

7. SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES IN SCHEME FOR FINANCING LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Issue 11 of statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) for local authorities on schemes for financing schools was published on 1 April 2020. It relates to Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Schedule 14 to the Act.
- 1.2. Local Authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. The guidance lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include. Schemes need not follow the format used in the published guidance.
- 1.3. In making any changes to their schemes, Local Authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools. Local authorities must take this guidance into account when they revise their schemes, in consultation with the Schools Forum. Following this, the Schools Forum will be asked to approve the changes in the meeting to be held in September 2020.
- 1.4. **Schools Forum membership is recommended to consider and comment on the proposed changes on behalf of maintained schools, before proposed agreement in September 2020.**

2. Other Key Changes from the latest guidance

- 2.1. Following consultation that closed on 19 November 2019, the Secretary of State has decided that from 1 April 2020 local authority maintained schools (LAMS) will be able to join the risk protection arrangement. The Department of Education have not had time to conduct a consultation on a directed revision but may do so later.
- 2.2. There are a few smaller changes to wording as shown in the appended version of the Scheme (Appendix 1), where all such changes are highlighted. In summary these are:
 - Paragraph 1.1.1: Minor change - changed to "current funding framework".
 - Paragraph 2.9.1: Minor change - removed "Schools should consider the LA's purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements".

- Paragraph 2.15.5: Minor change - changed to “contracting authorities”
- Paragraph 10.1.3: Changes made to the guidance - added “Instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the Secretary of State’s Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA. Schools can join the RPA after 1st April 2020. Schools may do this individually when any insurance contract of which they are part expires.
- Para10.1.4: All primary and/or secondary maintained schools can join the RPA collectively by agreeing through the Schools Forum to de-delegate funding.”
- Paragraph 11.3: Minor change - changed “Governors’ Allowances”
- Paragraph 11.3.5: Presentational change - added “Schools without delegated budgets. The LA may”
- Paragraph 11.3: Presentational change - added “Schools with delegated budgets”
- Paragraph 13.9.4: Changes made to the guidance - added “Instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the RPA for risks that are covered by the RPA.”
- Annex A: Schools within the Scheme as at July 2020, removing any recent academy convertors