



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Schools block funding formulae 2019 to 2020

**Analysis of local authorities' schools
block funding formulae**

June 2019

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Introduction

In January 2019, local authorities in England submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) their local formulae for allocating their dedicated schools grant (DSG) schools block funding for 2019 to 2020 to schools in their area. This document summarises the information on these local formulae.

2019 to 2020 saw the second year of the national funding formula (NFF). This reform means that school funding is distributed based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country. In order to provide stability for schools during the transition to the NFF, we have previously confirmed that local authorities continue to be responsible for distributing money between schools in their area in 2020 to 2021. Detailed information about the NFF can be found in [the national funding formula for schools and high needs: 2019 to 2020](#), which was published in July 2018.

For 2019 to 2020, each local authority's schools block DSG allocation was calculated based on the notional NFF allocations for schools in their area. Local authorities then set their own funding formula in order to distribute their schools block allocation. This document provides an overview of the 2019 to 2020 formula factor values chosen by local authorities as at 25 March 2019. For 2019 to 2020, schools are funded using a maximum of 14 factors.

The data in this document shows that many authorities have moved towards the values in the NFF when setting their 2019 to 2020 funding formula. When allowing for the area cost adjustments (ACA)¹ it shows, that 81 authorities have moved every one of their factor values in their local formulae closer to the NFF since its introduction. Seventy local authorities have set their minimum funding guarantee at 0.5%, meaning all schools in that area will gain in cash terms per pupil compared to 2018 to 2019, or have used the funding floor, meaning that all schools will gain at least 1% per-pupil compared to the 2017 to 2018 NFF baselines. One hundred and twenty two local authorities have used the minimum per pupil funding factor, which provides additional funding to the very lowest funded schools. Overall, this represents further progress towards the NFF in its second year.

This document provides charts and brief commentary on the ranges of unit funding amounts authorities have selected in 2019 to 2020, and the proportions of schools block funding distributed under each of the permitted factors. This document is accompanied by a data file, more details about which can be found in the "information about the data

¹ The NFF applies an area cost adjustment (ACA) to each of the individual factors. The data shown in this document does not include the ACA adjustment. When comparing the factors used by each authority against the NFF the ACA adjustment, where applicable, should to be taken into account.

file” section at the end of this document. Small details of funding formulae may change subsequently compared to the figures presented here as a result of late amendments.

Note that in the charts shown throughout the document the range of values along the x-axis include the value at the lower end and exclude the maximum value. So for example a band labelled 4% to 6% will include values of exactly 4% but will exclude values of exactly 6%. The charts are colour coded throughout the document:

- charts showing percentages are black/grey
- all other charts are blue

A similar summary about [local authorities' funding formulae for 2018 to 2019](#) was published by the DfE last year.

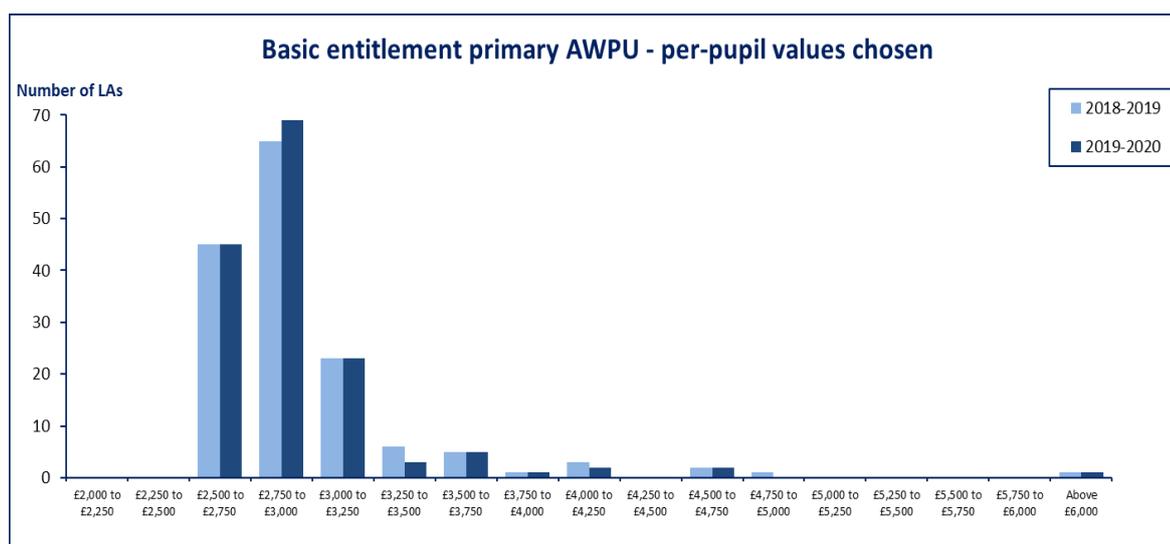
Commentary

This chapter looks at each of the principal formula factors in turn. It sets out the values that local authorities have chosen for those factors in their local formulae for 2019 to 2020, how these have changed from previous years and, where relevant, how they compare to the values in the NFF, as set out in the [NFF technical note](#). It should be noted that these comparisons to the NFF are not precise, due to the effect of the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA), which reflects variation in local costs. Individual factor values in the NFF do not include the impact of the ACA, which is applied (at a rate of 1 to 1.18) as a separate element within the overall NFF calculation. By contrast, the values of factors in individual local authorities' local formulae implicitly include the effect of the ACA. It also sets out the proportion of funding allocated through each factor².

Basic per-pupil entitlement

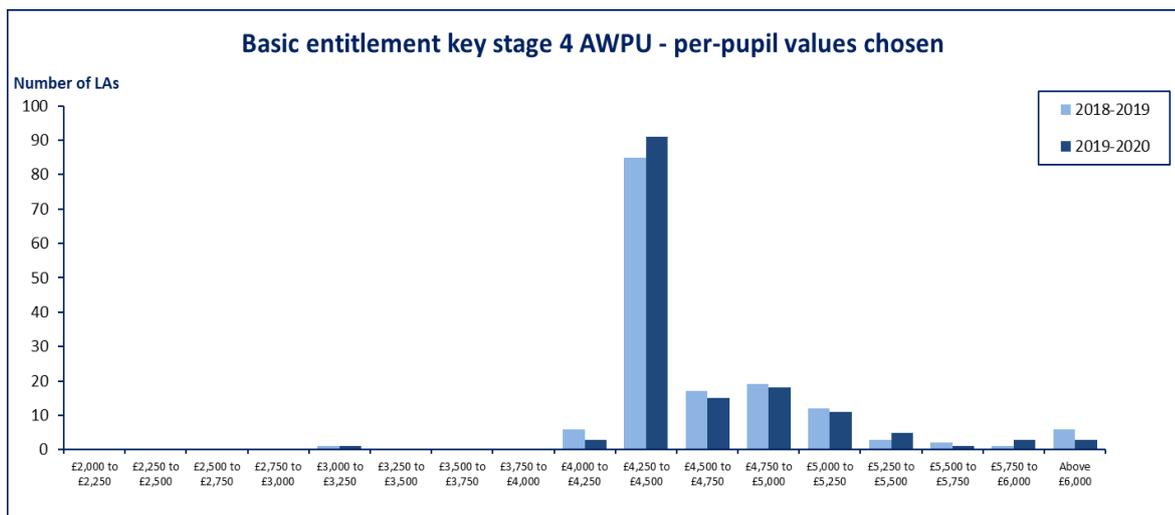
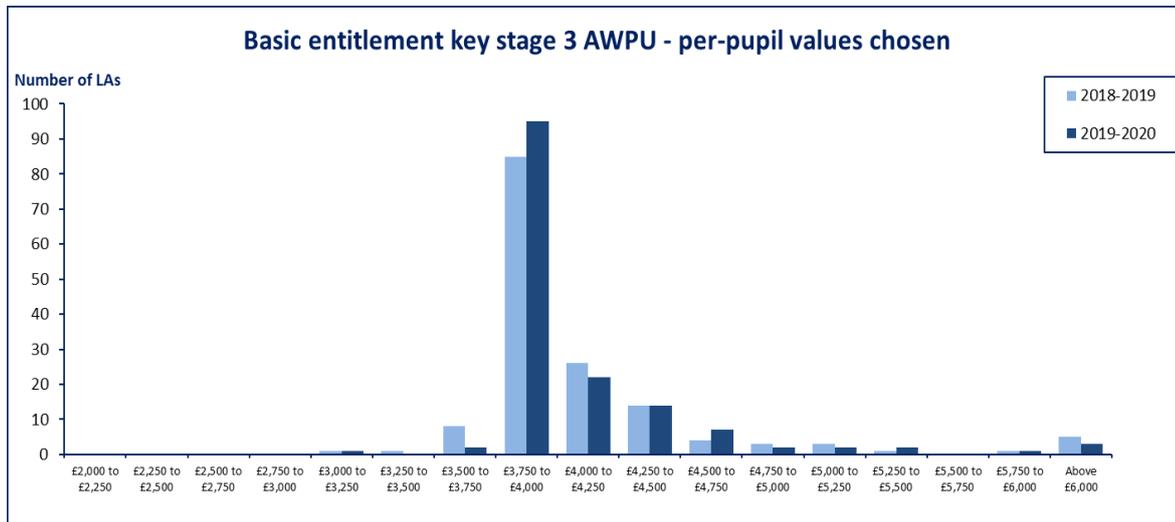
This is a mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2019 to 2020 formula. Local authorities are permitted to choose different age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) rates for primary pupils, for key stage 3 pupils and for key stage 4 pupils; but they must specify a primary AWPU of at least £2,000, and key stage 3 and key stage 4 AWPU values of at least £3,000.

