

Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 01 December 2022	Agenda Item No.	9
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Split-sites and Growth Fund Criteria-Agreement on formula factors</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Decision		
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Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of 2023-24 Split-sites and Growth Fund Criteria-Agreement on formula factors		
Recommendations	That School Forum approves:  (1) the existing split-site criteria for 2023-24 (2) Note the proposed changes to split site funding from 2024-25 (3) the existing Growth Fund criteria for 2022-23		

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Split Sites is an optional factor under the National Funding Formula. Its purpose is to compensate schools for unavoidable additional costs where schools operate on more than one site. For example, extra costs may arise, where sites are physically separated by roads or there are remote playing fields or students and teachers must move from site to site daily.
- 1.2 Allocations must be based on objective criteria for the definition of a split site, and for how much is paid. Schools sharing facilities, federated schools and schools with remote sixth forms or remote early years provision are not eligible for split site funding. Regulations require that Split-site criteria be agreed by Schools Forum for each financial year.
- 1.3 The current split site criteria for LB of Barnet is shown below, there are no proposals to amend these amounts.

## **2. Split-site funding:**

2.1 The Split Site funding has been updated as per 2023-24 NFF. The rates have been uplifted by 11.2% in line with the RPI all items index Excl Mortgage Interest (RPIX) growth.

2.2 "School buildings on split-sites are funded as follows (excludes sports and play areas, premises used for nurseries and sixth forms only and all-through schools where each site is used solely for either primary or secondary phases):

- The funding rate for a school on a split site is currently £33,313 (primary) or £110,546 (secondary).
- All through schools receive the primary split site allocation (£33,313) if they have primary year groups on more than one site, and £22,109 per secondary year group (£110,546/5) located across more than one site This is increased by part year fractions as schools expand across sites.
- Secondary schools on split sites also receive an allowance for staff travel between sites, depending on how far apart the two sites are. The rate is £59,483. If the buildings are very close and simply separated by a public road this rate is multiplied by 0.2 (less than 1 mile apart). If more than 1 mile apart the multiplier is 1.4."

### **For Information**

From 2024 to 2025, the DfE is planning to change how split sites funding is determined. They will be implementing a split sites factor within the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) with a national eligibility criteria, replacing the current local authority-led approach.

Local authorities have been sent the eligibility criteria and split site schools are encouraged to contact the local authority as soon as possible to discuss whether they will be eligible for funding through the NFF from 2024 to 2025. The local authority must complete its split sites data collection and return to the DfE in January 2023.

This follows proposals in the DfE's recent consultation (Implementing the direct national funding formula – government consultation) on introducing a national split sites formula from 2024 to 2025 as part of the transition to a direct NFF. The final design of the formula remains subject to the outcome of the consultation.

### 3. Growth Fund

- 3.1. The Growth Fund can only be used only to:
  - Support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
  - Support additional classes to meet infant class size regulation
  - Meet the costs of new schools
- 3.2. Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible for funding the growth needs of all their schools in their area, including new and existing maintained schools and academies. LAs must fund growth needs to all schools on the same criteria. Schools Forum is required to approve the Growth Fund criteria for each financial year.
- 3.3. The costs of new schools will include the lead-in costs and will also include post start-up and diseconomy of scale costs. Growth Fund support should be provided where academies are created to meet the basic need
- 3.4. Schools Forum is also required to approve the size of the Growth Fund. However, this will not be finalised until Dedicated Schools Grant has been announced in December 2022. The final Growth Fund amount will be presented for approval at Schools Forum in January 2023.
- 3.5. The 2023-24 criteria for the growth fund for School Forum approval are listed below. No changes are proposed apart from to the rates, which have been increased to match the new minimum per pupil funding levels announced in July 2022.
- 3.6. The minimum per pupil for growth fund calculations has been updated as per the 2023-24 National Funding Formula
- 3.7. Bulge classes opened at the request of the local authority - £10,000 one-off start-up grant plus £77,088 ( $7/12 \times £4,405 \times 30$ ) for a primary class of 30 opening in September. £100,013 ( $7/12 \times £5,715 \times 30$ ) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- 3.8. Permanent expansions approved by the local authority - £77,088 ( $7/12 \times £4,405 \times 30$ ) for a primary class of 30 opening in September, £100,013 ( $7/12 \times £5,715 \times 30$ ) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- 3.9. Temporary accommodation costs incurred as a direct result of LA-approved expansions.

- 3.10. Independent schools transferring to VA status - Allocation based on funding formula pro-rata for months open, based on previous actual pupils on roll, plus permanent expansion funding if appropriate.
- 3.11. Newly established schools for which the LA is responsible to provide start-up funding - Start-up funding of £220,000 primary/ £300,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- 3.12. New school phases (expansions to All-through status): New phase start-up funding of £50,000 primary/ £90,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- 3.13. Diseconomies of scale funding will be available to new basic needs academies and maintained schools opening new phases until there are pupils in every year group. No diseconomies of scale funding will be available to independent schools which become maintained. Diseconomies of scale per empty year group, paid from year after opening until pupils in all year groups. Academies are paid these rates in the current financial year with a further 5/12ths payment to cover the full academic year.”