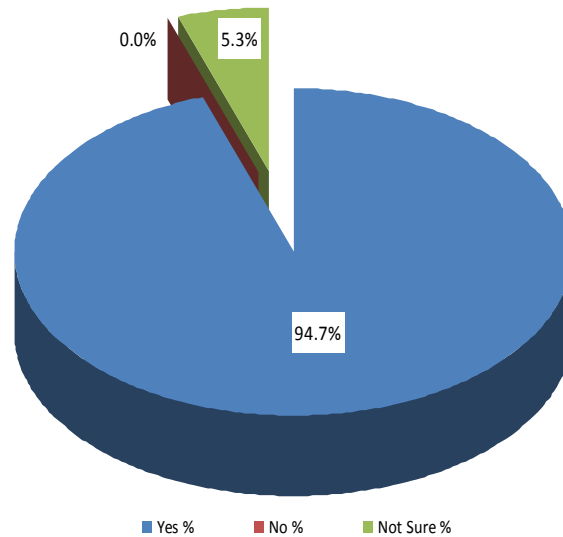
- The significant need of these pupils incur costs related to legal responsibilities mean this is needed. LAC are not always found in deprived areas. Often high frequency in un-deprived areas as children are placed in foster care.
- We think this is an appropriate level of funding.
- Money should go to the children as they bring significant needs and can be fostered in perceived 'affluent' areas.
- The significant need these pupils come with and costs related to legal responsibilities mean this is needed.
- Again LAC is not always found in deprived areas. Often in un-deprived areas as children are placed in foster care.
- Not having had any LAC in the last academic year, I cannot comment on the effectiveness of this proposal.
- The significant need these pupils come with and costs related to legal responsibilities mean this is needed.
- Again LAC is not always found in deprived areas. Often high frequency in un-deprived areas as children are placed in foster care.
- I would be opposed to this being increased above £3,000.
- Yes, however this should be based on pupils in school when they enter not based on January Census which means that some LAC may be waiting for funding.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 6:

Q6: Do you agree that the same percentage of total funding should be allocated through the EAL factor with a single unit value in 2014-15?



Comments

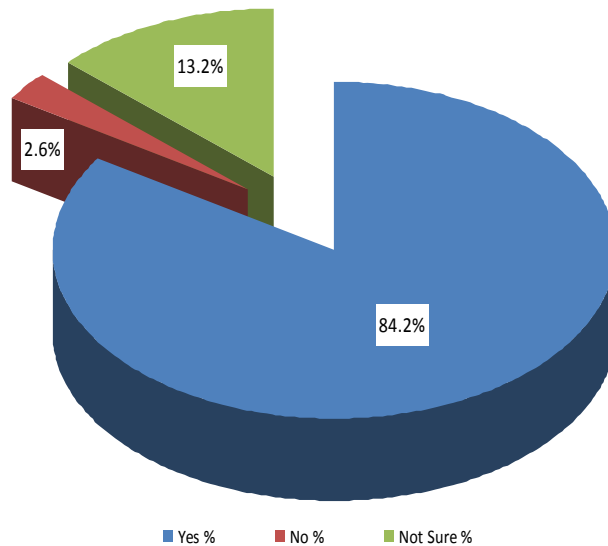
- This a key factor in our context with a large numbers of pupils who have EAL. We therefore think from experience 3 yrs is an appropriate funding phase from initial start at school.
- I would be opposed to the percentage funding being above its current level.
- As long as EAL is recorded accurately at each census.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 7:

Q7: Do you agree that the same percentage of total funding should be allocated through the pupil mobility factor in 2014-15, with an increased single unit value to reflect the reduced eligibility?



Comments

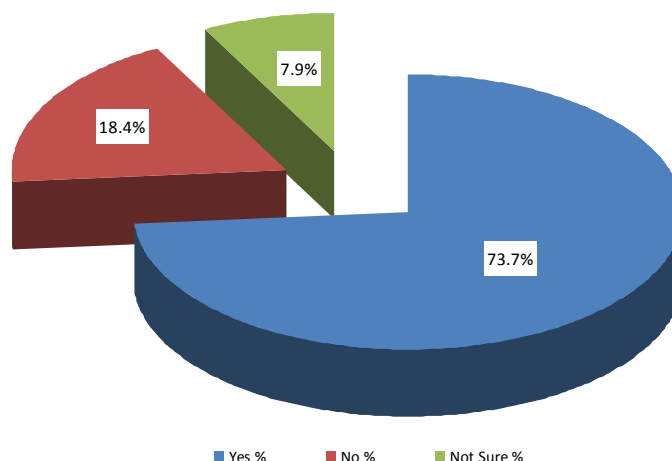
- Not knowledgeable enough to make a judgement.
- May impact on the status quo and may make staffing structure more difficult to plan for.
- The same percentage of funding allocations is agreed, but why increase the unit value? Savings made could be used to benefit more schools.
- Mobility is an increasing issue for our school and this funding should have an increased single unit value.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 8:

Q8: Do you agree with the proposal not to adopt a sparsity factor for the 15 primary schools identified as eligible under the DfE criteria?



