



**Directorate of Children's Services**

# **Consultation on School Budgets 2009/10 – Proposed Changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools**

*'Putting children and young people first in Dudley'*

**October 2008**

**John Freeman  
Director of Children's Services**

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2004-2005  
*Transforming the School Workforce*

## **Directorate of Children's Services**

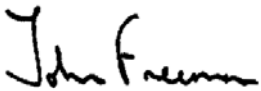
### **Consultation Document**

- Consultation on:** Changes to the Dudley mainstream school funding resource allocation formula and matters related to the setting of school budgets for 2009/10.
- Summary:** This consultation sets out proposed changes in the Council's arrangements for the determination of school budgets via the Dudley school funding resource allocation formula and proposed actions related to the setting of school budgets in 2009/10. This consultation is required by regulations made under the education legislation relating to the operation of school budgets by local education authorities.
- Deadline:** All responses must be received by 9 January 2009
- Consultees:** Chairs of Governors  
Children's Trust Executive Board  
Councillors  
Directorate Staff  
Dudley Association of Governing Bodies  
Dudley Council Directorates – Corporate Board  
Headteachers  
Members of Parliament  
Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission  
Select Committee for Children's Services  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
Unions and Professional Associations  
Worcester Diocesan Board of Education
- Public Access:** Consultations, plans and policies will be published as follows:  
Public Libraries  
Dudley MBC Website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)  
Inside Dudley  
Westox House

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*Your responses will be co-ordinated by the above person.  
Any responses will be provided by the appropriate responsible  
officer for this consultation.*

All responses may be published. A large print version, and versions in other languages are available on request to the above address.



John Freeman  
Director of Children's Services

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### Glossary

<b>AWPU</b>	Age Weighted Pupil Unit
<b>CSS</b>	Class Size Supplement
<b>DCSF</b>	Department for Children, Schools and Families
<b>DSG</b>	Dedicated Schools Grant
<b>HTCF-BWG</b>	Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group
<b>IMD</b>	Index of Multiple Deprivation
<b>ISB</b>	Individual Schools Budget
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LMS</b>	Local Management for Schools
<b>MFG</b>	Minimum Funding Guarantee
<b>RSG</b>	Revenue Support Grant
<b>SSP</b>	Small Schools Protection

## Directorate of Children's Services

### School Budgets 2009/10 –Proposed Changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools

#### Executive Summary of the Proposed Changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools

This document sets out a number of proposed revisions to the schools resource allocation formula.

The proposed revisions affect four areas of funding within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) funding formula:

- Small Schools Protection (SSP) - (mainstream schools)
- Socio Economic Need (Deprivation) - (all schools)
- Class Size Supplement (CSS) - (primary schools)
- Changing Schools - (mainstream schools)

#### **Small Schools Protection (SSP)**

Evidence indicates that small schools are less cost effective and this formula factor no longer targets funding to schools that meet the DCSF definition of a small school.

Funding for 2008/09 Small Schools Protection was £0.682m

From April 2009 the small school protection funding for secondary schools will cease completely and the funding for primary schools will be made available only as a lump sum to those schools with 189 or less pupils on roll at January School Census date. Implementation will be phased over a two year period (2009/10 and 2010/11), schools that received SSP in 2008/09 will be protected at 50% of the 2008/09 rate for 2009/10.

Full details are in paragraph 6.

#### **Socio Economic Need (funding for Deprivation)**

It is a requirement of the DCSF that all Local Education Authorities review their arrangements for deprivation funding before 2010 and make amendments where necessary to ensure that funding is equitably directed and effectively utilised towards closing the attainment gap attributable to social deprivation.

Funding for 2008/09 for Socio Economic Need was £2.269m.

From April 2009 it is proposed to change the existing methodology which is currently based on a weighted three year average of free school meal numbers, to one based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation factors (IMD). The IMD identifies postcodes for individual pupils in schools and the proposal is to direct funding to those in the 20% most deprived areas. The

IMD is widely considered to be a more accurate reflection of deprivation within the Borough. Implementation is proposed over a two year period (2009/10 and 2010/11)  
Full details are in paragraph 7.

### **Class Size Supplement (CSS)**

This formula factor was introduced in 2003/04 as an interim arrangement for schools to address staffing structures to enable compliance with government legislation restricting class sizes to a maximum of 30 for both Reception and Key Stage One.  
Funding for 2008/09 for CSS was £0.438m.

