



# **Special School Revenue Funding Guidance**

## **2023-24 Financial Year**

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**Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

On 16th December 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) published the DSG allocations for 2023/24. Full details can be found on the DfE website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2023-to-2024>

As in previous years since the introduction of the National Funding Reforms the DSG is calculated based on 4 notional blocks. The actual amount to be received by the local authority during the 2023/24 financial years is subject to change and will be amended to reflect recoupment for academies. The initial 2022/24 allocations for Cambridgeshire are set out in the table below, which also provides for comparison the 2022/23 allocations:

DSG Block	2022-23 Allocation £m	2023-24 Initial Allocation £m	Difference to 2021-22 Allocation £m	% Change
Schools Block (incl. growth, NNDR & 22-23 supplementary grant)*	434.048	452.820	+18.772	+4.3%
High Needs Block	94.360	104.277	+9.917	+10.5%
Central Services Schools Block	5.923	5.563	-0.359	-6.1%
Early Years Block	38.454	40.711	+2.257	+5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>572.785</b>	<b>603.371</b>	<b>+30.587</b>	<b>+5.3%</b>

\*Please note: The 2022-23 Schools Block figures above includes supplementary grant funding which has now been baselined into main allocations for 2023/24.

The High Needs Block uplift includes £4.1m as part of £400m allocated nationally following the autumn statement and has specific conditions in respect of passporting which are covered in more detail below.

## **Place-Plus Methodology**

Place-Plus methodology was introduced as part of the National Funding Reforms in 2013-14. Each maintained special school and special academy now receives an allocation of place funding based on an agreed number of commissioned places plus an additional Top-Up allocation based on the actual number and need of individual pupils.

The number of commissioned places to be funded at each special school, at **£10,000** per place, will be based on the latest data available at the time budgets are set. In some cases this may result in a reduction in places where schools have consistently admitted fewer pupils than they have been funded for. Equally, it may result in an increase in places to meet increasing need. The actual number of places to be commissioned and funded for the period April 2022 to August 2022 and September 2022 to March 2023 will be visible in the initial budgets circulated to each school. Special academies will receive confirmation of their place funding directly from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Top-Up funding for individual pupils will continue to be calculated pro-rata based on pupil start and end dates using either the Area Special School Matrix or the SEMH Matrix. The final Top-Up for each pupil is comprised of a School Specific Top-Up element which varies between schools due to size, facilities such as hydro-therapy pools and any other notable differences. As we are no longer able to allocate lump sums to special schools due to the national limitations, this is the only mechanism available to recognise school level differences.

Although the £10,000 per place funding is guaranteed for the year to which it relates the Top-Up funding will be adjusted in year to reflect actual numbers. As a result initial Top-Up funding shown in the budgets published in February is always likely to understate the actual amount of funding to be received by the school for the full financial year as they will not include all of the starters likely to join the school in year. Equally, as the Top-Up funding for pupils from other local authorities (OLA) will be paid directly from the home LA (other than for OLA Children in Care pupils) the figures will not include income for these pupils. Schools should therefore try and estimate the additional funding they are likely to receive as they fill to capacity and for OLA pupils.

***Please note: Although Top-Up funding is calculated at individual pupil level the expectation is that the total school's budget will be used to meet the overall needs of the school and all pupils.***

## **Additional Places**

ESFA guidance states that agreement needs to be reached with individual providers on the level of top-up funding required where a LA wants to commission further places over and above the places it has been funded for (irrespective of which local authority has filled them). An LA **should not** automatically be charged an extra £10,000 per head for extra places as in most

instances schools should be able to provide support packages for additional pupils and students at marginal additional cost.

For 2023/24 funding for additional places over the commissioned number will be considered on a case by case basis dependent on individual circumstances.

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection for maintained special schools and special academies in 2023/24 is set by a condition of grant that applies to local authorities' DSG. A 3% MFG has been set for special schools in 2023/24. Recognising that some local authorities have already passed on additional funding for pressures in 2022/23, instead of making a year-on-year calculation, the comparison will be with schools' 2021/22 funding baselines.

In 2023 to 2024, as in previous years, the MFG for special schools and academies will apply to their combined place and top-up funding on a per pupil basis, assuming the number and type of places remains the same.

In 2023/24, the MFG must be calculated based on a comparison of the combined place and top-up funding per pupil in the 2021/22 and 2023/24 financial years. The top-up funding must be set at a rate to ensure a school's total budget is 3% higher per pupil than in 2021/22.

In simple terms if the school had exactly the same number and need of pupils in 2023/24 as they did in 2021/22 their overall funding would increase by 3%. In reality however due to the movements in pupil this year this requires the calculation to be undertaken at a point in time to set the protection for the forthcoming financial year.