Comments

- We are a small school - 141, but our children live within 2 miles. We would therefore be penalised.
- Only 4 of the 15 would actually benefit! Why is this – we are one of the school with a sparsity factor but wouldn't gain financially???
- As long as something else is put in place for small schools.
- Providing this does not work to the detriment of small schools i.e. they get the money elsewhere.
- We are aware of local schools which would benefit in part, but an increased lump sum would be of greater benefit to them.
- On balance, the negative impact on all Primary schools is not worth the positive impact on just 15 small schools.
- Small schools are already supported by the lump sum.
- Only 4 of the 15 would actually benefit!
- Even though I am one of the schools that would benefit, it only effects 15 schools.
- I understand the point being made about impact on other schools but my school is one of the 15!
- I think the proposal is written in a confusing way asking do you agree with the proposal not to adopt a Sparsity factor. Adopting a Sparsity factor would significantly benefit our school, although I understand we would be one of the few schools that would benefit from this and I would rather greater weighting be given to increasing the lump sum.
- As a school which would benefit from the sparsity factor, I still agree not to adopt this as the lump sum increase would benefit us and more of the other local schools.
- The school incurs additional costs due to its isolated location. ICT services are limited and costs are incurred each time pupils travel. Heating and non-mains drainage are also extra costs.
- More equitable.
- This may have a detrimental impact on schools in certain areas, although the number of schools eligible may negate this.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 9: What value do you think would be appropriate to support these schools?

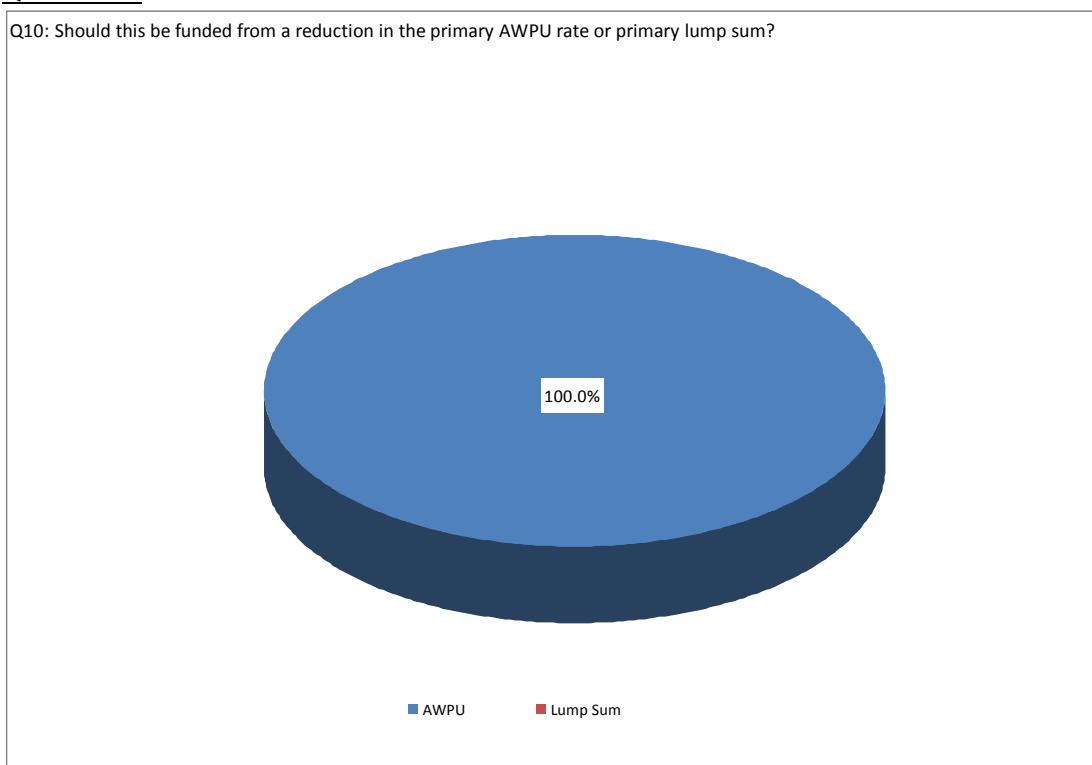
No graph available

Comments

- Support should come via lump sum increase
- These schools need some additional lump sum to offset the effect that other changes make.
- Fixed amount per school for primary £10,000
- £10,000

Question 10:

Q10: Should this be funded from a reduction in the primary AWPU rate or primary lump sum?



Comments

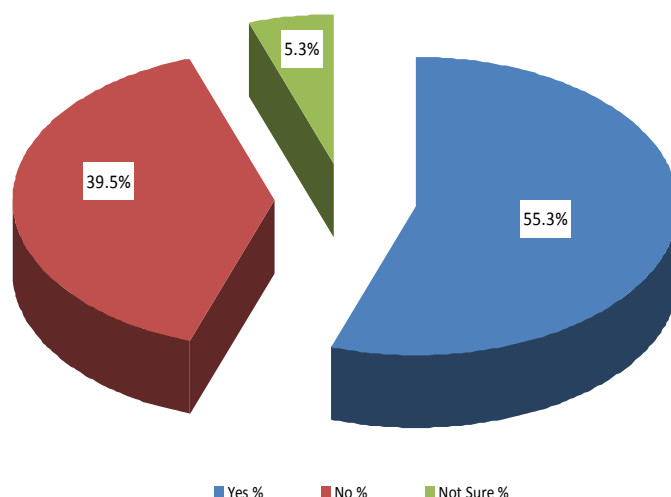
- NEITHER - should be a separate funding pot specially for this.
- Lump sum was the other factor/tool DfE suggested LA's should use to address the unexpected/unintended disproportional impact last year's arrangements had had on small schools.
- Sparsity funded from Primary AWPU.
- By doing that, in theory we would lose approximately £130 from the AWPU, but would gain £10770 to fund the incremental costs of our location.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 11a:

Q11a: Do you agree with the proposal to keep the lump sum the same in 2014-15 for the primary phase?