From April 2009 it is proposed that the funding for Class Size Supplement will cease for newly eligible schools. Schools that currently receive funding for CSS and continue to be eligible in 2009/10 will be funded at 50% of the current rate. Funding will cease for all schools from April 2010.

Full details are in paragraph 8.

### **Changing Schools**

Following changes to the DCSF Finance Regulations in 2006, which precluded 'in year' pupil adjustments, this factor was introduced as an interim arrangement to accommodate previously approved increases in Published Admission Numbers for Dudley schools.  
Funding for 2008/09 for Changing Schools was £0.091m.

From April 2009 those schools currently receiving funding will continue to do so as approved by Schools Forum. Funding for PAN increases is currently allocated for each of the five years until each year group is complete; with 2010 being the final year group under this current arrangement. Further PAN increases after April 2009 will no longer receive mid-year funding through this formula factor.

Full details are in paragraph 9.

### **Priorities for Re-distribution of Funding**

Any funds made available as a result of this proposed review of Dudley's Resource Allocation formula, which could be in the order of £1.04m will remain within the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) but be allocated to schools based on the revised Socio Economic Need formula and used to address pupil under attainment linked to deprivation.

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee**

All schools will receive some degree of financial protection under the current Minimum Funding Guarantee Regulations.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services, September 2008

## **School Budgets 2009/10 - Proposed Changes in the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this consultation document is to provide information concerning the content of school budgets in 2009/10 and to invite views in respect of proposed amendments in the resource allocation formula to be used in the setting of school budgets with effect from 2009/10. The consultation period closes on 9 January 2009. All responses to the consultation must be received by this date. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to Schools Forum in February 2009 for final approval.

### **Background**

2. The Children's Services budget is structured on the basis of primary legislation. The budget comprises of the Schools Budget and the Local Authority budget. The Schools Budget is funded by the DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant), which is a ring fenced grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Local Authority budget is funded from RSG (Revenue Support Grant), which is not ring fenced. Within the Schools Budget the majority of the budget is allocated to schools via the Individual Schools Budget (ISB). The ISB covers Nursery, Mainstream and Special schools delegated funding and accounts for 89% of the Schools Budget. The other 11% of the Schools Budget includes expenditure incurred centrally on behalf of front line services for schools, for example Special Educational Needs and Early Years. The Local Authority budget relates to expenditure which supports schools but would not typically be delegated to schools, such as central administration in support of schools, asset management, social care and the youth service.
3. In preparation for the schools formula funding review, detailed discussions have taken place with Officers of the local authority, Head Teachers Consultative Forum-Budget Working Group (HTCF-BWG), and Schools Forum.

### **Funding of Schools Budget**

4. The framework for the funding of schools can be found in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008. The distribution of the ISB to Dudley schools is in accordance with an approved local resource allocation formula.

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee**

5. Since 2004-05 the allocation of schools formula budgets has been subject to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG); this is a guarantee introduced by the DCSF which ensures that schools receive a minimum increase in funding per pupil (mainstream) or per place (special or nursery). The MFG has the effect of protecting to a degree those schools that have falling rolls or rapidly falling budgets. So in the case of a formula funding review any rapid change in budget from one year to the next will be protected at the level of the MFG.  
[:http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/.](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/)

## **Proposals**

### **6. Small Schools Protection**

**Current** - The current LMS formula includes a factor for mainstream schools which offers a financial subsidy for small schools where a small school is defined as “a primary school with no more than 12 full time equivalent teaching staff, or a secondary school with no more than 500 pupils”. Full details of the current funding methodology are attached at **Annex 1**.

**Funding** - For 2008/09 was £0.682m.

**Reason for Change** - Evidence indicates that small schools are less cost effective and as such this formula factor no longer targets funding to schools that meet the DCSF definition of a small school.

**Proposal** - It is proposed that with effect from April 2009 the small schools protection funding for secondary schools ceases completely and that the funding for primary schools is made available only as a lump sum to schools with 189 or less pupils on roll at January School Census date, as detailed below in Table 1. It proposed that implementation is phased over a two year period (2009/10 and 2010/11), schools that received SSP in 2008/09 will be protected at 50% of the 2008/09 rate for 2009/10.