The majority (91%) of primary AWPU values selected by local authorities are in the range of £2,500 to £3,250, although there are a few significant outliers of over £4,000. Eighteen of the 20 local authorities with the highest primary AWPU values are in London. The AWPU values are very similar to last year although the distribution of the primary rate shows further movement towards the rate of £2,746.99 stated in the [NFF technical note](#).



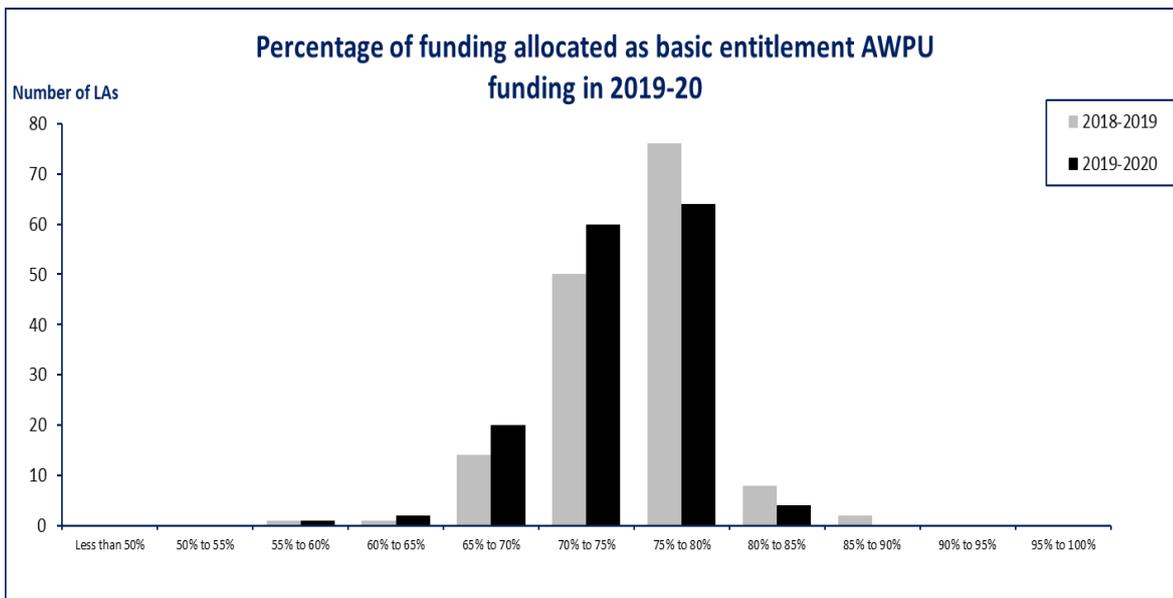
² In the charts showing the ranges of unit funding amounts local authorities have used for the formula factors, only those authorities which have chosen to use that factor in their formula in each year are shown. However, in the charts showing the proportion of funding allocated using the factors, all local authorities are displayed, with those not choosing to use the factor (where its use is not mandatory) shown as allocating 0%.

The distribution of the KS3 and KS4 rates show a move towards the NFF rates of £3,862.65 and £4,385.81. For key stage 3 AWPUs, 88% of local authorities are allocating between £3,500 and £4,500 per pupil, and for key stage 4, the majority (84%) are allocating between £4,000 and £5,000 per pupil. Again, the authorities with the largest secondary AWPUs are mostly in London³.



The final chart in this section shows the proportions of schools block funding that local authorities are allocating through the basic entitlement factor. Overall, the proportion of funding being spent on the AWPUs ranges from 60% to 83%, with 42% of local authorities allocating between 75% and 80%. Across all authorities, 74% of funding is being allocated through basic entitlement, compared to 74.9% of funding in the 2018 to 2019 formulae.

³ City of London have a value of £3,000 for their key stage 3 and key stage 4 AWPUs in 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020, which is shown on the chart; however they do not have any key stage 3 or key stage 4 pupils at their sole school so allocate no funding through these indicators.



Deprivation

This is another mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2019 to 2020 formula. Local authorities can distribute their deprivation funding using any combination of the three indicators: children eligible for free school meals (FSM), children eligible for free school meals in any of the last 6 years or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data.

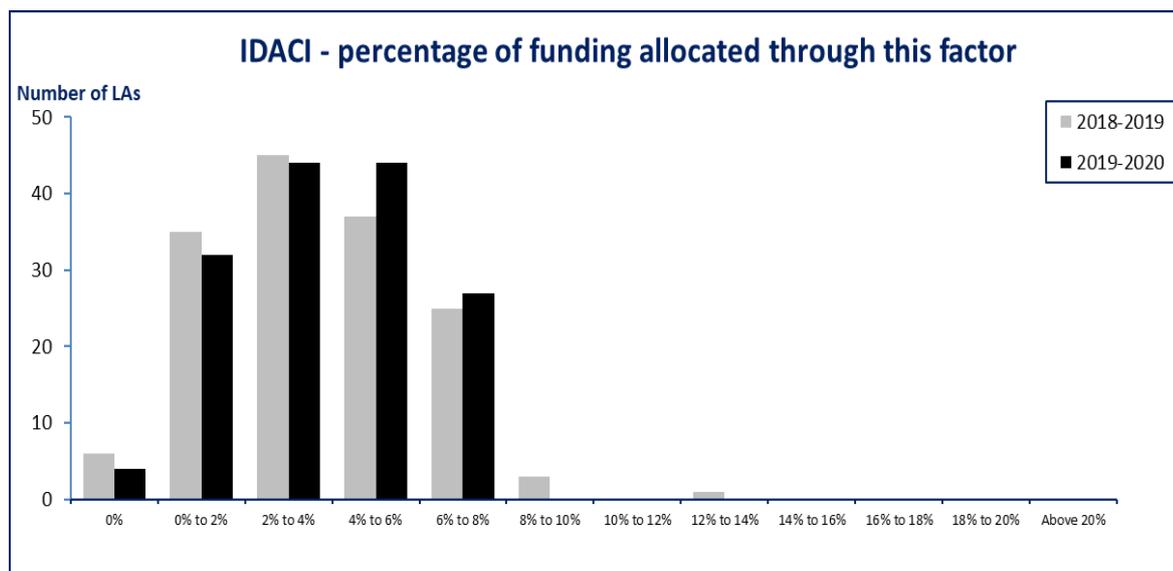
IDACI scores are taken from the English Indices of Deprivation (IMD) for 2015 published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. IDACI is a measure of income deprivation and identifies the proportion of children in out-of-work households or on low incomes.

