



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

## Schools forum powers and responsibilities

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change, including redistributions	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted, voting restrictions apply, and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
Contracts (where the local authority is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Financial issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding</li> </ul>	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding</li> <li>• arrangements for early years provision</li> <li>• administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants</li> </ul>			
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions
Carry forward a deficit on central expenditure to the next year to be funded from the schools budget	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
Any brought forward deficit on de-delegated services which is to be met by the overall schools budget.	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contingencies</li> <li>• administration of free school meals</li> <li>• insurance</li> </ul>	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• licences and subscriptions</li> <li>• staff costs (supply cover)</li> <li>• support for minority ethnic pupils (underachieving groups)</li> <li>• behaviour support services</li> <li>• library and museum services</li> <li>• School improvement</li> </ul>		their phase; middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	
General duties for maintained schools and contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special, and PRU)	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy</li> <li>• funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• early years block provision funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement</li> <li>• back-pay for equal pay claims</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies</li> <li>• places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils</li> <li>• admissions</li> <li>• servicing of schools forum</li> <li>• contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools</li> </ul>			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capital expenditure funded from revenue; projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged</li> <li>• contribution to combined budgets; where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</li> <li>• existing termination of employment costs; costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged</li> <li>• prudential borrowing costs; the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013</li> </ul>	<p>Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed</p>	<p>Decides for each line</p>	<p>Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal</p>

<b>Function</b>	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Schools forum</b>	<b>DfE role</b>
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high needs block provision</li> <li>• central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State</li> </ul>	Decides	None; but good practice to inform forum	None
Scheme of financial management changes	Proposes and consults the governing body and head of every school	Approves; schools members only	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree local authority proposal
Membership: length of office of members	Decides	None; but good practice would suggest that they gave a view	None
Voting procedures	None	Determine voting procedures	None
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects; may not be an elected member of the council or officer	None

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