Comments

- Lump sum in Notts was well below that national average. Amount awarded to pupil led factors was 90% which was well in excess of national average. As such the two mean small schools were doubly disadvantaged by the Notts formula last year.
- The DfE review clearly states schools' forums should consider how they will address the significantly negative impact new arrangements had on small schools last year. The lump sum is the tool for doing this as sparsity has been modelled to show it wouldn't achieve this aim in Notts.
- Increasing the primary lump sum to around £130,000 would mean that the Notts lump sum would be closer to national averages (but still below!) and the percentage awarded to pupil led factors would drop down to be closer to national figures but still remain well in excess of national average.
- Keep it at £100k for all – fairest balance between all size schools.
- Last year the formula disadvantaged small schools by a disproportionate amount. The lump sum is the best way to redress this.
- For years we received a lump sum well below national averages and amount awarded to pupil led factors is above national average- this is a double whammy for small schools. DfE has already said the negative funding impact on small schools needs to be addressed- the lump sum is the primary mechanism for this. Increasing the lump sum would put us nearer national averages and the subsequent reduction in pupil led factors would again place us nearer national averages.
- The lump sum is a life saver to small schools and a negligible amount (in proportion to AWPU generated funding) to larger schools.
- We are a small school where AWPU & pupil premium are not consistent factors, an increase in the lump sum would help small schools.
- An increased amount of lump sum would go some way to supporting small schools. This also would mean we would rely less heavily on the minimum funding guarantee which surely demonstrates that an increased lump sum means this is a fairer model for small schools. We have no indication as to how long the MFG will last, so we have to ensure that we are protected.
- We would be one of the very few it would benefit.
- The sparsity model did not address the negative impact on small schools in Notts. However, increasing the primary lump sum to around £130,000 would help to reverse the negative impact

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

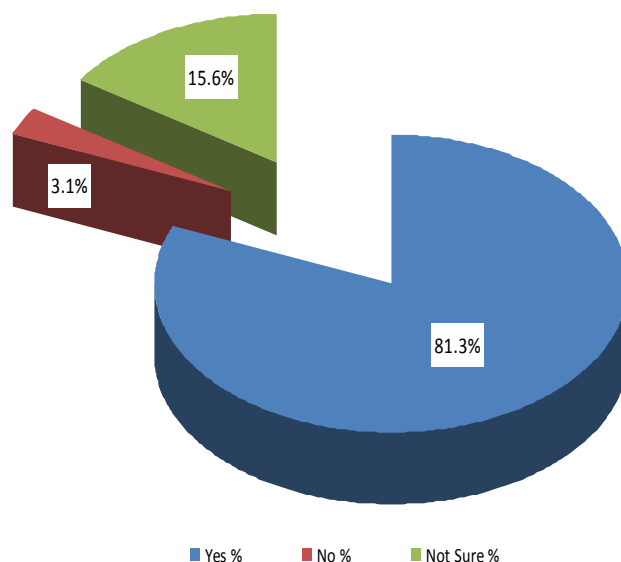
Analysis of consultation responses

the new arrangements had on small schools last year. Especially in schools which don't necessarily benefit from other funding streams like the pupil premium.

- Lump sum in Notts was well below that national average. Given that we fear that NCC will not adopt the sparsity factor we would argue strongly for increasing the lump sum. This is a significant factor for small schools. The DfE review clearly states schools' forums should consider how they will address the significantly negative impact new arrangements had on small schools last year. Increasing the primary lump sum to a realistic figure would ensure the long-term survival of our small schools.
- An increase in the lump sum would go some way in supporting small schools where we can't rely on the AWPU and pupil premium.

Question 11b:

Q11b: Do you agree with the proposal to keep the lump sum the same in 2014-15 for the secondary phase?