The IDACI scores are grouped into 7 bands as per the table below:

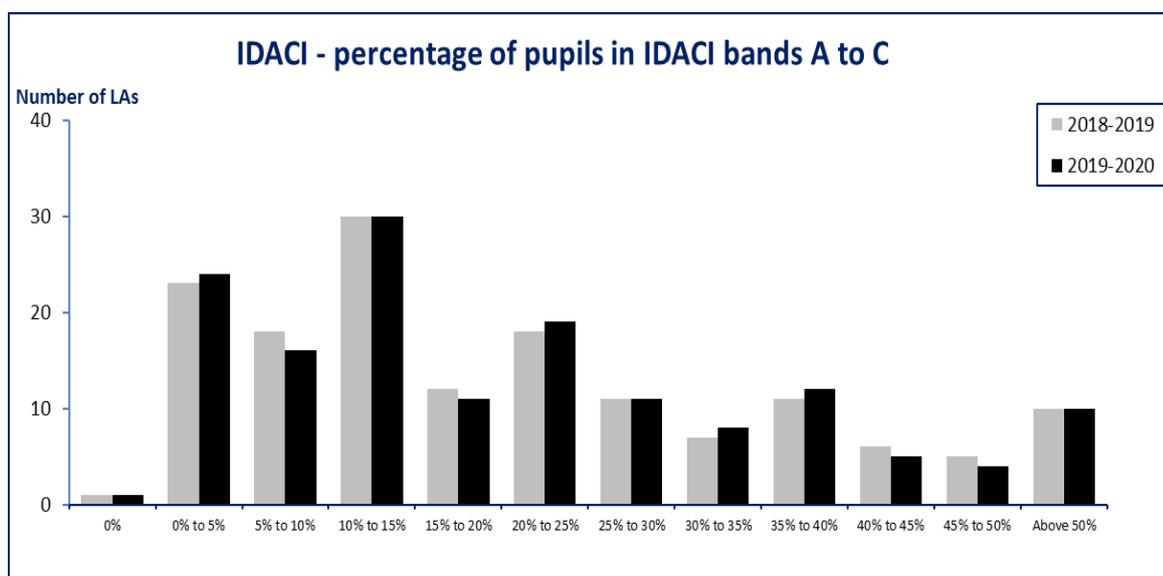
IDACI score	IDACI band value
$x < 0.20$	G
$0.20 \leq x < 0.25$	F
$0.25 \leq x < 0.30$	E
$0.30 \leq x < 0.35$	D
$0.35 \leq x < 0.40$	C
$0.40 \leq x < 0.50$	B
$x \geq 0.50$	A

The first chart in this section indicates that there is some variation between local authorities in the amount of funding allocated through this element of the factor. Of the

151 authorities, 147 are using IDACI in their deprivation factor and 18% are using it to allocate more than 6% of their total funding compared to 19% in 2018 to 2019.



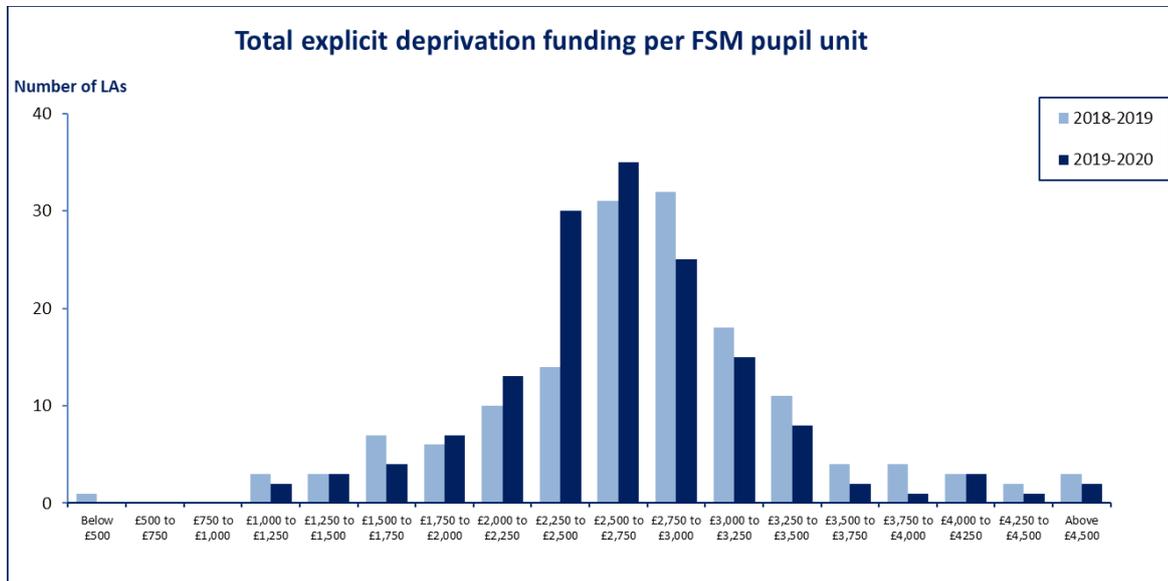
In 2019 to 2020 33% of authorities have more than 25% of their pupils in IDACI bands A to C (the same as in in 2018 to 2019) and 10 authorities have more than 50% of pupils in bands A to C in 2019 to 2020 (the same as in 2018 to 2019).



Because of the different permutations of deprivation indicator selections available for local authorities to use for this factor, it is not immediately straightforward to calculate per-pupil funding amounts on a comparable basis. For the purpose of this analysis, total funding allocated through the deprivation factors is divided by the number of FSM pupils, to obtain an estimate of the deprivation funding per FSM pupil, as below.

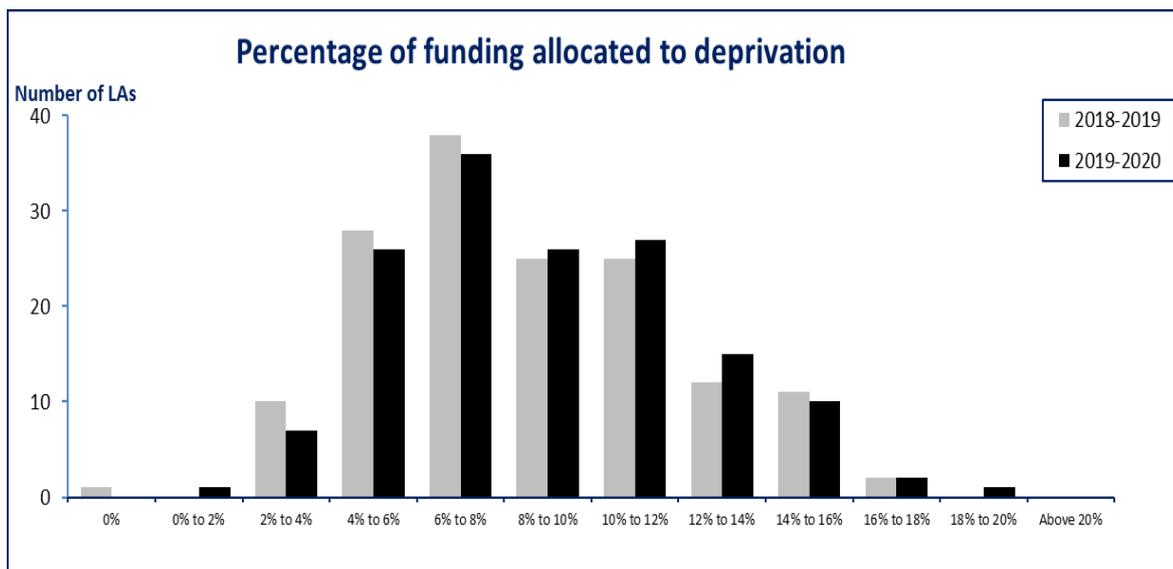
$$\text{Total deprivation per FSM pupil for each LA} = \left(\frac{\text{Total Deprivation funding in FSM+IDACI}}{\text{Number of FSM pupils}} \right)$$

The chart below indicates that there is some variation between local authorities in the amount of funding allocated per FSM pupil. Seventy five per cent are allocating between £1,500 and £3,000 per FSM pupil.



There is considerable variation in the proportion of schools block funding which local authorities are allocating to schools through the deprivation factor, ranging from 0.5% to 18.4%, as illustrated by the chart below.

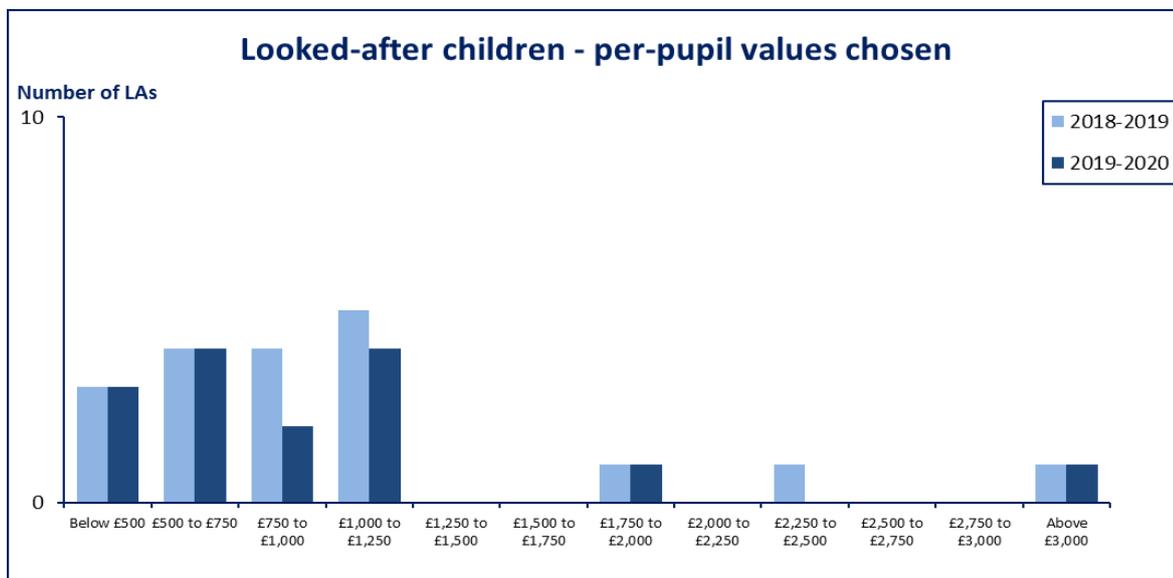
There is some variation in allocation within authorities from last year (as highlighted in the graph below), but across all authorities, the allocation has increased to 8.5% in 2019 to 2020 compared to 8.2% in 2018 to 2019. This represents slight movement towards the overall funding for deprivation in the NFF of 9%.



