

SCHOOLS FORUM 13 JAN 2021



**SETTING OF 2021/22 MAINTAINED
SCHOOLS' AND ACADEMIES'
BUDGETS**

I. 2021/22 Funding

I.1 In December 2020, the Department of Education (DfE) published initial DSG allocations for 2021/22 based on October 20 pupil numbers.

I.2 The table below shows Plymouth's DSG allocation for 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 baselines.

	2020/21 Final DSG Allocation* (£m)	2021/22 Indicative DSG Allocation (July 20) (£m)	2021/22 Initial DSG Allocation (December 20) (£m)	Increase/ (decrease) compared to 2020/21 baselines (£m)	Increase/ (decrease) compared to 2020/21 baselines (%)
Schools Block	£170.489m	£176.696m	£178.650m	£8.161m	4.79%
High Needs Block	£34.026m	£37.797m	£37.984m	£3.958m	11.63%
CSSB	£3.210m	£2.845m	£2.898m	(£0.312m)	(9.72%)
Early Years Block	£16.495m	-	£16.708m	£0.213m	1.29%
	£224.220m	£217.338m	£236.240	£12.020m	

* 2020/21 baselines for the Schools Block include the Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant.

2. 2021/22 Schools Block Funding

- 2.1 The Schools Block allocation for 2021/22 has been calculated as follows (using the October 2020 census data);

2021/22 Schools Block Funding		
Schools Block Primary Unit of Funding	£4,501.17	
Schools Block Primary Pupils (headcount)	20,363.50	
Total Primary funding		£91.660m
Schools Block Secondary Unit of Funding	£5,833.90	
Schools Block Secondary Pupils (headcount)	14,324.50	
Total Secondary funding		£83.568m
Funds through the growth, premises and mobility factors		£3.423m
Total schools block funding		£178.651m
Less amount allocated for growth		(0.617m)
Funding available to allocate to schools		178.034m

Growth Funding

- 2.2 Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block allocations. For 2021/22, it will be calculated using the same methodology as in 2020/21, based on growth in pupil numbers between the October 2019 and October 2020 censuses.
- 2.3 It was proposed and agreed at Schools Forum in December 2020 to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance to the in-year growth fund. After allocating the NFF in full and estimated growth for growing schools, the remaining balance is £617k. It is proposed to allocate £617k to the in-year growth fund, as this balance relates to unallocated growth funding. The under-allocation is due to a reduction in the number of growing schools across the City, three primary schools and one secondary school cease to meet the growth fund criteria in 2021/22. Pupil up take within growing secondary schools is also less than anticipated due to the impact of University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.

3. Plymouth's Consultation Document

- 3.1 A summary of consultation responses was presented to Schools Forum on 16th December 2020. 3 responses were received in total and the paper to Schools Forum included a summary of comments made.
- 3.2 The following proposals were presented and agreed at schools forum (reference numbers refer to the numbers on the original consultation document and report presented to schools forum in December 2020);
- 9.1. *It is proposed that the full High Needs Block allocation is allocated to the High Needs Block and that Plymouth continue to work with institutions that have pupils or students with high needs to ensure an effective and sustainable processes for allocating High Needs funding. This will be done via High Needs Budget Modelling Groups who will report back to Schools Forum.*
- 9.2. *Agree that CSSB ongoing commitments is allocated as per table 4.4 (replicated below) in 2021/22;*

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation
Retained ESG	£0.601m	£0.665m
Admissions	£0.282m	£0.282m (historic)
Copyright Licenses	£0.193m	£0.197m based on 20/21 plus 2%
Schools Forum	£0.028m	£0.017m
Total	£1.104m	£1.161m

- 9.3. *Agree that CSSB historic commitments is allocated as per table 4.11 (replicated below) in 2021/22;*

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 Proposed allocation
Retained ESG top up	£0.142m	£0.054
School Sports Partnership	£0.110m	£0.110m
Pensions	£0.634m	£0.634m
Prudential Borrowing	£0.512m	£0.512m
Distributed to schools to fund work previously done by the Excellence Cluster	£0.707m	£0.374m
Total	£2.105m	£1.684m

- 9.4 *It is proposed to continue to adopt the NFF method of allocation in 2021/22.*

- 9.5 *It is proposed to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance of £0.180m to the in-year growth fund. Please note, the in-year growth allocation will be updated in December 20 based on the final Schools Block allocations.*
- 9.6 *It is proposed to increase the PFI factor by £251,254 for mainstream schools in order to de-delegate the PFI affordability gap which will be paid back to the local authority by an annual recharge to schools. This will be funded by the exceptional premises funding which has been allocated to Plymouth's school block in 2021/22. Non-PFI schools are not impacted by this factor and all schools will continue to receive their full NFF allocation.*
- 9.7 *Please note that all of these figures are only estimates and will change once pupil data has been updated with the October 20 census information. Increases/decreases may have to be made to the basic entitlement factor for Primary School, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to ensure affordability. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum.*
- 9.8 *It is proposed that no de-delegation costs are included in 2021/22 budget allocations for maintained primary or maintained secondary schools*
- 9.9 *Plymouth are not proposing to charge maintained schools in 2021/22 for the Local Authority's £1.7m loss in income due to the cessation of the ESG general fund grant.*

4. Central School Services Block Funding

4.1 Central Government have allocated £2.898m to Plymouth for Central Funding in 2021/22. This includes £1.684m for historical commitments which is the same as initial projections and £1.213m for on-going commitments which is £0.052m higher than initial allocations. Copyright licence costs have also increased by £0.010m compared to initial allocations, resulting in a total under allocation of £0.042m against ongoing commitments.