Comments

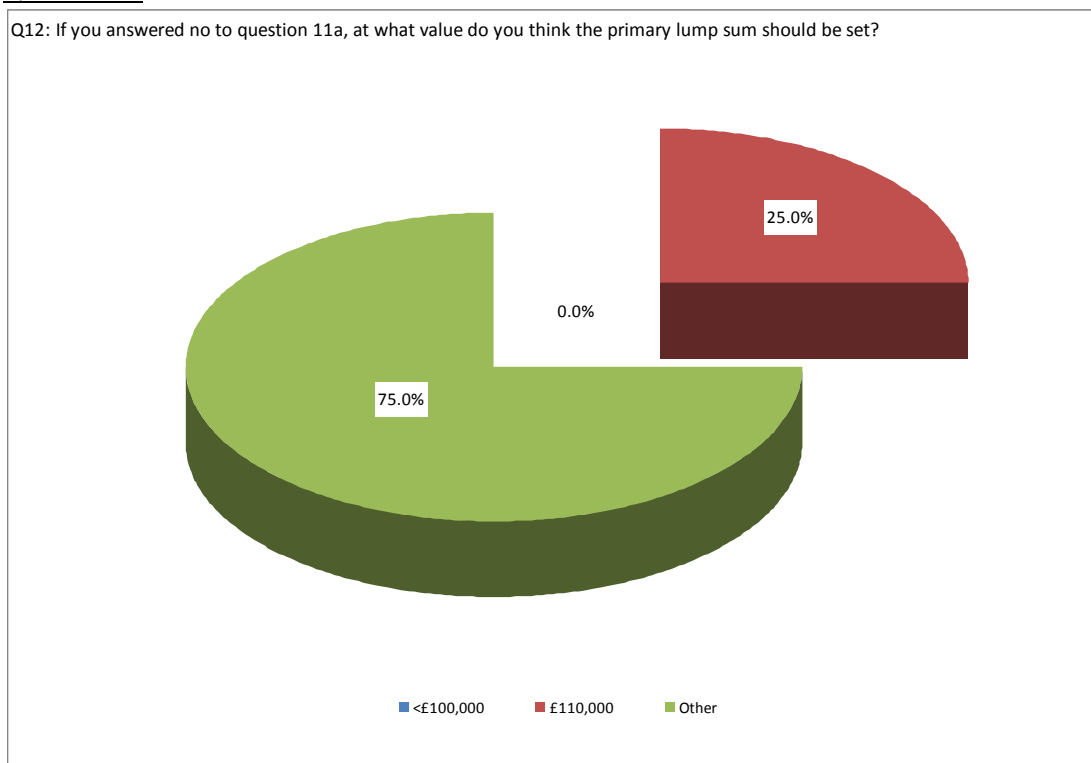
- I would be opposed to any raise in the level of the lump sum. This could become a mechanism to encourage or retain unviable schools.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 12:

Q12: If you answered no to question 11a, at what value do you think the primary lump sum should be set?



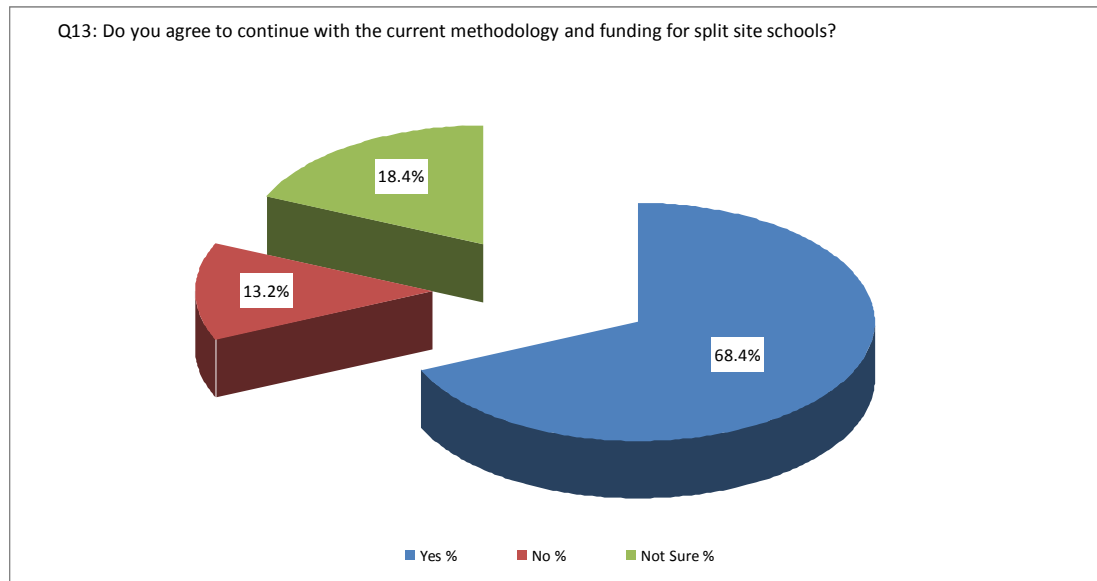
Comments

- This seems to be the model which begins to address the prior attainment issue very slightly
- £130,00 based on reasoning above
- £130,00 minimum ideally £150,000
- £130,000 - core functions still have to be provided whatever the size of the school & these represent a larger % of overall budget compared to larger schools.
- To follow the National Average as we are in a high deprivation area but it is not reflected in our budget.
- £120,000 (see above). If the Forum is of the opinion that it should remain the same as last year I would urge them at least to consider as a minimum the £110,000.
- £130,00 based on above
- As there is no inflation built into 2014-15 budgets, an increase is necessary in the lump sum

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 13:



Comments

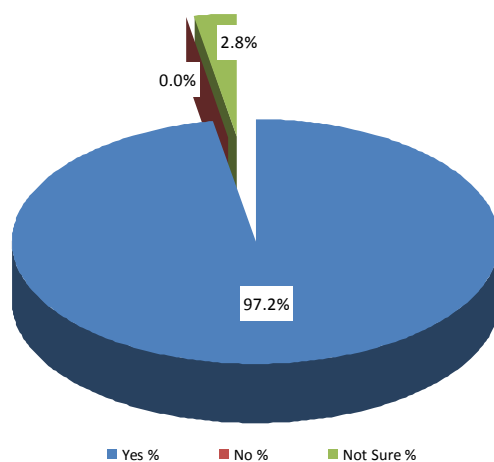
- It doesn't recognise sites where NCC have not provided schools with all the necessary facilities and they need to hire or share with/from non-school organisations.
- Each school has its own particular issues and a broad brush approach is not the way.
- No view either way.
- It does not apply to us because we do agree with it.
- I am unsure as to the impact this has for split site schools.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 14:

Q14: Do you agree to continue with the current arrangement to pay rates centrally?

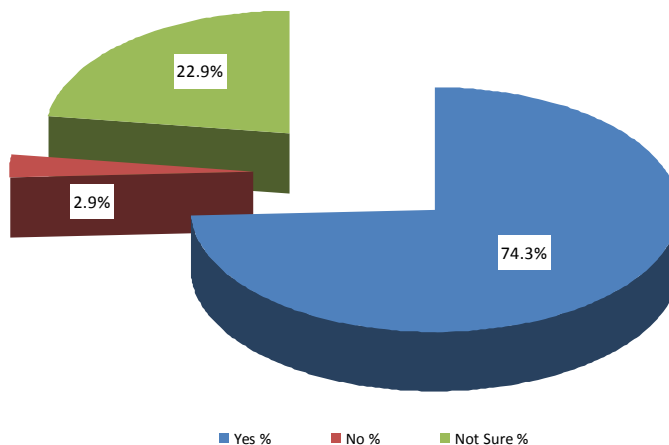


Comments

- I believe this supports all schools.

Question 15:

Q15: Do you agree to continue with the exceptional factors for joint use and rental?



Comments

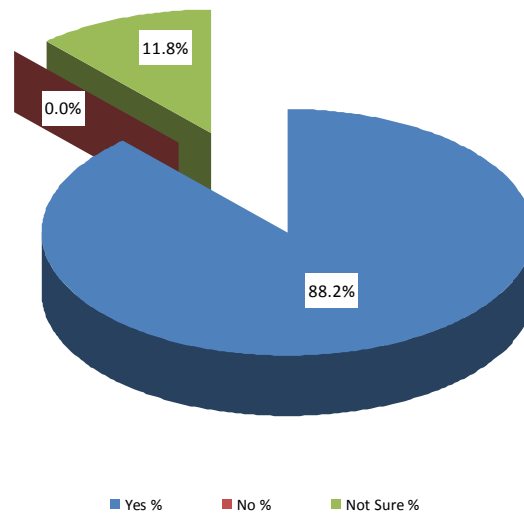
- Yes but criteria needs to change. Schools who have managed to secure best value contracts and to only pay on a per use basis are penalised as costs are below 1% of total budget.
- This is absolutely essential for a small rural primary school like ours where we have to pay rental costs to the Diocese of Southwell and hire of the village hall as we have no hall of our own. It would be grossly unfair if we were expected to pay these rental charges as they do not apply to other NCC schools. (This is obviously a purely in/out payment).
- I am not sure how this will affect specific schools.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 16:

Q16: Do you agree that the growth fund should be increased to support the maintenance of infant class sizes?



Comments

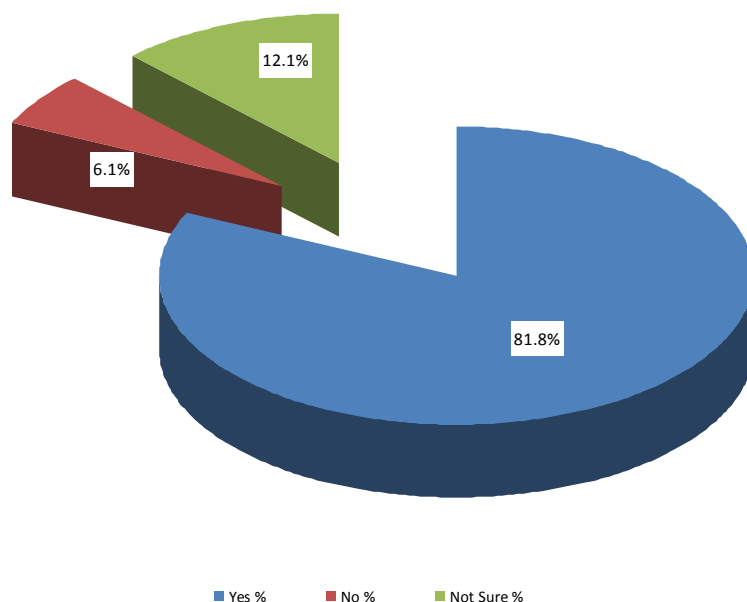
- This is crucial to put the resources where they are most needed.
- Support for infant class sizes with variable cohort sizes is vital.
- Birth rates have risen in recent years and we are starting to see them hit our schools. Infant class places are limited and growth is inevitable.
- A life line for small schools.
- What happens to under spent funds? It is my view that these should be released back into the main budget the following year.
- It is vital to maintain the infant class size for effective learning and opportunities.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 17:

Q17: Do you agree that a pupil growth fund should be established to support basic need growth agreed with the authority?