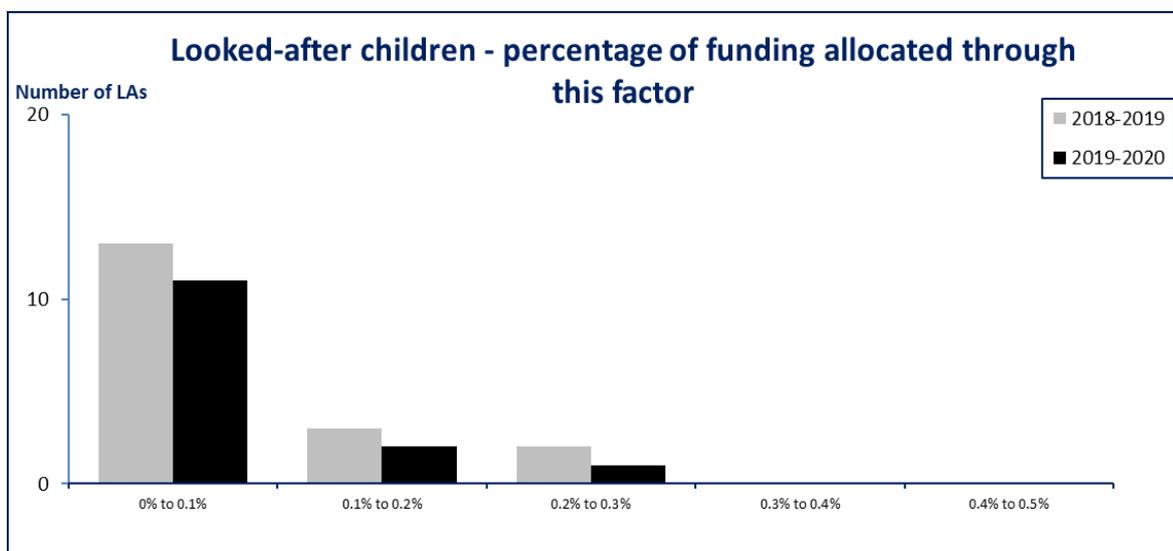
Looked-after children

Use of this factor in funding formulae is optional, and only 15 local authorities have chosen to use it, compared to 19 in 2018 to 2019. The factor is not included in the NFF and this may be the reason for the continued decrease in the number of local authorities using it in their 2019 to 2020 formula (in 2017 to 2018 there were 88 authorities using the factor).

As in 2018 to 2019, the indicator authorities can use for this factor is children looked after for any period of time as at the end of March 2018 (as recorded on the March 2018 SSDA903 collection). Of the authorities that are using the factor 87% are allocating less than £1,250 per pupil. The chart below shows for those authorities using the factor the amount allocated per pupil.



Across all local authorities (including those not using the factor), a total of 0.01% of schools block funding is being allocated through the looked-after children factor.

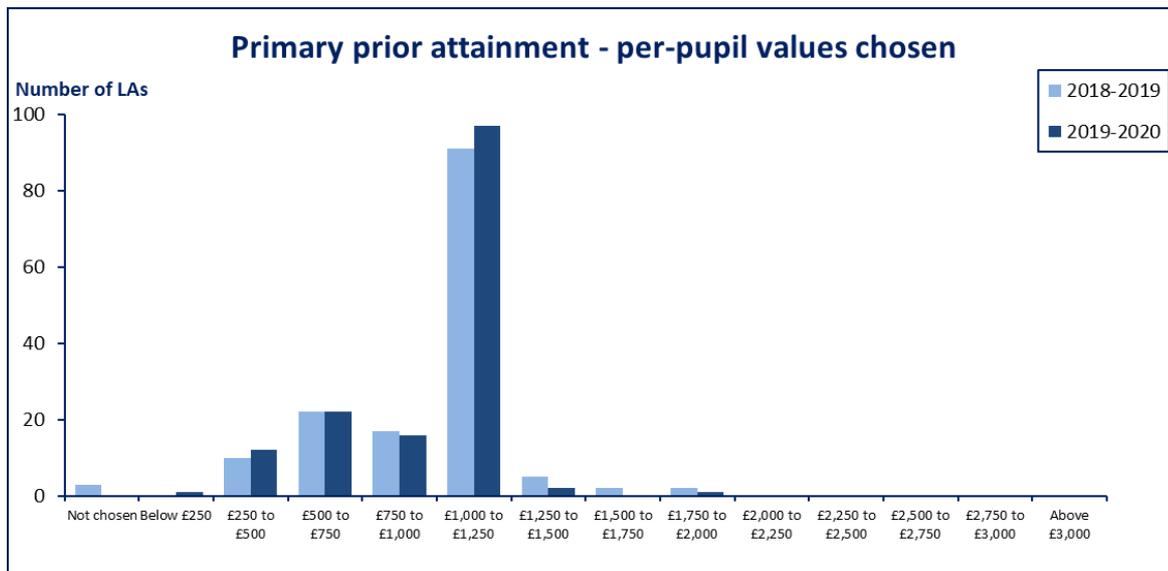


Prior attainment

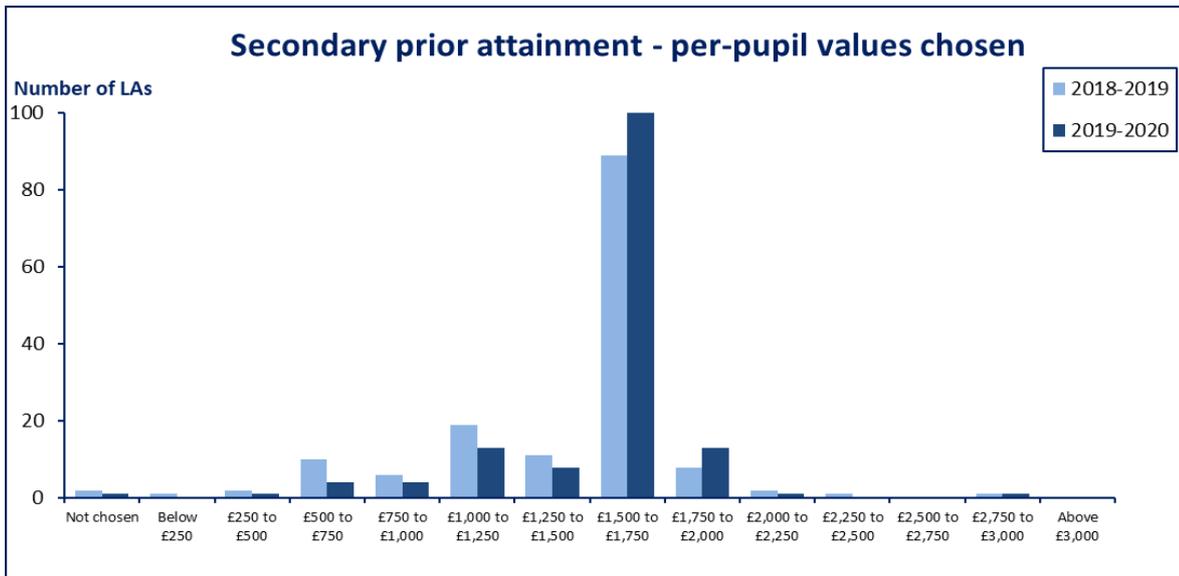
While use of this factor is optional all 151 local authorities are using the indicator for primary pupils (compared to 149 in the 2018 to 2019 formulae) and 150⁴ are using the indicator for secondary pupils (also 150 last year). City of London have not used the indicator for secondary pupils as they do not have any secondary age pupils in their sole school.