**Table 1**

<u>No. of pupils</u>	<u>Funding</u>
<b>&lt; 171</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>171 – 189</b>	<b>£7,500</b>
<b>&gt;189</b>	<b>NIL</b>

### **7. Socio Economic Need (Deprivation)**

**Current** -The current formula factor for Socio Economic Need, which applies to all schools, uses a historic methodology based on weighted 3 year average free school meal numbers. Full details of the current methodology are attached at **Annex 2**.

Regulation 19(2) of the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008 requires the following:  
*“ A local education authority must, in determining budget shares for both primary and secondary schools which they maintain, take into account in their formulae a factor or factors based on the incidence of social deprivation among pupils registered at all such schools if they have no factor elsewhere in their formulae which is based on such incidence”*

**Funding** - For 2008/09 was £2.269m.

**Reason for Change** - It is a requirement of the DCSF that all Local Education Authorities review their arrangements for deprivation funding during the current multi year funding period (2008-11), and make amendments where necessary to ensure that funding is



directed and effectively utilised, towards closing the attainment gap attributable to social deprivation.

Proposal - This methodology would direct funds to pupils with postcodes in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA's), which reflects the most deprived areas in Dudley. Option 1 reflects funding based on unweighted pupil numbers, whilst Option 2 reflects weightings for the first and second deciles of 2.0 to 1.5 respectively. It is proposed that this change would be implemented over a two year period (2009/10 and 2010/11).

Under this methodology funding would be targeted to 12,000 pupils as opposed to 7,000 pupils using the current Free Schools Meals (FSM) methodology.

Research and financial modelling has been undertaken based on latest tax credit data available from the DCSF, however it is felt that the resulting financial turbulence experienced would have a de-stabilising effect on schools, and there is insufficient correlation with the data obtained from the IMD for reliance to be placed upon it.

A summary of the results is shown in Table 2 for information.

**Table 2**

<b><u>Sector</u></b>	<b><u>Option 1</u></b>	<b><u>Option 2</u></b>
No. of Primary Schools (Gain)	56	54
No. of Primary Schools (Lose)	22	24
No. of Secondary Schools (Gain)	13	13
No. of Secondary Schools (Lose)	9	9
No. of Special Schools (Gain)	3	3
No. of Special Schools (Lose)	4	4
Max Gain £	<b>£32k</b>	<b>£33k</b>
Max Loss £	<b>£80k</b>	<b>£82k</b>
Cash movement from Secondary to Primary Sector	<b>£36k</b>	<b>£40k</b>

## 8. **Class Size Supplement**

Current - This formula factor was introduced in 2003/04 as an interim arrangement for schools to address staffing structures to enable compliance with government legislation restricting class sizes to a maximum of 30 for both Reception and Key Stage One. Full detail of the current methodology is attached at **Annex 3**.

Funding - In 2008/09 £0.438m was distributed through this formula factor.

Reason for Change - It is felt that schools should now be better placed to ensure compliance without the need for reliance on additional funding.

Proposal - It is proposed that this funding cease for schools who are newly eligible from

April 2009. There will be phased implementation for schools that were eligible in 2008/09 and continue to be eligible in 2009/10: for these schools funding will continue at 50% of the current rate for one year only (2009/10). All funding will cease with effect from April 2010.

## 9. Changing Schools

Current - This factor allocates funding at the rate of 7/12ths Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) for schools who at the request of the Local Authority (LA) increased their Published Admissions Number (PAN) and admitted additional pupils in September. Of the schools that Schools Forum originally gave approval three remain and will continue to be funded under the current methodology until September 2010, at which point each of the year groups will be complete. September 2006 was the first year of admission with September 2010 being the final year for the schools shown in Table 3.

**Table 3**

School	Funded Increase in PAN	Funding received 2008/09
		£
Earls High	+10	15,980
Windsor	+19	30,362
Hillcrest	+28	44,745

Funding – In 2008/09 £0.091m was distributed through this formula factor.

Reason for Change - Following changes to the DCSF Finance Regulations in 2006, which precluded 'in year' pupil adjustments, Schools Forum approved the introduction of a "changing schools" formula factor. This factor was introduced as an interim arrangement to accommodate previously approved increases in Published Admission Numbers for Dudley schools.

Proposal - From April 2009 those schools currently receiving funding will continue to do so until 2010, as previously approved by Schools Forum. Further PAN increases after April 2009 will no longer receive mid-year funding through this formula factor.

Full detail of the current methodology is attached at **Annex 4**.

