

Consultation responses

For the 2021/22 Schools Funding Formulas

December 2020

Children, Schools and Families

Interim Director: Hannah Doody



Response Summary

14 Primary Schools

5 Secondary Schools

0 Special Schools

A list of the 19 respondents is given at the end of this document

Response Analysis

Section 2.1.7 Schools Funding Formula Options

Respondents were asked to indicate which schools funding formula option they would prefer Merton to use for the 2021/22 allocation:

Primary	Secondary	Special	Weighted %
---------	-----------	---------	------------

Option A	14	5	0	100%
Option B	0	0	0	0%

Comments

- We support replication of the NFF at this junction because it will allow the 1.84% MFG. As a school with low levels of FSM, we are "hit twice" by the implications of this - we receive lower levels of PP funding and lower overall funding because of the deprivation factors in the funding formula. Funding simply does not keep pace with the mandated salary increases. Outstanding OFSTED schools in areas with low levels of deprivation are having to cut staff and resources as a consequence.
- Meets transition arrangements
- There appears to be only minor variations between replicating the NFF and local formula funding based on the illustration. In principle, we would favour an element of local input to funding decisions as "hard" NFF would appear to relinquish any influence of local factors.

2.2 MFG percentage

Respondents were asked to select which level of protection they thought should be applied to schools from the options below:

	Primary	Secondary	Special	Weighted %
Option A - Set MFG at 1.84%	14	5	0	100%
Option B - Set MFG at a different %	0	0	0	0%

Comments

- This should protect schools against major variations

Options from Section 2.4 relating to de-delegation

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they would prefer a number of services to be de-delegated back to the Local Authority to be managed centrally rather than by each individual school.

Para.	Service	Primary Total responses	% Yes	% No	Secondary Total responses	% Yes	% No
2.4.5	Contingencies - Schools in challenging circumstances	14	100%	0%	4	100%	0%
2.4.6	Contingencies - Merton Strategic School Effectiveness Partnership	13	93%	7%	4	100%	0%
2.4.7	Contingencies - Tree maintenance	14	100%	0%	4	100%	0%
2.4.8	Primary school meals management	14	100%	0%	N/A		
2.4.9	Licences and subscriptions	14	100%	0%	4	100%	0%
2.4.10	Supply staff cost for parenting cover and public duties.	14	100%	0%	4	100%	0%
2.4.11	Support to under-performing ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners	12	86%	14%	4	100%	0%
2.4.12	Behaviour support	12	86%	14%	4	100%	0%
2.4.14	School Improvement	14	100%	0%	4	100%	0%

NB – De-delegation does not apply to Harris Academy.

Respondents were asked to provide any comments they would like to be considered by the Schools Forum on the de-delegation of budgets for 2021/22.

Comments

- Attain - subject to secondary schools allocating a budget to agree our priorities separate to primary schools.
- We "win" from some of these categories and "lose" from others. We therefore think it is fair for all if all services are de-delegated.
- Continue with de-delegation until such time that SLA's can be put in place giving schools the choice of opting out. Significant workload in schools sourcing these services themselves simultaneously.

- Have not seen the positive impact of Attain on Hollymount children. Could the different services release a report or present what impact they have had or where the money has been spent? Not relevant to all services.

Section 2.7 Transfer between blocks

For 2021/22 Merton proposes to maintain the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

This is estimated to be about £640,000 based on indicative grant allocations and will be used to continue to fund the increase in numbers at special schools, the 2% increase in top-up (banding) fees which were agreed for 2018/19 and maintaining the prudential borrowing agreed by Schools Forum in 2007.

Respondents were asked whether or not they supported this transfer from the schools to High Needs block.

	Primary	Secondary	Special	Weighted %
Yes	14	4	0	100%
No	0	0	0	0%

NB – 1 school did not respond either way

Comments

- We support the transfer at 0.5% to fund increase in numbers in special schools and the 2% increase in top up (banding) fees.

Other comments

Respondents were asked to provide any other comments they would like to be considered by the Schools Forum.

Comments

There were no additional comments.

Respondents

PRIMARY

Abbotsbury Primary

Garfield Primary

Gorringe Park Primary

Hatfeild Primary

Hillcross Primary

Hollymount Primary

Holy Trinity CE Primary

Malmesbury Primary

Merton Abbey Primary

Morden Primary

Pelham Primary

Sacred Heart RC Primary

The Sherwood Primary

St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary

SECONDARY

Raynes Park High

Ricards Lodge High

Ursuline RC High

Wimbledon College RC High

Harris Academy