For primary pupils, the indicator is the number of children in years one to 6 assessed under the new early years foundation stage profile as not achieving a good level of development.

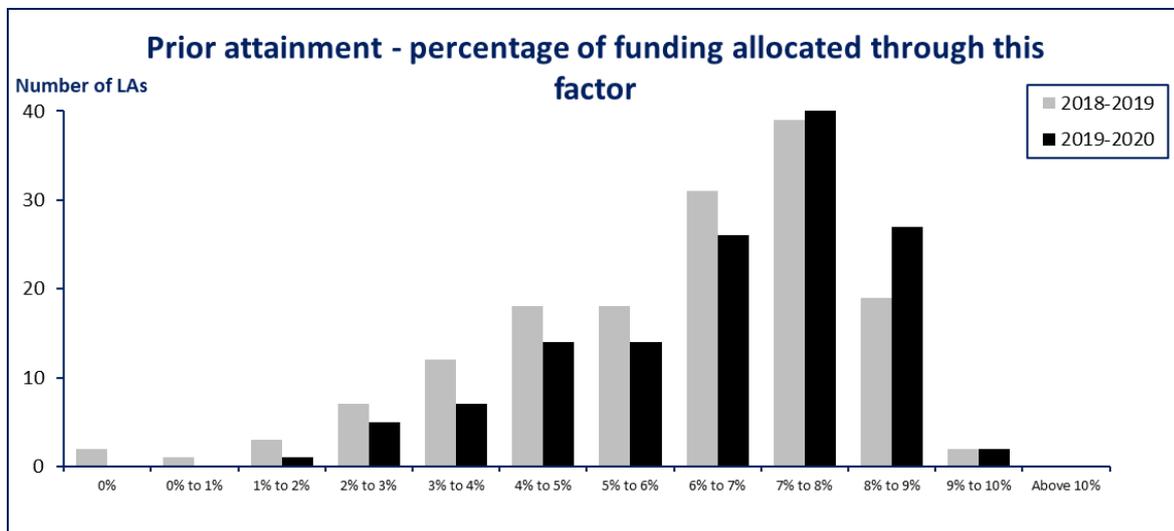
For secondary pupils a new national curriculum and assessment was introduced in the 2015 to 2016 academic year, which years 7, 8 and 9 have been assessed under. The proportion of pupils who fall in the low prior attainment bracket is higher than the proportion in years 10 to 11, so a national weighting has been applied to each of these years to prevent them overly influencing the funding levels. Separate weightings have been applied to year 7, year 8 and year 9 pupils. Please see page 15 of the [schools revenue funding 2019 to 2020: operational guide](#) for further details.



⁴ City of London are the only authority not using secondary low prior attainment. However their sole school does not have any secondary pupils.



The distribution of the low prior attainment rates for both primary and secondary pupils shows further movement towards the NFF values of £1,050 and £1,550 respectively. The NFF increased the amount of funding nationally that is allocated through the low prior attainment factor which is being mirrored in local formulae. The chart below shows that 82% of local authorities are allocating between 5% and 10% of their schools block funding through this factor compared to 72% last year. Across all authorities, the percentage of funding allocated through the factor has continued to rise, increasing to 6.7% of funding compared to 6.2% last year.

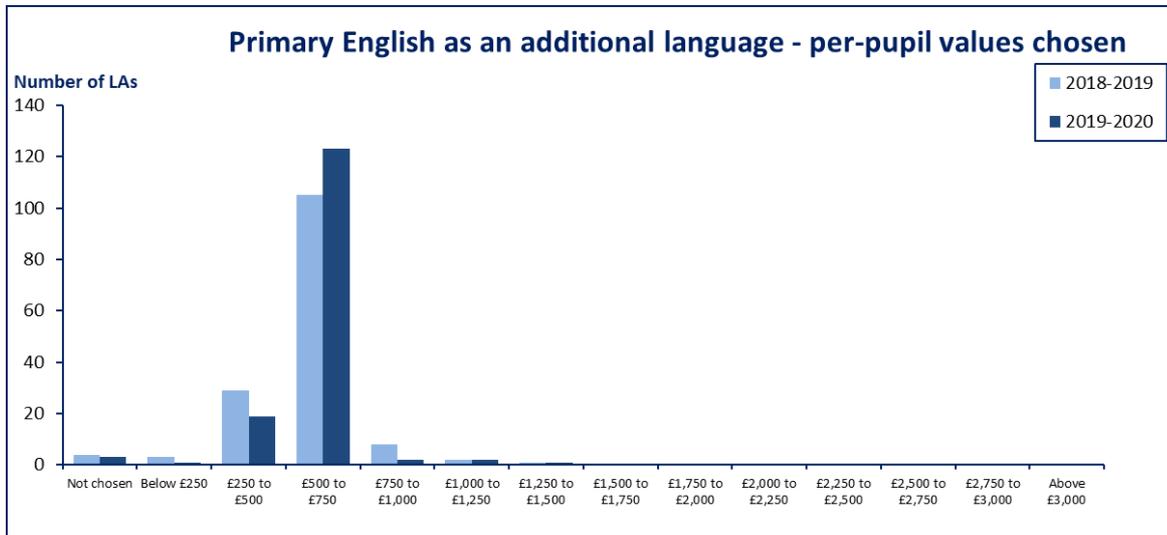


English as an additional language (EAL)

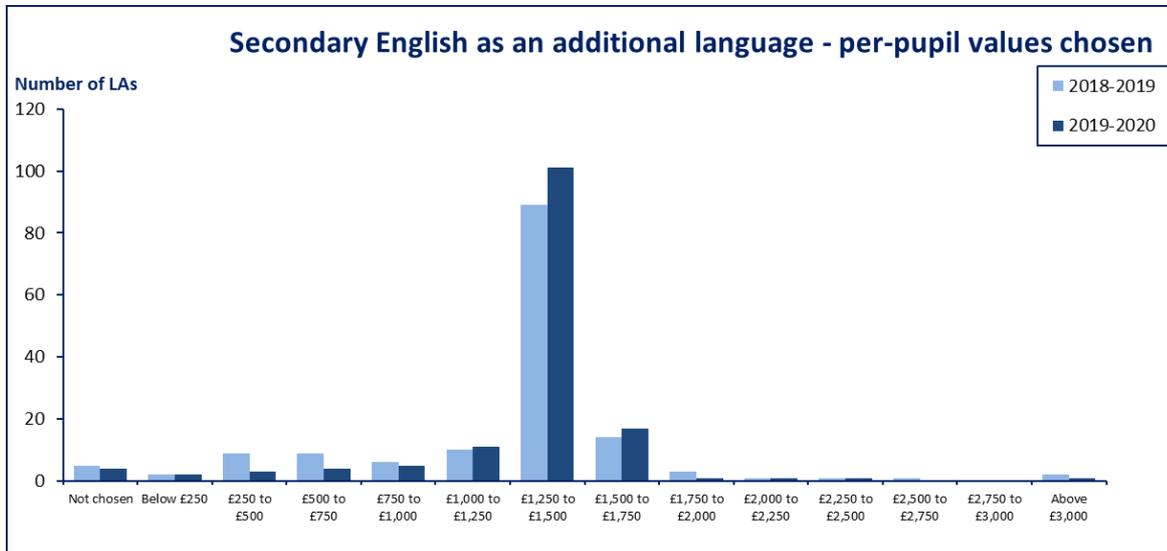
In 2019 to 2020 148 local authorities have chosen to use this optional factor, the same number as in 2018 to 2019.