The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) illustrative methodology assumes a banded funding model is in place, which is not the case in Cambridgeshire where top-up funding is still calculated on an individual pupil basis.

The MFG protection will therefore be applied to Cambridgeshire Special Schools on the following basis:

- Total Place-Plus Funding received in the 2021/22 Financial Year (excluding top-up from other LA's) as an average per pupil.
- 3% uplift applied to the per pupil average less the 2022/23 supplementary grant which will continue to be funded separately in 2023/24 (but counts towards the overall 3% MFG).
- Required per pupil uplift applied to total commissioned places resulting in overall MFG protection amount.

Due to the potential fluctuations in funding throughout the year due to changes in pupil numbers the protection amount will be “locked” in based on initial pupil numbers to avoid turbulence and uncertainty during the year.

### **Passporting Requirement**

As part of the additional funding announced in the autumn statement local authorities must allocate 3.4% per place, based on the place funding of £10,000 per place plus the average top-up funding they pay for a pupil placement in financial year 2022/23, using the total number of places being funded in academic year 2022/23. If a revised number of places has been agreed with the school for the academic year 2023/24, through the place change process where applicable, the local authority may use that number to calculate seven twelfths of the allocation (for the period September 2023 to March 2024).

For example, a special academy is funded for 200 places. It therefore receives place funding at £10,000 per place for those places. 150 of those places are occupied by pupils placed by the provider local authority that previously maintained the school, 100 of which attract that authority's top-up funding rate of £9,000 per pupil, and 50 of which attract a higher rate of £15,000 per pupil. The local authority therefore pays an average top-up funding rate of £11,000 per pupil  $((100 \times £9,000) + (50 \times £15,000) / 150)$ . In the calculation, the top-up funding paid by other authorities using the remaining places is not taken into account.

As with the MFG calculation the ESFA methodology is based on a banded funding model and as such for Cambridgeshire Special Schools the following approach will be applied:

- Total Place-Plus Funding received in the 2022/23 Financial Year (excluding top-up from other LA's)
- 3.4% uplift applied and allocated as a lump sum.

This additional funding for special schools must be excluded for the purpose of applying the 3% MFG for 2023/24.

### **Other Revenue Funding:**

#### **Teachers' Pay and Pensions Funding**

The majority of the historic teachers' pay grant (TPG), teachers' pensions employer contribution grant (TPECG) and pensions supplementary fund money has now been incorporated into the high needs national funding formula (NFF) allocations to local authorities.

In 2022/23 local authorities were required to allocate this historic teachers' pay and pensions employer contribution grant funding to maintained special schools, pupil referral units, special and alternative provision (AP) academies and maintained and academy hospital schools, on a per place basis according to the agreed number of funded places.

For 2023/24 this will continue to be a separately identified allocation funded at £660 per place and is excluded from the MFG calculation.

High needs funding to replace the pensions supplementary fund will continue to be paid as a full year equivalent of the same amount the school received before.

### **2022/23 Supplementary Funding**

As part of the funding settlement published by the DfE in December 2021 an additional £325 million was allocated nationally to support the High Needs Block. This is intended to reflect the cost to all employers of the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost increases that were not anticipated when the original allocations were published in July 2021.

Unlike for mainstream schools where the DfE have calculated school level allocations the guidance states it is for local authorities to decide how to allocate the additional funding, with the same flexibilities as they must deploy the rest of the DSG allocations of high needs funding.

For 2023/24 this will continue to be a separately identified allocation funded at £125 per place.

**Please note:** *The intention is to baseline as much of the additional funding detailed above as part of the implementation of a banded funding model. This would remove the need for separate funding streams and would allow the bands to be uplifted to meet MFG / passporting requirements in future years.*

### **Other Grants:**

#### **Pupil Premium**

The government has recently announced that pupil premium rates will increase for the financial year 2023/24.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

Pupil Premium rates per pupil for 2023/24:

<b>Type of pupil</b>	<b>Pupil Premium per pupil</b>
Pupils in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 free school meals (FSM)	£1,455
Pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£1,035
Looked-after children (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority	£2,530
Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order (Post LAC)	£2,530
Pupils in year groups reception to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence	£335

#### **Please note:**

- 1) *A pupil cannot receive both Ever 6 FSM pupil premium and LAC pupil premium, if they are eligible for both the School will receive the LAC pupil premium as opposed to the Ever 6 FSM pupil*

*premium. The DfE update their allocations in December to account for this which may cause a change in your pupil premium numbers compared to initial allocations.*

- 2) *Where a pupil is from another Local Authority the LAC pupil premium payment will be made directly to the school from their home authority. Schools may therefore need to contact the home authority in order to receive the funding due.*

## **PE and Sport Premium**

The DfE are yet to update the guidance and conditions of grant for 2023/24, but the 2022/23 information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools>

Allocations for the academic year 2022 to 2023 are calculated using the number of pupils in years 1 to 6, as recorded in the January 2022 census, as follows:

- schools with 17 or more pupils receive £16,000 plus £10 per pupil
- schools with 16 or fewer pupils receive £1,000 per pupil

The premium must be spent by schools on making additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport for the benefit of all pupils to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles.

