

### Primary Schools over 8%

**Blenheim Primary School** **Balance at 31/3/17 £140,419**  
**12%**

#### Reason for High Balances:

Low numbers in current year 2 due to the school taking a bulge class in reception 2014. Bulge funding was given to the school to make up the numbers while the pupils were in KS1. As they move to KS2 in September 2017 the bulge class funding ceases.

#### Description of planned expenditure to reduce balances

Funding to support current Year 2 class as they move to Year 3 In September 2017	£32,074
To support bulge class in 2018/19	£54,984

#### Management Comment

The school is holding balances to the bulge class with low numbers after the LA funding ceases in September 2017. The school is planning to convert to Academy status early in the Autumn term.

**Bromley Road Primary School** **Balance as at 31/3/17 £298,943**  
**35%**

#### Reason for High Balances:

Late delivery of LBB window project and delays to academy conversion have delayed some planned expenditure in 2016/17 – particularly IT, playground, group room refurbishment. The school was also unable to pursue alternative options to reduce the surplus further due to insufficient time before year end.

#### Description of planned expenditure to reduce balances

The initial 2017/18 draft budget takes into account the delayed activities from 2016/17. However, as part of the acadamisation process, the surplus balance will be incorporated into the revised 2017/18 budget setting discussions for the school under the new MAT agreement. This will take effect from 1/9/17.

#### Management Comment

The school has been holding high balances for a number of years while it transitions from a 3 form entry infant school to a 1 form entry primary school. The school is planning to convert to Academy status early in the Autumn term.

## Southborough Primary School

Balance as at 31/3/17 £176,854  
10%

### Reason for High Balances

During 2016/17 it became apparent that our budget share for 2017/18 would be reduced by approximately £60,000. Therefore we took the strategic decision to reduce expenditure on non-essential items in order to preserve staffing numbers in 2017/18.

### Description of planned expenditure to reduce balances

Use of balances to support planned in year deficit in 2017/18 £115,592

### Management comment

The school has been advised that the reliance on balances to support current staffing levels is not sustainable in the long term.

## Secondary Schools over 8%

### St Olaves Grammar School

Balance as at 31/3/17 £460,677  
9%

### Reason for High Balances

Historical reserves have been slightly inflated by current year surplus of £40,000. This year's surplus was a direct result of being unable to convert to Academy status and thereby saving at least £40,000 in conversion costs. Government funding continues to be below the cost of running the school and without parental donations and contributions from the foundation totalling £151,400 in 2015/16 and PA donations of £47,600 in 2016/17 the reserves would be significantly lower.

### Description of planned expenditure to reduce balances

Estimated 1.2%payrise for all staff	£50,500
Apprenticeship levy	£1,500
Training costs of Schools Direct Training scheme for 4 trainee teachers not covered by grant	£24,000
Refurbishment of two main IT suites	£40,000
Higher Utility costs	£10,000
Roof repairs – Main School building	£50,000
Cover of sixth form funding loss, lagged by one year due to high number of leavers after census	£27,000
Governors 10% contribution of LCVAP funding	£25,000
Professional fees for site development	£30,000
Total Planned Expenditure	£258,000

### **Management Comment**

If all planned expenditure is achieved then 2017/18 balances should be well below the 8% threshold.

### **Schools in Deficit**

**Churchfields Primary School**

**Balance as at 31/3/17 £-46,702**

**-3%**

### **Reason for Deficit**

Combination of overstaffing (relative to budget) and period during the year without a school business manager has meant that the financial control and monitoring were not as tight as they might have been

### **Management Action to achieve Recovery Plan**

- Reorganisation /realignment of staffing including reducing the number of specialist teachers in relation to classroom teachers
- Very careful recruitment in terms of cost of new staff
- Line by line analysis of expenditure to ensure best value in all areas
- New SBM to review and renegotiate all contracts
- Afterschool club to be run in house to increase income
- Review charging policy for breakfast club and all extra- curricular activities

### **Management Comment**

The School has produced a deficit recovery plan showing a full recovery of the deficit in 201/18 – this is currently being reviewed by the LA. The school is expected join a MAT trust during the Autumn term at which point the outstanding deficit will be repaid to the LA by the DfE.