Local authorities can choose one of three indicators for this factor: the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in either the last one, two or three

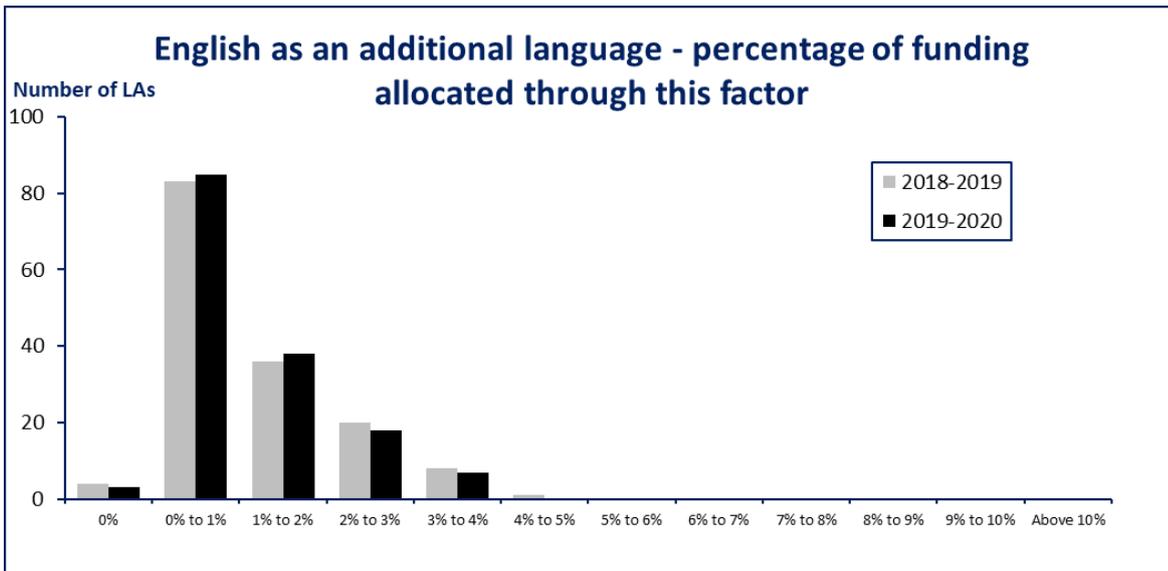
years. The NFF allocates funding to EAL pupils entering the compulsory school system in the last three years. Of the 148 authorities including the factor 138 have used the same criteria, an increase from 134 in 2018 to 2019.



The distribution of the EAL rates for both primary and secondary pupils shows further movement towards the NFF values of £515 and £1,385. For the primary indicator 81% of local authorities are allocating between £500 and £750 per pupil. For the secondary indicator 67% are allocating between £1,250 and £1,500 per pupil.

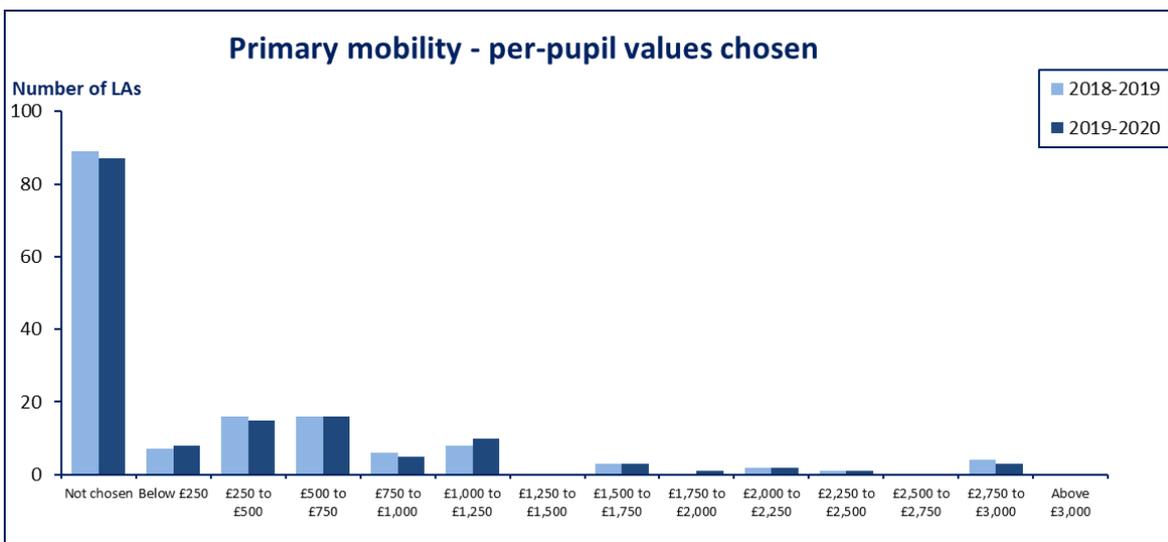


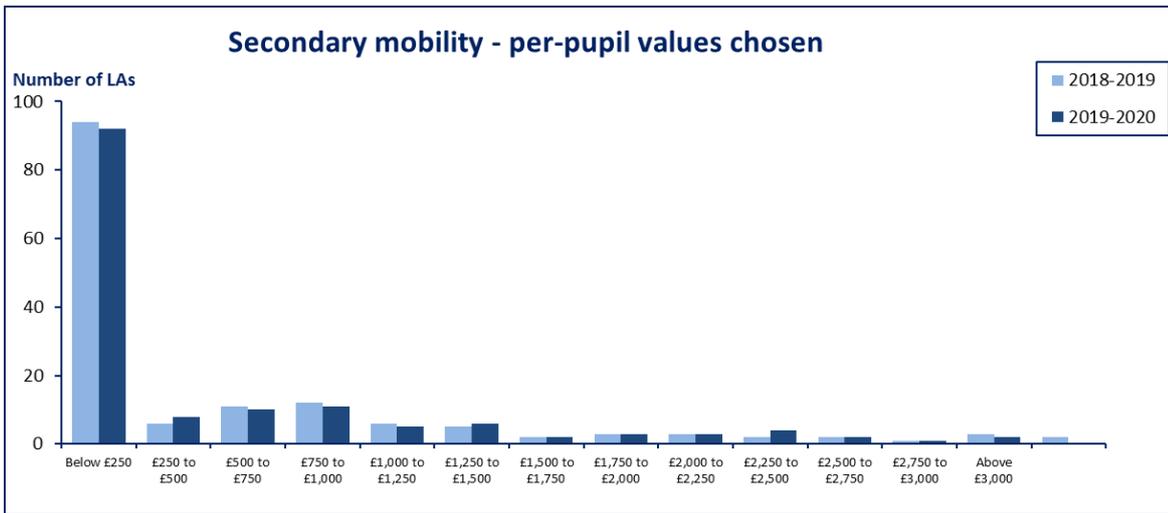
With pupils attracting funding through the EAL factor being smaller in number than those attracting funding through many other factors, across all local authorities 1.1% of funding is allocated through this factor, the same as in 2018 to 2019.



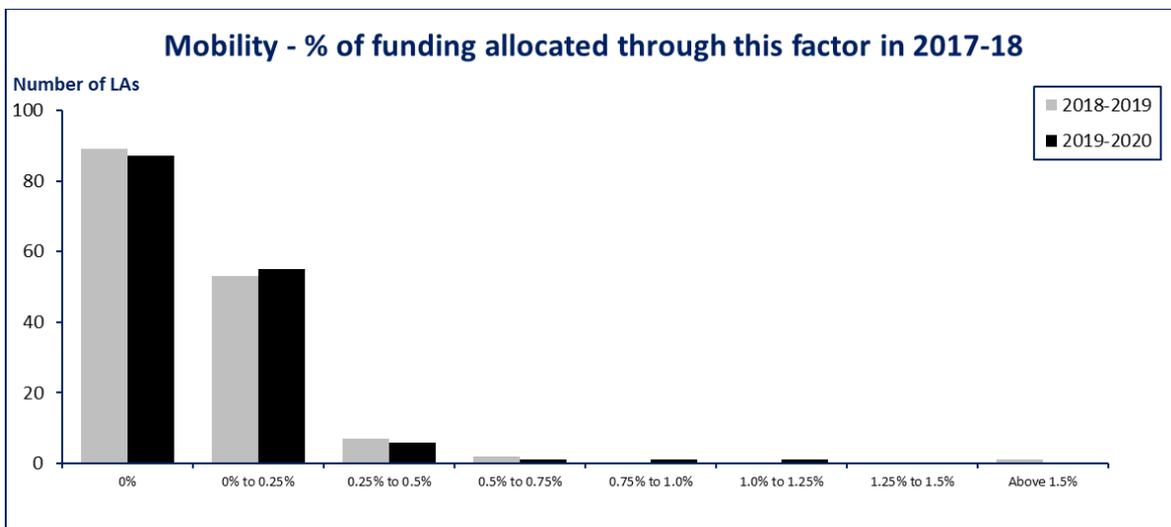
Mobility

Use of this factor is optional, and only 64 of the 151 local authorities have chosen to use it compared to 63 in 2018 to 2019. Mobility is included in the NFF, but in 2019 to 2020 was funded on a 'historic' basis – in other words only authorities that used the factor in their local formulae in 2018 to 2019 received funding through this factor in their 2019 to 2020 NFF allocations. This may explain why the proportion of authorities using the factor remained relatively stable. The indicator for this factor is the number of 'mobile' pupils in excess of 10% of pupils, and is payable on the number of pupils exceeding this cut off (for example if a school has 12% mobile pupils, funding is applied to 2%).