Comments

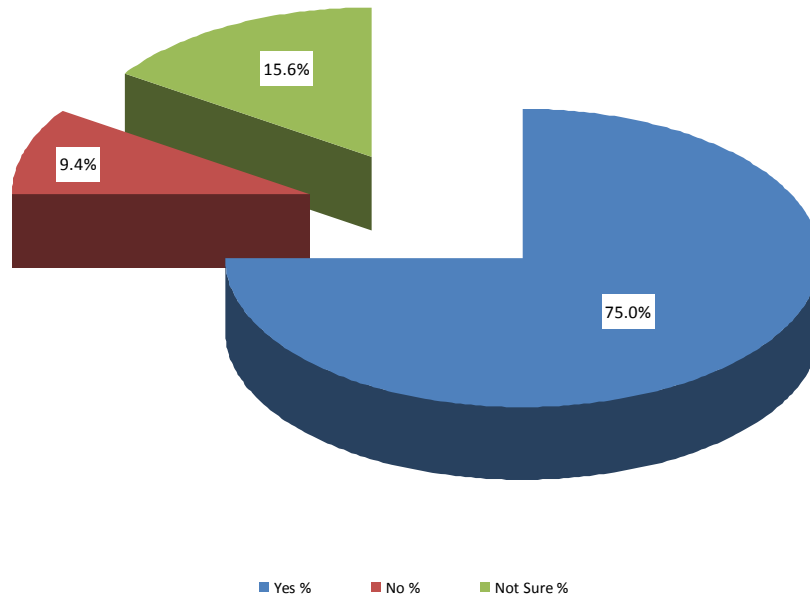
- Form the information provided it is not clear what the purpose of the fund is.
- We are unclear as to the criteria.
- this needs to be carefully regulated to maintain fairness if funding between schools, to ensure that the school receiving this is not advantaged over its neighbours. Is this funding outside of future MFG funding – if not it could cause problems for the future, as the school would in effect continue to receive additional funding over a long period of time.
- Well as long as schools actually get this – you must rethink the “expected pupil” ridiculousness!
- There are many differentiations across schools for basic need and a fund would support this.
- School roles are increasing due to increasing birth rate and this is penalising those schools who are finding it hard to cope with the influx as class sizes are growing and pupils missing out.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question18a:

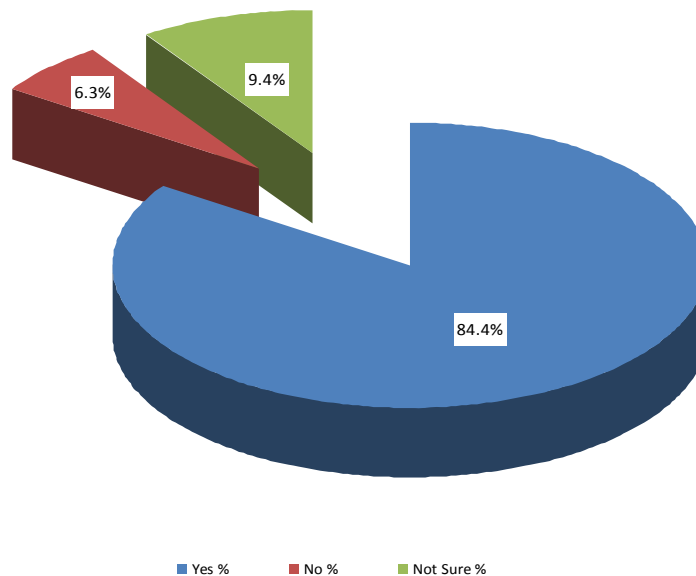
Q18a: As a representative of either a maintained primary or secondary school, do you agree to the delegation of the following in 2014-15:Contingencies for pre-agreed amalgamation



- No comments made

Question 18b:

Q18b: As a representative of either a maintained primary or secondary school, do you agree to the delegation of the following in 2014-15:Free school meals eligibility assessment?



