

## 16 2020/21 Disapplication requests

### 1. Minimum Funding Guarantee(MFG) and Disapplication

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed Local Authorities (LAs) will still be able to set a pre-16 MFG in their local funding formula. This provides protection from excessive year on year changes and significant variations in pupil characteristics. As in previous years, the MFG calculation is based on a comparison of per pupil funding between 2020/21 and 2019/20.
- 1.2 LAs will need to consult with Schools Forum on setting the MFG percentage. For 2020/21, the DfE have stipulated that LAs can only set MFG in the range of +0.5% to +1.84% per pupil funding. LAs can still cap and scale gains to make allocations affordable. However, capping cannot be less than the MFG percentage set in the local formula.
- 1.3 Exceptionally, LAs may request to disapply the calculation of MFG protection in certain circumstances. In 2019/20, LB of Barnet requested MFG disapplication for three schools; St Mary's and St John's, London Academy and Wren Academy. These schools are expanding from either primary to all-through (SMSJ) or secondary to all-through). As a result of this, St Mary's and St John's minimum funding guarantee is based on its historic primary pupil level, and therefore they do not gain full benefit of secondary pupil funding. Conversely, London and Wren academies would be protected by their secondary pupil minimum funding levels which is out of line with primary pupil minimum funding in other schools. For these reasons, it is proposed to request disapplication of the MFG again in 2020/21. The deadline for submission of such requests is 11 October 2019 to allow for decisions by DfE before the release of the Authority Proforma Tool in December 2019.

**xii) Recommendation** – Schools Forum is asked to note the MFG range for 2020/21 and the disapplication request.