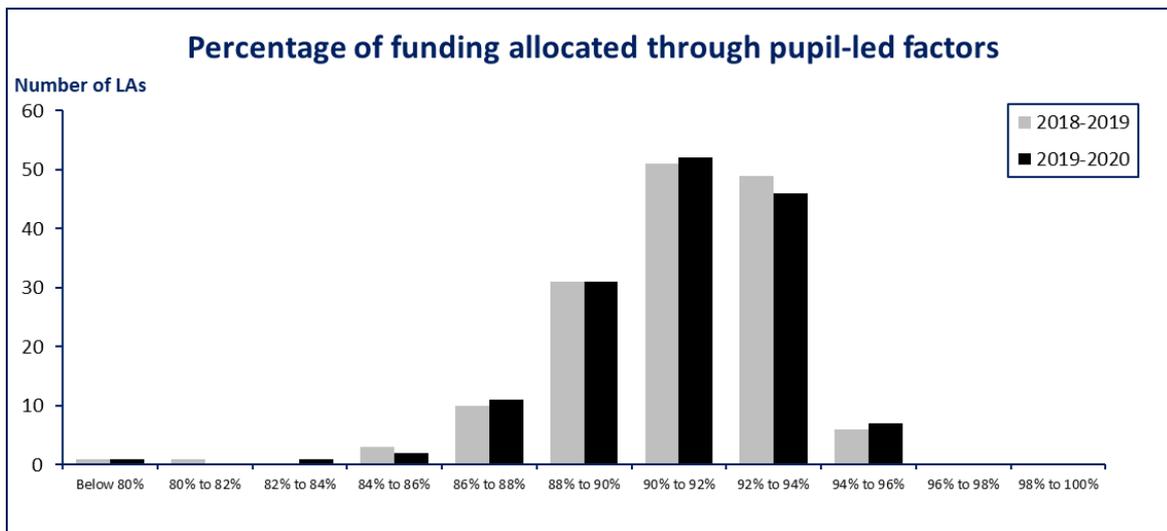
Primary per-pupil amounts range from £65 to £2,981, and the secondary per-pupil amounts from £14 to £18,784.



Only one of the local authorities which are incorporating the mobility factor into their 2019 to 2020 funding formulae are using it to allocate more than 1% of their schools block funding, and only 3 are allocating more than 0.5%. Across all local authorities as a whole, some 0.1% of schools block funding is being allocated through this factor, the same as in the 2018 to 2019 formulae.

Total funding through the pupil-led factors

The factors highlighted above (that is basic per-pupil entitlement, deprivation, looked-after children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, and mobility) are pupil-led. Although there is considerable variation across local authorities in the choices of factors used, the per-pupil amounts, and the proportions of funding allocated through each one, overall there is strong consistency in the proportions of funding allocated through the pupil-led factors as a whole.

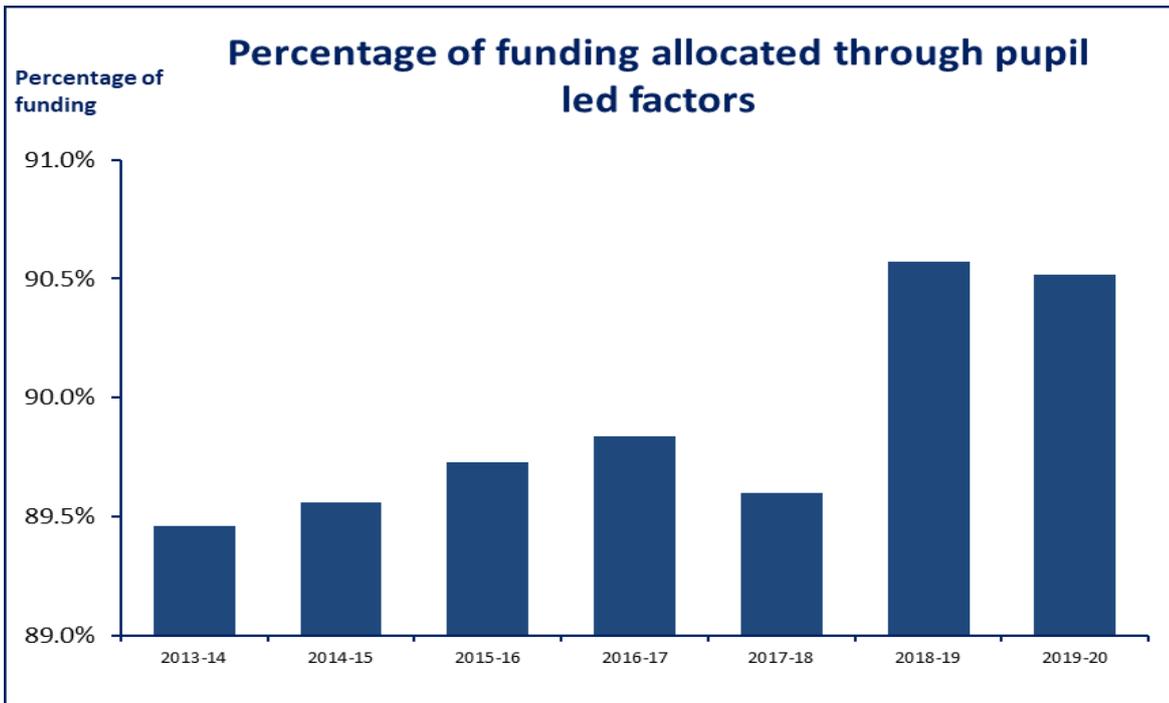


A requirement for the 2019 to 2020 formulae is that each local authority must allocate a minimum of 80% of schools block funding through these pupil-led factors⁵.

All other authorities are allocating more than 80% of their funding through a combination of the pupil-led factors, the lowest being 82.2%. In total 85% of authorities are allocating between 88% and 94% of their funding through these factors.

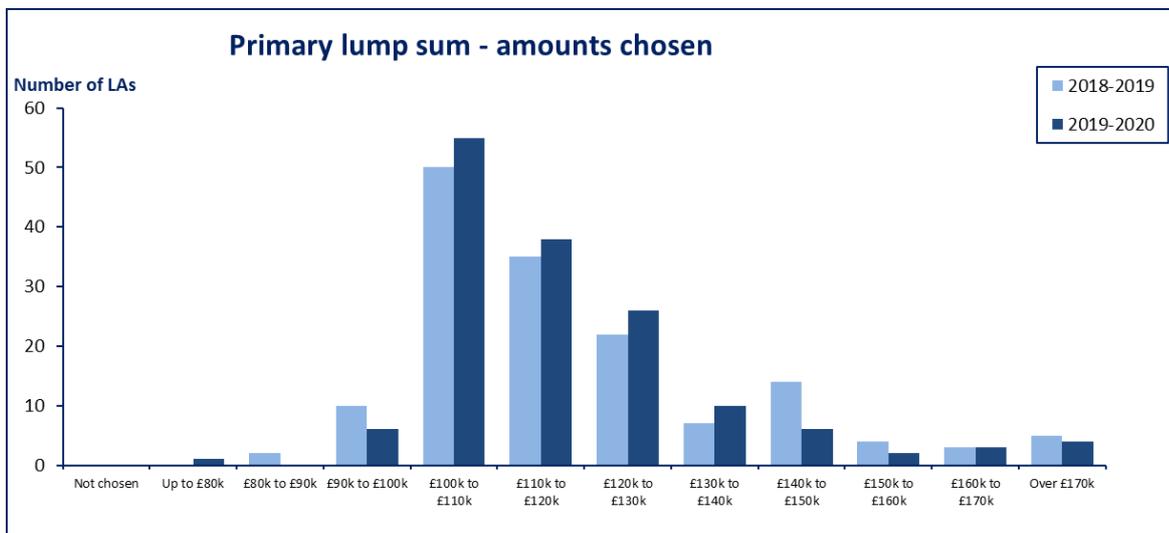
Across all authorities, a total of 90.52% of funding in 2019 to 2020 formulae is being allocated through the pupil-led factors. This compares to 90.57% of funding in 2018 to 2019, 89.6% in 2017 to 2018, 89.84% in 2016 to 2017, 89.73% in 2015 to 2016, 89.56% in 2014 to 2015 and 89.46% in 2013 to 2014. While this percentage is down slightly on last year, higher spending on per-pupil factors over the last two years reflects that the NFF prioritising spending on these factors (comprising 90.7% of the national formula).

