

REPORT ON THE FUNDING OF FREE SCHOOLS SECURED FOLLOWING FREE SCHOOL PRESUMPTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Forum on the methodology for the revenue funding of new presumption Free schools

Information and Advice

2. Over the coming five year NCC is likely to commission a further 3 free school through the free school presumption process.
3. NCC has already commissioned 2 new Free schools these being Hucknall; Flying High (Opened September 2019) and Rosecliffe Sharphill (opening September 2020).
4. The funding of additional places at new free schools will be through the agency of underwriting of the anticipated pupil numbers as set out in each individual presumption tendering process.
5. The table below illustrate the guaranteed funding for a typical one form of entry primary school.

Table one: Illustrative guaranteed pupil numbers for a one form of entry primary presumption free school

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Reception	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Yr1	15	30	30	30	30	30	30
Yr2	15	15	30	30	30	30	30
Yr3	15	15	15	30	30	30	30
Yr4	15	15	15	15	30	30	30
Yr5	15	15	15	15	15	30	30
Yr6	15	15	15	15	15	15	30
Total Pupil Numbers	120	135	150	165	180	195	210

6. NCC will fund the difference between the guaranteed number of places and the number of pupils on the previous October's census by varying the pupil numbers in the Authority Proforma tool. This will ensure that the school receive additional pupil led funding based on their school's pupil characteristics.

7. Table two illustrates the expected number of additional places that will be paid from the growth fund in each of the first seven years of a one form of entry primary free schools' operation.

Table two: expected number of pupils on the October Census and to be funded from the growth fund

	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023	October 2024	October 2025
Reception	0	30	30	30	30	30	30
Yr1	0	15	30	30	30	30	30
Yr2	0	15	15	30	30	30	30
Yr3	0	15	15	15	30	30	30
Yr4	0	15	15	15	15	30	30
Yr5	0	15	15	15	15	15	30
Yr6	0	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Pupil Numbers on census	0	120	135	150	165	180	195
Pupils Funded from Growth Funding	120	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Funded Pupils	120	135	150	165	180	195	210

8. It is expected that NCC will need to fund additional pupils from the growth fund for the first seven years after opening for a primary school and five years for a secondary school.
9. The forecast cost of funding the additional pupils in the expected five free schools opening between 2019/20 and 2023/24 is shown below:

Financial Year	Additional Pupil's funded*	Additional Funding Required
2019/20	70.00	£308,356
2020/21	87.50	£385,608
2021/22	96.25	£448,763
2022/23	105.00	£448,763
2023/24	113.75	£480,340
2024/25	52.50	£189,464
2025/26	52.50	£189,464

*pupil numbers and funding reflect 7/12 of financial year

10. New presumption free schools will also be eligible to receive up to £200,000 to cover their revenue start up and pre-opening costs.
11. The cost of funding the additional pupil and the start up costs will be taken from the growth funding received annually from the ESFA as part of the schools block of the DSG. For 2019/20 the growth funding was £3.1 million. This funding also pays for the Primary Pupil Growth fund (£1 million in 2019/20) and Basic Need pupil number adjustments in existing schools and academies (£0.816 million in 2019/20).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Schools Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report and the potential allocations to be made from the growth fund.

2. Continues to monitor the use of the growth fund. Forum will be updated on an annual basis as to the spending allocations related to this budget.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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