

This matter is being dealt with by:

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Head Teachers
All Nottinghamshire Secondary Schools

15 July 2016

Dear Colleague

Amendment to Cost Recovery Mechanism (CRM) to Nottinghamshire Secondary Schools for permanently excluded pupils

In June 2013 the Schools Forum fully endorsed the introduction of a system for recovering a contribution of £15,000 towards the cost of alternative provision for pupils permanently excluded from Secondary Schools.

The CRM applies where resources for pupils with social, emotional or mental health needs (SEMH) have been devolved to partnerships of schools, or individual schools, and where schools continue to permanently exclude pupils. In these circumstances, the County Council needs to recover, from the excluding school, a contribution towards the cost of any provision that the County Council is then required to commission,

Following a review and presentation to Schools Forum on 9 June 2016 which outlined the spending on the high needs block, a recommendation was made to the meeting to replace the fixed CRM level to a system which recovers the full and actual cost to the High Needs Budget of commissioning alternative provision. This is because there is a shortfall between the current CRM and the actual cost of the new provision which has to be paid from the High Needs Block, effectively resulting in schools who have developed new strategies to manage pupil behaviours contributing to the cost of providing provision for pupils excluded from other schools.

The Schools Forum fully endorsed the proposal and unanimously agreed that the Local Authority should recover the full and actual cost of commissioning alternative provision for pupils permanently excluded from Secondary Schools. The Schools Forum agreed that the recovery of full and actual costs will be implemented with effect from 16 June 2016 and will apply after a pupil is permanently excluded from a secondary school. From this date, where secondary schools or partnerships of schools permanently exclude a pupil, we will be contacting the excluding school to recover the full and actual cost of alternative provision commissioned by the Local Authority.

The decision taken by Schools Forum was unanimous. Many schools and partnerships have developed good practice to manage challenging behaviour, implementing a range of strategies which better meets the needs of individual and at risk of exclusion pupils. We look forward to your co-operation in implementing the new system.

I trust that you will support this change in policy. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Karen Hughman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Pettigrew', written in a cursive style.

COLIN PETTIGREW

Corporate Director for Children, Families and
Cultural Services