

Updated School Funding Scheme Guidance 2012

Purpose of the paper

1. To inform Schools Forum of proposals by the DfE to amend their guidance on local authority Funding Schemes, effective from 1 April 2012.

Summary of the changes

2. The following summarises the changes(The references are to the section number in the previous guidance):

2.4 Efficiency and value for money (replaces current Best Value section)

Local authorities must remove any requirement in their schemes for schools to submit a statement of Best Value with their budget plan. The revised requirement is as follows:

Schools must seek to achieve efficiencies and value for money, to optimise the use of their resources and to invest in teaching and learning, taking into account the Authority's purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements.

It is for heads and governors to determine at school level how to secure better value for money.

New 2.16 – SFVS (Replaces section on FMSiS)

All local authority maintained schools (including nursery schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) that have a delegated budget) must demonstrate compliance with the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and complete the assessment form on an annual basis. It is for the school to determine at what time in the year they wish to complete the form.

Governors must demonstrate compliance through the submission of the SFVS assessment form signed by the Chair of Governors. The form must include a summary of remedial actions with a clear timetable, ensuring that each action has a specified deadline and an agreed owner. Maintained schools that did not achieve the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) must submit the form to the local authority before 31 March 2012, and annually thereafter.

All other maintained schools with a delegated budget must submit the form to the local authority before 31 March 2013 and annually thereafter. Local authorities must remove from their schemes requirements relating to the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS)

New 2.17 - Fraud

All schools must have a robust system of controls to safeguard themselves against fraudulent or improper use of public money and assets.

The governing body and head teacher must inform all staff of school policies and procedures related to fraud and theft, the controls in place to prevent them; and the consequences of breaching these controls. This information must also be included in induction for new school staff and governors.

6.3 - General Teaching Council

Local authorities must remove from their schemes requirements relating to payments of General Teaching Council (GTC) fees.

(The GTC was abolished by the Education Act 2011 with effect from 1st April 2012.)

11.12 - Redundancy/early retirement costs

For staff employed under the community facilities power, the default position is that any costs must be met by the governing body, but not from the delegated budget. ***This is revised to:***

For staff employed under the community facilities power, the default position is that any costs must be met by the governing body, and can be funded from the school's delegated budget if the governing body is satisfied that this will not interfere to a significant extent with the performance of any duties imposed on them by the Education Acts, including the requirement to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

3. The current Wiltshire schools Funding Scheme will be updated to reflect the above changes and schools notified accordingly.

Recommendation

3. Schools Forum is asked to note the above changes.

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report:
NONE KNOWN

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