## 10. Priorities for Re-distribution of Funding

Current Funding – By 2010 funding of £1.04m will be available for re-distribution within the LMS formula as a result of the proposals contained within this consultation document. Table 4 refers.

**Table 4**

<u>Formula Factor</u>	<u>Funding available for re-direction when proposals fully implemented</u>

	<b><u>fully implemented</u></b> <b><u>(2008/09 values)</u></b> <b>£</b>
Small Schools Protection	£0.606m
Class Size Supplement	£0.438m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.044m</b>

Reason for Change - Jim Knight's (Minister for Schools and 14-19 Learners) statement of 25 June 2007, set out the steps the DCSF is taking to ensure that deprivation funding in the Dedicated Schools Grant is properly reflected in local funding formulae. The DCSF has now published guidance for local authorities to help them assess the quantity of deprivation funding distributed through the local formula in 2007/08. This latest data identifies a shortfall of £4.4m on funding used to target deprivation against the funding received for deprivation as part of the DSG. All LAs are required to take action to divert funding within the DSG and address any shortfall during the current multi year funding period (2008/09 – 2010/11).

Proposal -It is proposed that any funding available for re-distribution as a result of the above changes is re-directed into funding for Socio Economic Need (Deprivation) within the LMS local funding formula.

### **Proposed Timetable**

The following indicative timetable is planned for the budget setting cycle.

- **13 October 2008 to 9 January 2009** - Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools.

- **February 2009** – Schools Forum considers proposed LMS Formula changes for 2009/10.
- **February 2009** - Decision by Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- **March 2009** – Schools Indicative budgets issued.
- **31<sup>st</sup> March 2009** – Schools final budgets and Section 52 budget statement issued.

The Council is committed to informing schools of their indicative 2009/10 budgets at the earliest possible date.

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**Annex 1 – Small schools protection for mainstream schools**  
**(extract from Fair Funding for Schools-Resource Allocation Formula Guidance 2007/08)**

**1. SMALL SCHOOLS PROTECTION**

**a) Teacher Employment**

This allocation is limited to schools having no more than 12 full-time equivalent teaching staff at the time of the annual manpower review. This includes the headteacher and the deputy, all permanent staff and temporary staff on contracts of one term or longer, and any vacant posts, which the school intends to fill. It is given in recognition that a financial distribution based on average teacher salaries could result in a severe financial shortfall in schools with a small number of staff, many of whom could be towards the top of the main professional grade for teachers.

The additional protection will be given as follows:

For schools with twelve and fewer staff paid under Teachers' Conditions of Employment the actual salary costs and the salary costs for the same number of teachers on the Authority primary teacher average salary will be compared.

For this particular category of school the Authority will provide the full cost of the difference between the two where the actual salaries paid are greater than the average salary.

### **b) Pupil Number (Taper)**

In recognition of the financial pressures experienced by the smallest schools, a lump sum has been allocated based on pupil numbers as measured at the PLASC count in January preceding the financial year. For 2007/08 the allocation is as follows:

<b>Pupil Nos (Nursery to Year 11 only)</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Primary</b>	
0-170	10,000
171-190	7,500
191-210	5,000
211-220	2,500
221+	0
<b>Secondary</b>	
0-500	50,000

Each financial year the Authority will define the "taper" allocation.

Funding for small schools protection is currently subject to review and consultation is due to take place later this year regarding proposed changes to the methodology currently applied.

### **Annex 2 – Socio Economic Need (Social Deprivation)**

**(extract from Fair Funding for Schools-Resource Allocation Formula Guidance 2008/09)**

"This element continues to be based on weighted numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals. The units of resource have been increased to take account of inflation and are now £54.71 in primary sector and £83.45 in secondary sector."

Current weightings are as follows:

<b><u>3 yr average FSM % of pupils on roll</u></b>	<b><u>Weighting</u></b>
<b>Min %</b>	
0.00- 4.9%	0.00
5.00%	1.00
10.00%	2.00

15.00%	3.00
20.00%	4.00
22.50%	4.50
25.00%	5.00
27.50%	5.50
30.00%	6.00
31.25%	6.25
32.50%	6.50
33.75%	6.75
35.00%	7.00
36.25%	7.25
37.50%	7.50
38.75%	7.75
40.00%	8.00
41.25%	8.25
42.50%	8.50
43.75%	8.75
45.00%	9.00
46.25%	9.25
47.50%	9.50
48.75%	9.75
50.00%	10.00

### **Annex 3 –Class Size Supplement**

**(extract from Fair Funding for Schools-Resource Allocation Formula Guidance 2008/09)**

This element allocates additional resource to schools where numbers in Reception and Key Stage 1 will make it difficult for them to comply with the current legislation regarding class sizes. Where the number of pupils in either phase is divided by 30 (the maximum class size) and this leaves a remainder of less than 12, this will trigger a lump sum of £11,532 to support the school in providing additional teaching staff.

