

Decision Maker: Schools Forum

Date : 13th December 2012

Title: Criteria for Growth and Infant Class Size Funding

Contact Officer: Mandy Russell, Head of Schools Finance Team
Tel: 0208 313 4806 Email : amanda.russell@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director, Education and Care Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

1.1 This report provides details of the proposed criteria for funding pupil growth and infant class size funding.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Schools Forum are asked to agree the criteria for funding pupil growth and class size funding and to agree in principle the estimated amount of funding required to support this.

3. Commentary

3.1 For a number of years, Bromley along with a number of other local authorities, has faced enormous pressures to find reception places for the increasing number of pupils. This has been achieved in the following ways:

- Permanent expansion of primary schools
- Bulge classes eg additional forms of entry for one or two years only
- Schools being asked to take a number of pupil over and above their standard admission number.

3.2 In order for primary schools to be able to comply with these requests, additional revenue funding has been allocated to schools through a specific factor in the funding formula. In 2012/13 this funding was around £970,000.

Following the review of the funding formula, local authorities are not longer allowed to have a separate factor in their funding formula to provide this funding to schools. However, funding for significant pupil growth can be retained centrally before the formula is calculated, and that funding for additional classes needed as a consequence of infant class size regulations can be funded as part of this. The requirements are that:

- a. the growth fund can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need and to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation;

b. the fund must be used on the same basis for the benefit of both maintained schools and recoupment Academies;

c. any funds remaining at the end of the financial year must be added to the following year's DSG and reallocated to maintained schools and Academies through the local formula;

3.3 Local authorities are required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated. These should provide a transparent and consistent basis (with differences permitted between phases) for the allocation of all growth funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid. Local authorities need to propose the criteria to the Schools Forum and gain its agreement before growth funding is allocated. The local authority will also need to consult the Schools Forum on the total sum to be top-sliced from each phase and must regularly update the Schools Forum on the use of the funding.

3.4 In recent years the additional funding for expanding schools and bulge classes has been calculated based on additional AWPU funding for the period Sept to March (ie from the date when the additional class opens) plus additional proportional funding to cover other factors in the formula such as SEN, deprivation etc based on the percentage of pupils in the school attracting this funding. This would normally generate funding of around £40 -£50,000. Funding is only paid for the period Sept to March as from the following April funding will be provided through the funding formula as these pupils will now be included in the pupil count.

3.5 Funding for infant class size regulations is allocated where a school is asked to take a small number of pupils above their standard admission number but not sufficient to warrant opening an additional class. In these cases the costs to the school are much less, and funding is based on the approximate cost of proving an additional teacher in order for the school to comply with infant class size legislation. This would normally generate funding of around £33,000 for a full year and £19,250 for the period Sept to March.

3.6 For 2013/14 onwards it is recommended that the following criteria and funding principles should be approved by the Schools Forum.

i. Where schools are required to take in between 1 and 6 additional reception pupils for each form of entry, class size legislation funding to be paid for the relevant period only (ie Sept to March) and that the amount of funding should increase to £35,000 for a full year.

- ii. Where schools are required to take in 7 or more pupils, they will be expected to open an additional class and funding will be calculated as follows:

AWPU x 30 x 7/12ths

SEN per pupil funding x 30 x school % x 7/12ths

Deprivation per pupil funding x 30 x school % x 7/12ths

EAL per pupil funding x 30 x school % x 7/12ths

For example, based on the funding levels in the current modelling, a school taking in 30 pupils and with 10% SEN, 15% deprivation and 3% EAL would receive the following funding

AWPU = £2185 x 30 x 7/12ths = £38,237

SEN = £2500 x 3 x 7/12ths = £4,375

Dep = £1500 x 4.5 x 7/12ths = £3,937

EAL = £1000 x 0.9 x 7/12ths = £525

Total Funding = £47,074

- iii. Funding will be allocated to all primary schools ie maintained primary schools and academy primaries and will be paid directly by the LA in 7 monthly instalments from Sept to March.
- iii This policy will be reviewed in future years to be extended to secondary schools as and when the increase in pupil numbers reaches that sector.

3.7 The Schools Forum is asked to agree that £1million be allocated to be held centrally to cover this funding. This would allow for around 16 bulge classes and 8 class size limitation payments based on the assumption that the number of additional reception pupils will be similar to the number in the current year.