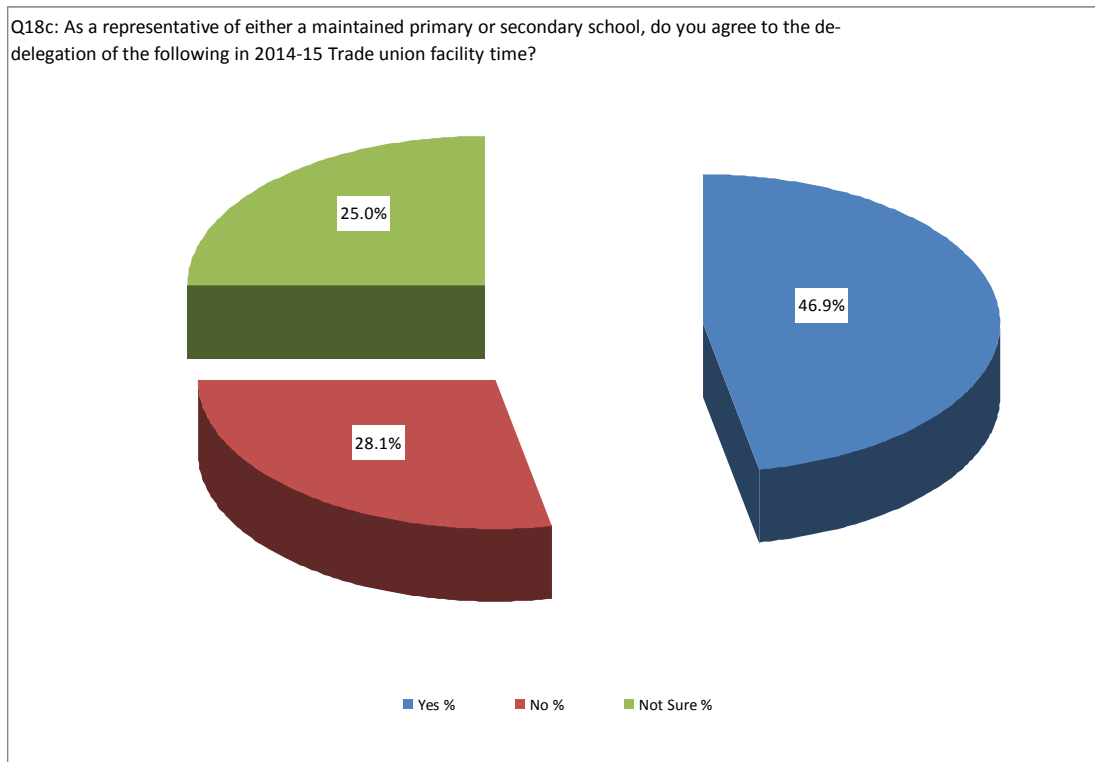
- No comments made

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 18c:

Q18c: As a representative of either a maintained primary or secondary school, do you agree to the delegation of the following in 2014-15 Trade union facility time?



Comments

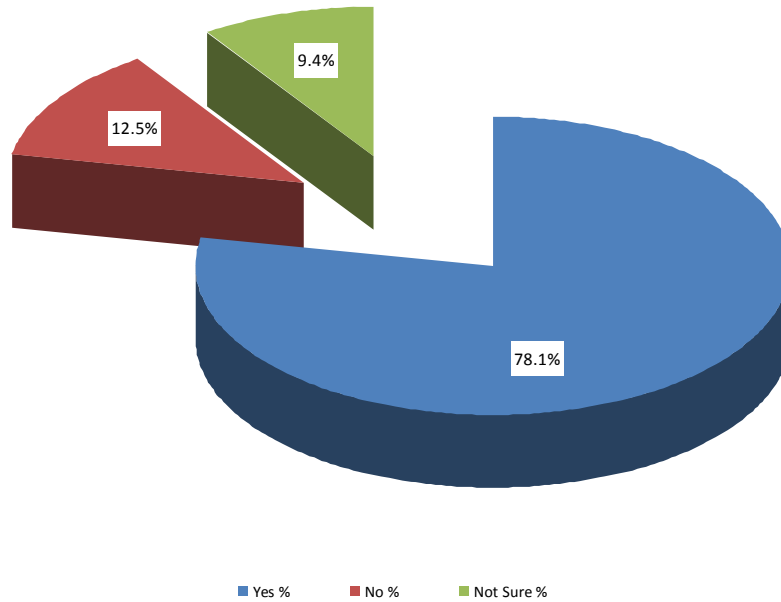
- Clear on LA lead on a, b, and d but unclear of meaning of c and notes don't provide clarification.
- Trade Unions could contribute to costs incurred from membership subscriptions.
- No. We believe it should be centrally retained.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 18d:

Q18d: As a representative of either a maintained primary or secondary school, do you agree to the de-delegation of the following in 2014-15: Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups & bilingual learners?



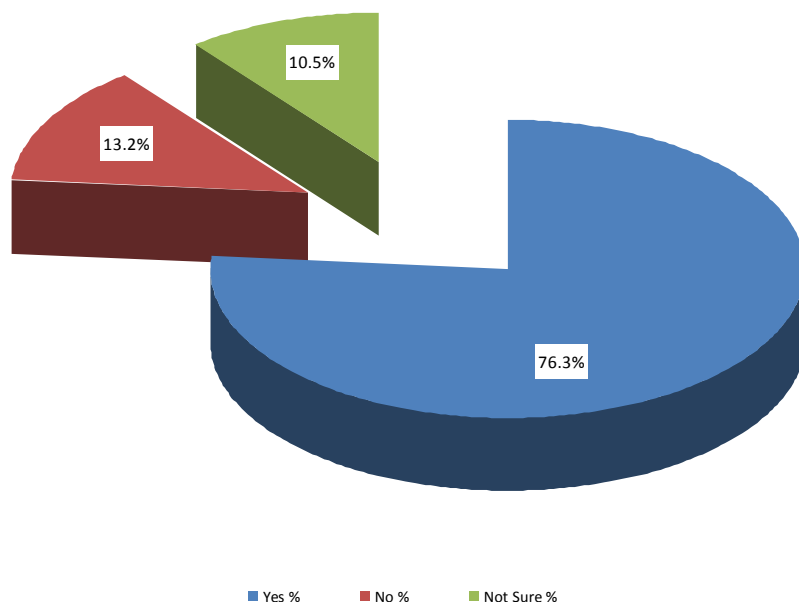
- No comments made

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

Question 19:

Q19: Do you agree with the proposal to apply a further gains cap of 2.5% per pupil in 2014-15 in order to achieve the cumulative 7.5% gains cap proposed in the 2013-14 consultation?



