

School Funding Formula Consultation

Summary of Responses - Duplicates Removed

Consultation Visitors

Total Visits 924

Documents	Downloads	
	Visitors	/ Views
Consultation Document	346	403
School Interactive Model	235	284
Consultation Document - Appendix 3	115	129
Equality Impact Assessment	45	49

Number of Responses

A) an individual school (maintained schools, individual academies or free schools)	Total
B) an Academy Trust for all Kent schools within the Trust	155
	21

	A	B	Total	
Primary	113	76	189	76%
Secondary	33	13	46	21%
All-through	1	0	1	1%
Special	5	1	6	3%
Blank	3	5	8	2%
Total	155	95	250	100%

Responses by District

Ashford	10	6%
Canterbury	12	7%
Dartford	6	3%
Dover	12	7%
Folkestone and Hythe	9	5%
Gravesham	13	7%
Maidstone	23	13%
Sevenoaks	13	7%
Swale	9	5%
Thanet	15	9%
Tonbridge and Malling	16	9%
Tunbridge Wells	15	9%
Blank	23	13%
Total	176	100%

Responses by Role

Bursar/Business Manager	70	40%
Headteacher	76	43%
Executive Headteacher	15	9%
Governor	5	3%
Other	10	6%
Total	176	100%

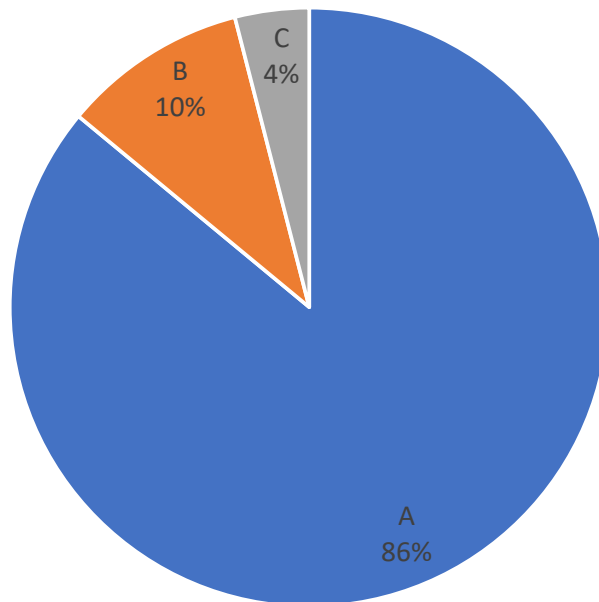
Question 1

For 2023-24, KCC is proposing to repeat the 1% transfer from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block.

We estimate this to equate to approximately £11.8m. This request effectively repeats the one-off transfer made in in the last four years. We are not proposing to reduce the school block further than has been done so in previous years and this will mean any additional funding received for the Schools' budget can still be passed directly to schools. We appreciate we have asked this question in previous years', but we are required to consult annually on this proposal. In line with the request in 2022-23, this transfer would be used to fund activities that support children with SEN in mainstream schools funded from the High Needs Block. It would help to support the system of SEN support across the county including ensuring sufficient funding for the County Approaches to Inclusive Education. This would also support our plan to reduce the financial deficit we have on the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs block by supporting strategies to increase the SEND capacity in mainstream schools and ensure only the most complex children with SEN are supported in specialist provision (such as independent schools). Please see section 1 and Appendix 3 of the consultation document for further details.

Do you agree or disagree with the one-off transfer of 1% (approximately £11.8m) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2023-24, to fund SEN support services for children with SEN in mainstream schools funded from the High Needs Block?