## **Universal Infant Free Schools Meals**

The DfE are yet to update the guidance and conditions of grant for 2023/24, but the 2022/23 information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-infant-free-school-meals-uifsm-2022-to-2023>

Each meal currently taken by an eligible pupil attracts £2.41, and it is assumed a pupil will take 190 school meals over an academic year, providing £457.90 per eligible pupil.



## **Recovery Premium**

The recovery premium is a time-limited grant providing over £300m of additional funding for state-funded schools in the 2021 to 2022 academic year and £1bn across the 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 academic years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovery-premium-funding/recovery-premium-funding>

The 2022-23 allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis, based on the following rates:

- £145 for each eligible pupil in primary schools
- £276 per eligible pupil in secondary schools

For other eligible schools, including special education units in mainstream schools, the rate is double the mainstream rate:

- £290 per pupil in primary education
- £552 per pupil in secondary education

The DfE have included a minimum payment to ensure that:

- an eligible primary school will not receive less than £2,000
- an eligible secondary school will not receive less than £6,000

As with pupil premium, the funding for looked-after children will be paid to the local authority and be managed by the virtual school head.

## **National Tutoring Programme**

On 31 March 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) announced plans to simplify the programme for the 2022 to 2023 academic year. These plans involve providing £349 million of core tutoring funding directly to schools and giving them the freedom to decide how best to provide tutoring for their pupils.

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-tutoring-programme-guidance-for-schools-2022-to-2023>

State-funded schools and academy trusts in England will receive £202.50 per pupil for 60% of their pupils that are eligible for pupil premium, from year 1 to year 11. The number of pupils will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

In recognition of higher costs, non-mainstream schools, including special schools and units, will receive £529 per pupil for 60% of pupil premium pupils. The number of pupils will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Homes for Ukraine

The DfE have provided a grant specifically for children in early years settings and schools who have entered the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The funding is not in place for Ukrainian arrivals who have entered the country through other routes, for example under the families scheme or independently. The amount of grant for each Homes for Ukraine guest is dependent on the age bracket they fall into and is also scaled depending on their arrival date into the UK.

[Homes for Ukraine education and childcare grant conditions of funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-education-and-childcare-grant-conditions-of-funding)

We have had significant challenges reconcile numbers of pupils. Data to confirm arrivals from District Council's and from the Admissions team have been used to determine how many Homes for Ukraine guest pupils are on roll in each school.

In light of this reconciliation challenge and in line with the guidance, we are allocating schools will be allocated 75% of the funding received per pupil, with 25% retained by the local authority. The retained funds will be used to support the following:

- Exceptional transport requests for Ukrainian guests
- Support for children and young people with complex levels of SEND whilst they undergo the education health and care planning process
- Proposals presented to council from the third sector proposing to offer projects aiming to provide Ukrainian children and young people with additional educational support.
- Further children who were not included in the original data but meet the criteria for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

We are hoping we may be able to offset these costs against other Ukraine funding so this is the minimum level of funding you will receive. If we can uplift the percentage, we will seek to do so in later payments. The rates are shown below. To date, we have only received the first 2 quarters of funding and we will provide further funding in the upcoming months. We will be providing more details on children in early years shortly.

Phase (Age)	Q1 Mar – May 100%	Q2 Jun – Aug 75%	Q3 Sep – Nov 50%	Q4 Dec – Feb 25%
Primary (5-10)	£4,935	£3,701	£2,468	£1,234
Secondary (11-18)	£6,566	£4,935	£3,283	£1,642

Details can be found in the attached list – [Ukraine Funding Q1 & Q2](#), please select your school from the dropdown in cell A3. **You may need to download the sheet to get it to work depending on your browser. Depending on how you opened it there should be a download button at the top of the page.**

Due to funding being based on age at arrival, we have made allowances for the following circumstances:

- Any child in a school will be funded at at least the primary rate, even if they were below primary age (i.e. 2-4) on arrival (this is to allow for any who may have moved between nursery and primary).

- Where a child has changed school in year (primary to secondary change), we will fund primary school at 50% of eligible 5-10 funding; we will then fund the secondary school at 50% of 11-18 funding rate.

### **Contacts and Queries**

If there are any queries on the individual pupils and their level of resource please contact:

[send.resources@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:send.resources@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

If you have any further queries or questions on the general funding please email:

[schools.funding@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:schools.funding@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)