Comments

- Minimum funding really helps support budgets in smaller schools, so I don't know if a sliding scale is a possibility?
- This was the plan agreed last year and think changes to formula funding need this level of cap.
- All models show a reduction in budget for a significant number of schools, who I am sure, will appreciate the transition opportunity that the additional gains cap offers.
- The gains cap should remain at 5% as this will help the transition to the change to a national funding formula and ensure that no school has to deal with large swings.

Additional Comments

- I look forward to the day that there are national funding arrangements, as I'm sure all staff in Nottinghamshire do, we have lost out for too long. Also I am pleased Nottinghamshire is committed to small schools, providing they are of a viable size, 45+ pupils. If we are going to continue, small schools do then have unique funding issues, most don't have any deprivation funding, but only receive very small ASN budgets, yet we are often the schools of choice for families with SEND children and they end up having an enormous impact on our budgets.
- Is research being undertaken to find evidence for the different funding ratio between primary and secondary schools, and could it be reduced to say 1:125?
- Is the government being lobbied about the prior attainment factor for primary schools- our prior attainment is the achievement levels on entry to Foundation, not as children exit Foundation Stage following several terms of hard work by Foundation stage staff?
- As a school we would consider Model 3 to be the best option both for ourselves and our near statistical neighbours based on the spreadsheet provided by the finance team.

School Funding 2014-15: Consultation on the local funding formula

Analysis of consultation responses

- It will not surprise you that we wish to avoid models 1b,1c & 3 which reflect a reduction in Primary AWPU or include the impact of change to lump sum.
- Our school's individual AWPU context starts at a disadvantage to begin with- it's historical level puts us in lowest 3 schools in county for AWPU despite for size being in largest 3 primaries in county. Therefore the impact of any models that require significant change in Primary AWPU [compounded by the changes to funding related to being in the lowest IDACI threshold group] will have significant impact; we suspect to the point of a level of funding loss that will cause enforced redundancy to make the budget balance – a return to the bad old days of 2000-2007.
- I realise as the head of a small school my responses will favour supporting small schools. However it would be very short sighted to 'starve' these schools of funding forcing possible closures with the boom in pupil numbers that are being predicted. It would cost far more (and not be cost effective) to extend/build facilities than to support the continuation of these small schools.
- To be able to improve standards and attainment/progress of pupils like any of the other Nottinghamshire schools, we need to be able to retain and recruit outstanding staff. Even though we are using our budget as wisely and carefully as possible this becomes increasingly difficult with very limited finances. Being mindful that the LA has a reduced budget, we are still committed as a GB to provide an outstanding education for the children in our locality and to achieve this a realistic budget for small schools is required – this is a sentiment shared by other small schools in our family.
- A further reduction in funds is highly likely to lead to reductions in staff, (our most expensive resource) which for us would mean a reduced number of classes containing an increased number of year groups (e.g. all of KS2 in one class). This scenario is not one favoured by parents when choosing the best school for their child. We are a much improved school and we wish to have the proper funding to enable us to make it an outstanding one for the children in our care.
- It is very concerning that none of the formulae suggestions provided any support for small schools. We have considered all options very carefully and feel that the only sustainable option for small schools is to have an increased lump sum, therefore relying less on minimum funding guarantee. Notts give considerably below the national average in terms of lump sum, meaning that the support for small schools is limited. Given the pressure to be outstanding, surely you must recognise that the very best teachers and leaders are potentially more expensive? We need financial support to ensure that we can give the very best to the children in our village who need our school.
- My thanks to the team for providing the financial models to allow schools to see the potential impact of each of the proposals.
- As a small school we need to be able to recruit, retain, improve standards and attainment/progress of pupils like any of the other Nottinghamshire schools but we are expected to do so this with a very limited infrastructure (finances) to support it.
- With limited funds we are not able to compete with other schools as potential reductions in funds leads to reduction in staff, reduced year groups (e.g. all of KS2 in one class) which then reflects negatively to parents who are choosing their child's school...a very unfortunate negative spiral.
- I'm disappointed in the models that no figure is shown to indicate the overall income per student, per school, which has been shown in previous tables. Those tables had consistently shown The West Bridgford School to be the worst funded in the County. And that the formulas used by Nottinghamshire placed us as the 4th worst funded school in the country as shown in DfE league tables in 2011. This is something Nottinghamshire should not be proud of and I ask that they ensure no school in Nottinghamshire finds itself amongst the worst funded in the country on the basis of total funding per pupil. And finally, I am concerned that the models show we may suffer big losses as a result of these funding changes, which may impact on standards achieved.
- It is difficult to see how the different options 1a, b and c will impact on all schools as a whole.
- There has been insufficient consultation time allocated for establishments to provide a considered response.