

Schools Forum

16 January 2020

Special Schools Funding Formula 2020/21

This report relates to maintained special schools only and is for decision by all members of Schools Forum as it is not about changing the funding formula

Recommendation

Schools Forum approves using a single and the most recent census point for calculating maintained special schools budget allocations from 2020/21 onward.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 There are presently 3 maintained Special Schools in Warwickshire: Exhall Grange, Ridgeway and Round Oak.
- 1.2 The funding formula used for special schools is made up of place funding and top up funding. This report only addresses the basis for calculating place funding, top up funding and the matrix used to calculate top up funding is not included.

2.0 The current position

- 2.1 The place funding given to all Special schools is £10,000 per place. For maintained special schools in Warwickshire, this is currently allocated using 2 different census points. Table 1 shows how place funding was allocated in 2019/20.

Census date	Pre 16 places	Post 16 places
October 2017 census (adjusted for extra places)	NOR x 5/12 (April to August)	NOR x 4/12 (April to July)
October 2018 census (adjusted for extra places)	NOR x 7/12 (September to March)	NOR x 8/12 (August to March)
TOTAL	Total NOR x £10,000	Total NOR x £10,000

Table 1: Current Place funding methodology

- 2.2 Using this allocation method means any funding for growth in place numbers is lagged.

3.0 Proposed allocation method for 2020/21

- 3.1 From 2020/21, it is proposed to use only one census point which in this case would be October 2019. As with the previous method, the census NOR is then adjusted to include any planned extra places.
- 3.2 A comparison of the impact on the 3 Maintained Special Schools in 2019/20 based on the existing and proposed funding allocation is included as an Appendix. Schools growing pupil numbers will see an increase in place funding whilst schools reducing pupil numbers will see a drop in place funding.
- 3.3 Using a single census point would mean funding allocations are consistent with mainstream schools and special school top-ups.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 A consultation exercise was be undertaken with the maintained special schools to see if they agree with changing the census points for calculating place funding.
- 4.2 The consultation will ran for 2 weeks between Friday 6 December 2019 and Friday 20 December 2019.
- 4.3 Two of the three maintained special schools responded to the consultation and both indicated that they would prefer future funding to e based on a single census point.

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Special School Funding Comparison

School	2019/20 actual place funding			2019/20 revised place funding (Oct 2018 census only)			
	Pre 16	Post 16	Total	Pre 16	Post 16	Total	Difference
Exhall Grange	1,718,333	336,667	2,055,000	1,760,000	330,000	2,090,000	35,000
Ridgeway	1,180,833	0	1,180,833	1,210,000	0	1,210,000	29,167
Round Oak	887,500	503,333	1,390,833	850,000	480,000	1,330,000	-60,833
TOTAL	3,786,667	840,000	4,626,667	3,820,000	810,000	4,630,000	3,333