

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

12th January 2021

ITEM NO. Agenda Item 4
Appendix 4

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22 TRANSFER OF FUNDING FROM THE SCHOOLS BLOCK TO THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK. – QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS (TO DATE)

Responses

At the time of writing, 17 responses were received on behalf of the following schools which are included in Darlington's school budget share calculation.

Abbey Infant School
Abbey Junior School
Northwood Primary
Heathfield Primary
Mount Pleasant Primary
St Bede's RC Primary
St Teresa's RC Primary
Holy Family RC Primary
Skerne Park Primary
Harrowgate Hill Primary
St Augustine's RC Primary
Hummersknott Academy
Carmel
West Park Academy
Hurworth Academy
Longfield Academy
Rydal Academy

Questions Results

The following responses were received to the following questions. Percentage figures are given as a total of the responses received to individual questions.

*Where a response was not received to a question, these are not included within the percentage figures, however where the answer to question 1 and 3 was YES, question 4 is not applicable.

1. Does your school support a 0.5 % transfer from the schools' block to the high needs block in 2021/22, to assist with high needs pressures, if this can be achieved without reducing any of the new increased NFF rates in the 2021/22 formula?

Yes	12 responses, 71%
No	5 responses, 29%

2. Does your school support a 0.5 % transfer from the schools' block to the high needs block in 2021/22, to assist with high needs pressures, if this means that some of the new increased NFF rates for 2021/22 will have to be slightly reduced in the 2021/22 formula?

Yes 0 responses, 0%
No 16 responses, 100%

3. Does your school support a lower transfer from the schools' block to the high needs block in 2021/22, to assist with high needs pressures, up to the maximum achievable whilst still implementing the new increased NFF rates for 2021/22?

This transfer would be capped at 0.5%.

(i.e. the transfer would be the difference between the 2021/22 formula and school block allocation, plus any previous years underspend capped at 0.5% as per the transfer limit).

Yes 12 responses, 71%
No 5 responses, 29%

4. If your school does not support any of the transfers suggested in question 1 to 3, do you support a transfer in 2021/22 from the schools' block to the high needs block? If so, at what level would your school be willing to support?

Yes 0* responses, 0%
No 5 responses, 100%

Comments

In support

- Q1 We need to do something as a school community, this is the fairest option
Q1 Happy for this to be done if schools are not adversely affected
Q1 We are aware of the deficit budget on high needs and agree with the 0.5% transfer

Q3 I believe this is the fairest option
Q3 As long as schools are not adversely affected financially.
Q3 We need to ensure that the majority of the funding is in line with the NFF

Not in support

- Q2 This will adversely affect the primary school within our Trust and the school cannot afford to lose income it so desperately needs.
- Q2 We believe that we need to move to the increased NFF rates to ensure that schools receive the maximum funding available.
- Q1 – Q4 No. We do not believe a transfer of 0.5% should be made to the High Needs Block. At a time of exceptional budget pressure, schools have transferred £1,069,908 to the High Needs Block over the last three years.