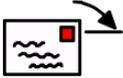




Tuesday 13th October 2020



School Funding



Dear Parents/Carers

We wanted to make you aware the Local Authority are running a consultation on how council-maintained Special Schools are funded. This consultation will affect ourselves, along with Oaklands, Keyham Lodge, Millgate school, Netherhall and West Gate schools.

Headteachers from these schools and School Governors have now met with the Local Authority and will be reviewing proposals put forward in the consultation. The council have confirmed they are looking to share funding more fairly and equally across schools to better meet pupil needs.

The last funding review was six years ago in 2014 and children and young people's needs have changed during that time, as have the funding regulations.

The proposals are to change the way we are funded, by looking at:

- non-teaching related costs.
- a teaching rate based on a 6-band system, according to pupil needs.

The impact on our school will result in funding changes from **£18,429** to **£21,376** per pupil.

Any changes proposed will need to be agreed with the Local Authority, the Department for Education and in consultation with schools.

If you would like to have your say on the consultation proposals please do so by 13 November 2020, you can access the information via the Local Authority's website:

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/sendschoolsfunding> If you are unable to access the internet then a paper copy is attached which once complete can be returned to Ellesmere College - FAO Jo Mason.

As you can see this will be extremely beneficial for Ellesmere so the more parents who can give a positive response to the consultation the better. Thank you for your support.



Yours Sincerely



Steph Beale
Principal

SEND special schools funding rates review

Overview

We are proposing a change to funding formula methods in council-maintained special schools, as these have not been reviewed since 2014. The aim of the proposal is to ensure a fair and equitable funding to meet pupil needs.

Findings from the consultation will be taken back to the city council's Executive and will require agreement from all special schools, and the Department for Education.

About you

Are you responding as...

Please select only one item

- member of the public parent of a child / young person attending a special school
 carer of a child / young person attending a special school

What is your home postcode? (as appropriate)

Please note: we collect postcode data to gain a better understanding of which parts of the city / county respond to our consultations. We cannot identify individual properties or addresses from this information.

Background / current arrangements

We are looking at how we fund mainstream special schools, as this has not been reviewed since 2014. There has also been an increase in the number and size of overspends in recent years (when the cost of running the service is more than the funding that's available).

Around half of all UK local authorities (LAs) experienced an overspend totalling £250m at the end of the 2018-19 financial year, while others were still carrying forward a surplus.

The government, acknowledging the problem, launched a consultation to look at how mainstream special schools funding was applied. Part of the government's consultation response was that LAs could not fund any part of their overspend from general resources / budgets (unless the Secretary of State grants a specific request to do so).

Whilst Leicester's special schools funding level was in surplus at the end of 2019/20, we are forecasting a cumulative deficit of £2.6m by the end of 2020/21.

Local context

Locally, the actual overspend of funding for pupils with special and educational needs (SEND) for 2019/20 was £6.6m. From 2020/21 the Department of Education (DfE) have provided additional SEND related funding nationally. In Leicester, the increase is £6.4m.

However, this only addresses the 2019/20 funding shortfall and further growth in pupil numbers (particularly for SEMH and ASD needs) means that SEND funding is forecast to be in deficit again by £5.7m in 2020/21, even allowing for the additional allocation.

As part of our review of SEND costs we are looking at two significant areas of spending: special schools and mainstream top-ups.

The aim of these reviews is to ensure that all available funding is distributed fairly and achieves value for money.

We have been working closely with our special schools over the last 12 months as part of the lead up to this consultation.

Proposal summary

We propose to carry out a review and consultation of the banding rates, by identifying separate 'per pupil' funding rates:

- **Teaching costs** per pupil will vary according to the level of need of the child. By ensuring the correct level of funding is applied, teaching levels will meet the needs of the pupil.
- **Non-teaching costs** per pupil should not vary significantly with the level of need of the child and will be the decision for the school in terms of how they spend their funding.

The proposals are intended to ensure that available funding is distributed fairly and equally to individual special schools (based on pupil need for teaching costs and an expectation associated non-teaching costs will provide value for money).

Please note that funding for pupil referral units and the hospital school are not included in this review.

Ash Field Academy will be subject to a separate review over the coming months.

This review will therefore only cover Ellesmere, Oaklands, West Gate, Nether Hall, Millgate and Keyham Lodge.

Do you have any comments on the proposal to standardise non-teaching costs for council-maintained special schools?

What impact will the proposed changes have on...

the school your child attends

your child

Do you have any final comments on special schools funding?

Equality monitoring

The information you provide in this final section of the questionnaire will be kept in accordance with terms of current Data Protection legislation and will only be used for the purpose of monitoring. Your details will not be passed on to any other individual, organisation or group. Leicester City Council is the data controller for the information on this form for the purposes of current Data Protection legislation.

Ethnic background:

Please select only one item

- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background
- Black or Black British: African Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Somali Black or Black British: Any other Black background
- Chinese Chinese: Any other Chinese background
- Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Asian Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black African
- Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black Caribbean
- Dual/Multiple Heritage: Any other heritage background White: British
- White: European White: Irish White: Any other White background
- Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller
- Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group Prefer not to say

If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:

Age:

Please select only one item

- under 18 18 - 25 26 - 35 36 - 45 46 - 55 56 - 65
- 66+ Prefer not to say

Gender

Please select only one item

- Female Male Prefer to use my own term Prefer not to say

If own term, please specify

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Please select only one item

- Yes No

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months. People with HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and severe disfigurement are also covered by the Equality Act.

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Please select only one item

Yes No Prefer not to say

If you have answered **'Yes'** to the above, please state the type of impairment that applies to you. People may experience more than one type of impairment, in which case you may need to tick more than one box. If none of the categories apply, please tick 'Other' and state the type of impairment.

Please select all that apply

A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy

A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder

A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches

A social / communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder

A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D

Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses

Deaf or have a hearing impairment

An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)

Prefer not to say

Other

If Other, please say