### **Annex 4 –Changing Schools**

**(extract from Fair Funding for Schools-Resource Allocation Formula Guidance 2008/09)**

This additional formula factor was introduced for 2006/07.

In circumstances where a school at the request of the local authority increases its Published Admissions Number (PAN), then funding is made available through the delegated budget at 7/12ths of AWPU value via a separate formula factor within the LMS formula.

It was agreed by Schools forum on 12 December 2006 that funding be made available for an amount equal to the **lower of either** the approved increase in PAN **or** the increase in the actual number of pupils admitted during the previous year.

## **Consultation Questionnaire**

**Please note: All proposals are linked to the consultation document**

**Name:.....Organisation:.....**

Contact email address: .....

**It is not necessary to answer every question. Please complete only those on which you wish to register an opinion.**

**Question 1.** Do you agree with the proposed changes for funding small schools protection? (Paragraph 6)

Yes  No

Comment

**Question 2.** Do you agree with phased implementation for funding small schools protection over the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 (Paragraph 6)

Yes  No

Comment

**Question 3.** Please indicate below the preferred option for distributing the funding for Socio Economic Need (Deprivation) (Paragraph 7)

Option 1  20% SOA's – unweighted      Option 2  20% SOA's – weighted

Comment

**Question 4.** Do you agree with phased implementation for funding the Socio Economic Need (Deprivation) over the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 (*Paragraph 7*)

Yes  No

Comment

**Question 5.** Do you agree with the proposed changes for funding Class Size Supplement (*Paragraph 8*)

Yes  No

Comment

**Question 6.** Do you agree with phased implementation for funding Class Size Supplement over the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11? (*Paragraph 8*)

Yes  No



Comment

**Question 7.** Do you agree with the proposed changes for funding Changing Schools?  
(Paragraph 9)

Yes

No

Comment

**Question 8.** Do you agree that any funds available for re-distribution to schools as a result of the proposed changes are allocated through the Socio – Economic Need (Deprivation) formula factor? (Paragraph 10)

Yes

No

Comment

**Other Comments**



*Thank you taking part in this consultation.*

**Please return your response to:**  
**Laura Ferrington**  
**Team Manager – Executive Support Team**  
**Directorate of Children’s Services**  
**Westox House**  
**Trinity Road**  
**Dudley DY1 1JQ**

[laura.ferrington@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:laura.ferrington@dudley.gov.uk)

The information you give on this form will be used to enable Dudley Council to assess the impact of its policies on all sections of the community.

The details you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to ensure that the views of a wide range of groups and individuals are included in the consultation process and given the opportunity to shape Council policies.

If you are completing this form on behalf of an organisation please try to answer the questions in general terms about the people your organisation represents.

**1. Please indicate whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individuals response
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisations response

**2. I would describe my ethnic group, or the ethnic group/s represented by my organisation as:**

ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH

<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Asian background		

BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH

<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Black Background
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CHINESE OR OTHER

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chinese</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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MIXED

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian & White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African & White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean & White
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Mixed background		

WHITE

<input type="checkbox"/> British	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other White Background
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RANGE OF ETHNICITIES

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. I would describe my religion/belief or the religion/beliefs of the people represented by my organisation as:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/> No Religion
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Christian

Sikh

Hindu

Other

Jewish

A range of religions/beliefs

Muslim

Unknown

**4. My gender or the gender of the people my organisation represents is:**

Female

Male

Mixed

**5. My age or the age range of the people my organisation represents is:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 5 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 – 35 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 – 10 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	36 – 45 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 – 16 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	46 – 55 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 – 19 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 56 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 – 25 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	A range of ages

**6. I consider myself or many of the people my organisation represents to be:**

Disabled

Not disabled

**Note:**

The Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 defines a “disabled person” as having “a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities”.

**Thank you for completing this form.**

**Please return this form with your consultation response**