4.2 It is proposed to allocate the additional £0.042m by increasing the funding for ESG retained within on-going commitments. This means, 'Retained ESG top up funding' within historical commitments can be reduced by £0.042m, leaving an additional £0.042m which can be added to the amount to be distributed to schools to fund the work previously done by the Excellence Cluster. This will be distributed to all schools funded via the DSG schools block, both primary and secondary to fund their own early help offer (as per Plymouth's funding consultation and Schools Forum approval in December 2020). This equates to a per pupil amount of £11.95 based on the October 2020 census data (originally £10.75 per pupil).

4.3 Final proposals for distribution of the CSSB ongoing commitments;

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation	2021/22 final allocation
<i>Retained ESG</i>	<i>£0.601m</i>	<i>£0.665m</i>	<i>£0.707m</i>
<i>Admissions</i>	<i>£0.282m</i>	<i>£0.282m (historic)</i>	<i>£0.282m (historic)</i>
<i>Copyright Licenses</i>	<i>£0.193m</i>	<i>£0.197m based on 20/21 plus 2%</i>	<i>£0.207m</i>
<i>Schools Forum</i>	<i>£0.028m</i>	<i>£0.017m</i>	<i>£0.017m</i>
Total	£1.104m	£1.161m	£1.213m

4.4 Final proposals for distribution of the CSSB historical commitments;

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation	2021/22 final allocation
<i>Retained ESG top up</i>	<i>£0.142m</i>	<i>£0.054m</i>	<i>£0.012m</i>
<i>School Sports Partnership</i>	<i>£0.110m</i>	<i>£0.110m</i>	<i>£0.110m</i>
<i>Pensions</i>	<i>£0.634m</i>	<i>£0.634m</i>	<i>£0.634m</i>
<i>Prudential Borrowing</i>	<i>£0.512m</i>	<i>£0.512m</i>	<i>£0.512m</i>
<i>Distributed to schools to fund work previously done by the Excellence Cluster</i>	<i>£0.707m</i>	<i>£0.374m</i>	<i>£0.416m</i>
Total	£2.105m	£1.684m	£1.684m

- 4.5 As per table 4.4 above, it is proposed that £0.416m funding previously used to fund the work done by the Excellence Cluster will be distributed to all schools through the High Needs Block and will be used by schools in meeting the needs of children with social, emotional and mental health needs. As with 2020/21 allocation of funding, schools will be required to submit a short return confirming how this allocation was used. It may be that schools could consider how the additional allocation can be used to invest into the City-wide inclusion project developments that are being planned for 2021/22.
- 4.6 The remaining ongoing project (Schools Sports Partnership) funded via historical commitments will be included in the Schools Forum forward plan to ensure that it is reviewed.
- 4.7 It is expected that Central Government will continue to reduce the CSSB funding each year (probably by 20%). Therefore, in future years there will be no remaining funding to distribute to schools (re. work previously done by the Excellence Cluster) and the School Sports Partnership funding would have to be purchased directly from schools. Information of this will be included in future consultation documents once we have more information.

5. Estimated 2021/22 School Budgets

- 5.1 Appendix 1 shows the estimated 2021/22 individual school budgets compared to 2020/21 baselines and Appendix 2 shows a summary of this information.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 also shows the allocation of historic commitment funding that was previously attributed to the Excellence Cluster.
- 5.3 The 'growing schools' funded via the APT are; Pomphlett Primary, St Matthews C of E Primary, Yealmpstone Farm Primary, Plympton Academy and Plymstock School. Any other schools who meet the 'growing schools' criteria will be funded via the growth fund budget during the year.
- 5.4 Appendix 3 shows estimated 2021/22 per pupil budgets compared to 2020/21 baselines for individual schools.
- 5.6 25 schools (21 primary and 4 secondary schools) require an uplift to the minimum per pupil funding levels to ensure that all schools receive £4,180 per primary pupil and £5,415 per secondary pupil.
- 5.5 10 schools (9 primary schools and 1 secondary school) have been uplifted to the funding floor to ensure they receive an increase of 2% compared to 2020/21 baselines.
- 5.7 53 schools (39 primary schools, 13 secondary schools and 1 all-through school) are due to receive their core NFF allocation, without any protection as this exceeds the thresholds set for the minimum per pupil amounts and the funding floor.
- 5.8 All figures included within the appendices are still estimates and subject to approval by the ESFA. The Local Authority deadline for confirmation of schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools is 28th February 2021.

6. Schools Forum Recommendations

Summary of Schools Forum recommendations;

- 6.1 The Central School Services Block funding for 2021/22 is allocated as per table 4.3 and 4.4 above.
- 6.2 The remaining ongoing project (Schools Sports Partnership) funded via historical commitments should be included in the Schools Forum forward plan to ensure that it is reviewed.
- 6.3 The remaining balance of £617k within the schools block, which represents unallocated growth funding is transferred to the growth fund to cover in-year growth adjustments.