A) Agree	215
B) Disagree	25
C) Don't Know	10



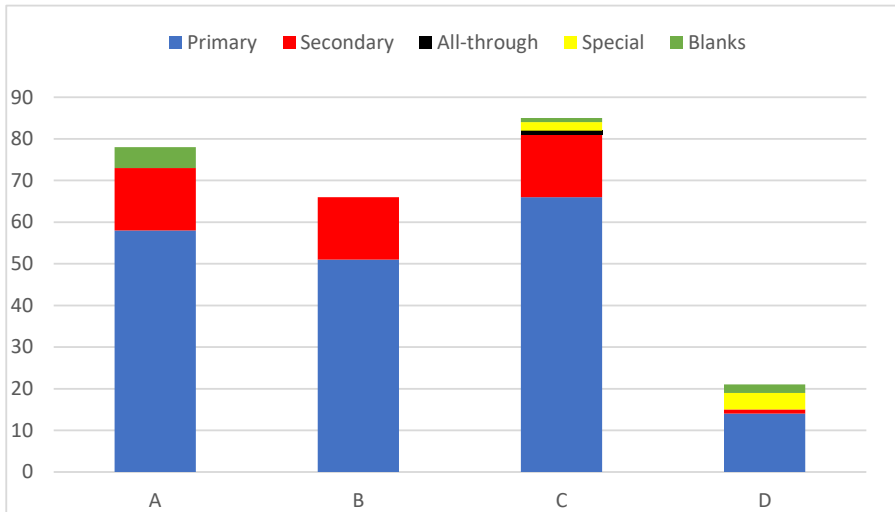
	A	B	C
Primary	169	11	9
Secondary	34	12	0
All-through	1	0	0
Special	6	0	0
Blanks	5	2	1
Total	215	25	10

Question 2

The final question relates specifically to the Local Funding Formula which is used to determine the total value of the primary and secondary school budgets in Kent. School budgets are determined by a formula which is driven by key characteristics of your schools' pupil cohort. If there is a transfer of 1% of the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block, KCC would like to understand how this should be funded from the school budget formula. For 2023-24, we are seeking your views as to whether we replicate the principles of the formula used in 2022-23 (updated to include the mobility factor) or do we mirror the Government's National Funding Formula (NFF) factors and rates more closely and applying a more equal reduction adjustment to all factor rates. In recent years, the Local Authority has taken the approach of ensuring Kent's formula rates increase in a similar way to the National Funding Formula (i.e. if a NFF rate increase by 2% then we increase equivalent local funding formula rate by 2%) – this has meant that some schools are now closer to the National Funding Formula than others, and there is a more variable contribution by individual schools towards the funding of the High Needs Transfer and Falling Roll Fund. By aligning the formula to follow NFF rates more closely would ensure schools will be contributing more equally towards these areas of concern, when compared to the budget allocation they would receive through the NFF. In addition, the funding formula includes 2 protection factors, which allocate further funding to a school budget, to ensure all schools receive either a minimum amount of funding per pupil (MPPL) or minimum percentage annual increase (minimum funding guarantee, MFG). These protection factors will "top-up" a school budget when the budget calculated on the characteristics of a school is lower than these protection thresholds. By including a reduction to these protection factors, in the same way as the other factor valves, would ensure all school budgets contribute towards the funding of the High Heeds Transfer and Falling Roll Fund. By moving closer to the NFF will mean schools will see a more variable increase when compared to 22-23. In all cases the additional £23m of funding received will be used to increase funding rates in line with the 2022-23 National Funding Formula where appropriate. No factor valve would be set at a lower level than last year's formula. These proposals have been put together on the assumption that all schools will also receive a separate top up grant following the Chancellors announcement on 17 November (details are still be published). Please see section 2 and Appendix 4 of the consultation document for further details. If there is support to continue to transfer 1% of the Schools block to the High Needs Block to fund activities that support children with SEN in mainstream schools,

KCC would like to understand which of the following principles schools prefer:

A) Scenario 1: continue with the principles of last year's Local Funding Formula and mirror the NFF rates for all factors except for Ever 6FSM & Basic Entitlement & mobility factors which are reduced to fund SEN support services in mainstream schools.	78
B) Scenario 2: move closer to the National Funding Formula, introducing the mobility factor and reducing all NFF factor values more equally to fund SEN support services in mainstream schools except the Protection Factors which should remain at NFF rate.	66
C) Scenario 3: move closer to the National Funding Formula introducing the mobility factor and reducing all NFF factor values more equally to fund SEN support services in mainstream schools including the Protection Factor Valves.	85
D) I don't know	21



	A	B	C	D
Primary	58	51	66	14
Secondary	15	15	15	1
All-through	0	0	1	0
Special	0	0	2	4
Blanks	5	0	1	2
Total	78	66	85	21