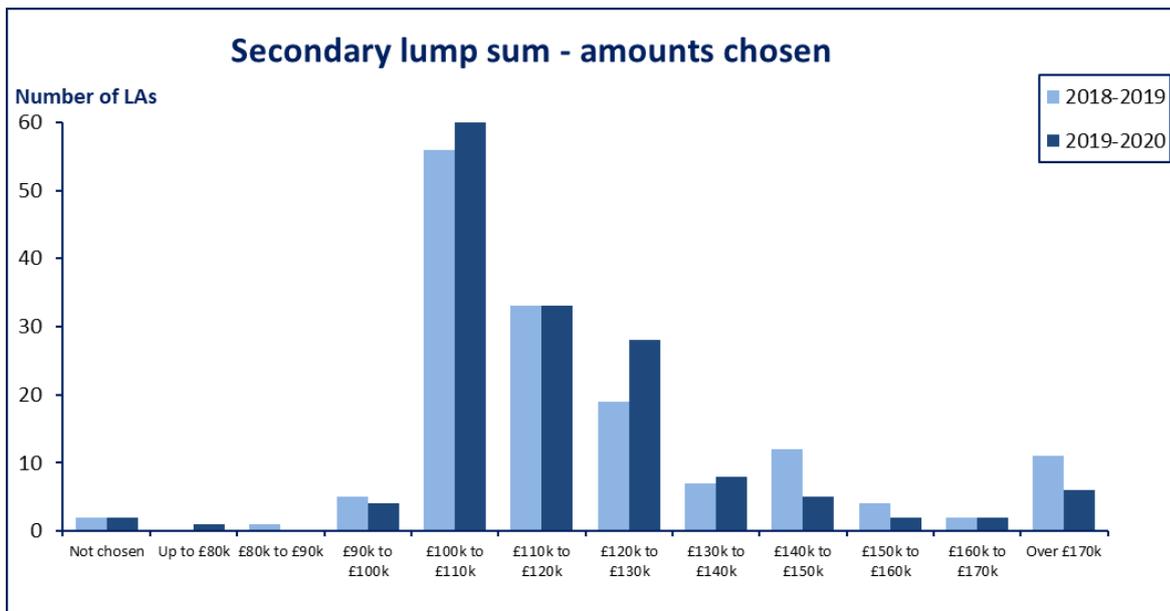
⁵ The Isles of Scilly has only a single school and does not formally receive DSG schools block funding in the same way as the other authorities, so the 80% requirement, which is set out in the DSG conditions of grant, does not apply to them.



Lump sum

In the 2019 to 2020 formulae, local authorities can use this factor to allocate a lump sum of the same amount to all schools, up to a maximum of £175,000. Separate lump sums can be specified for primary schools and secondary schools. All-through schools receive the lump sum specified for secondary schools. Middle schools receive a weighted combination of the two, based on the number of year groups of each phase present at the school. For a school which amalgamated during the 2018 to 2019 financial year, authorities must allocate it additional lump sum funding, so that it receives 85% of the combined lump sums that its predecessors would have received under the 2019 to 2020 formula.





Although this is an optional factor, like last year all local authorities have chosen to include it in their 2019 to 2020 funding formulae⁶.

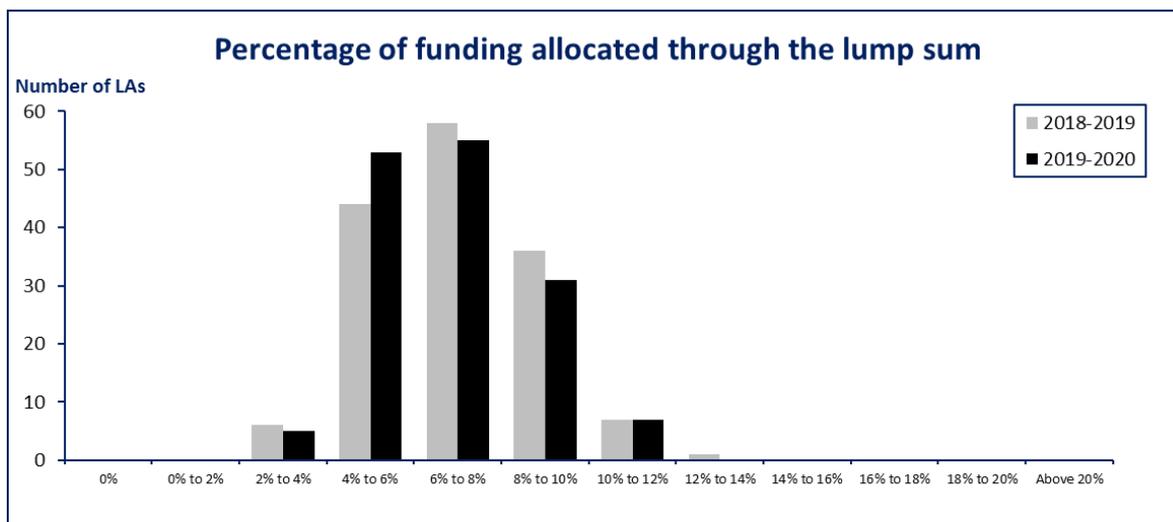
There has been a continued shift in the distribution of the lump sum values used with more local authorities choosing to use the NFF amount of £110,000 or a value close to it. However there is still substantial variation in the value of the lump sums selected for both primary and secondary schools. The range has increased to values between £75,000 and £175,000 in 2019 to 2020 compared to value between £85,000 and £175,000 in 2018 to 2019. The maximum value of £175,000 was chosen by 4 authorities for their primary lump sum amount and 5 for their secondary lump sum. The NFF rate of £110,000 has been used by 48 authorities for primary schools and 55 authorities for secondary schools compared to 43 for primary and 49 for secondary in 2018 to 2019.

There are 126 authorities that have selected equal primary and secondary lump sum amounts. Seventeen have selected a greater secondary lump sum than primary; and 8 authorities have selected a greater primary lump sum than secondary.

Note that in the lump sum - amounts chosen charts, lump sum choices of exactly a multiple of £10,000 are shown in the category for which that is the top of the band. For example the 2 local authorities with a primary lump sum of £140,000 are included in the “£130k to £140k” category.

Overall, local authorities are allocating a slightly lower proportion of their schools block funding through the lump sum factor than last year: 7% in 2019 to 2020 compared to 7.3% in 2017 to 2018.

⁶ City of London and Haringey are the local authorities represented by the “not chosen” bar for 2019 to 2020 secondary lump sum amounts.

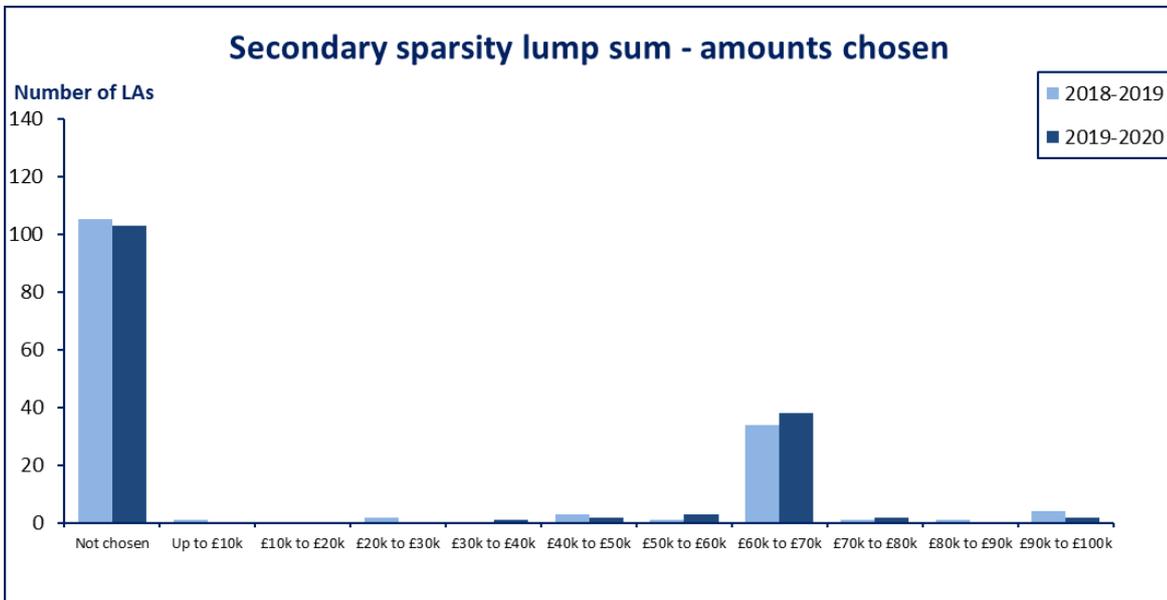
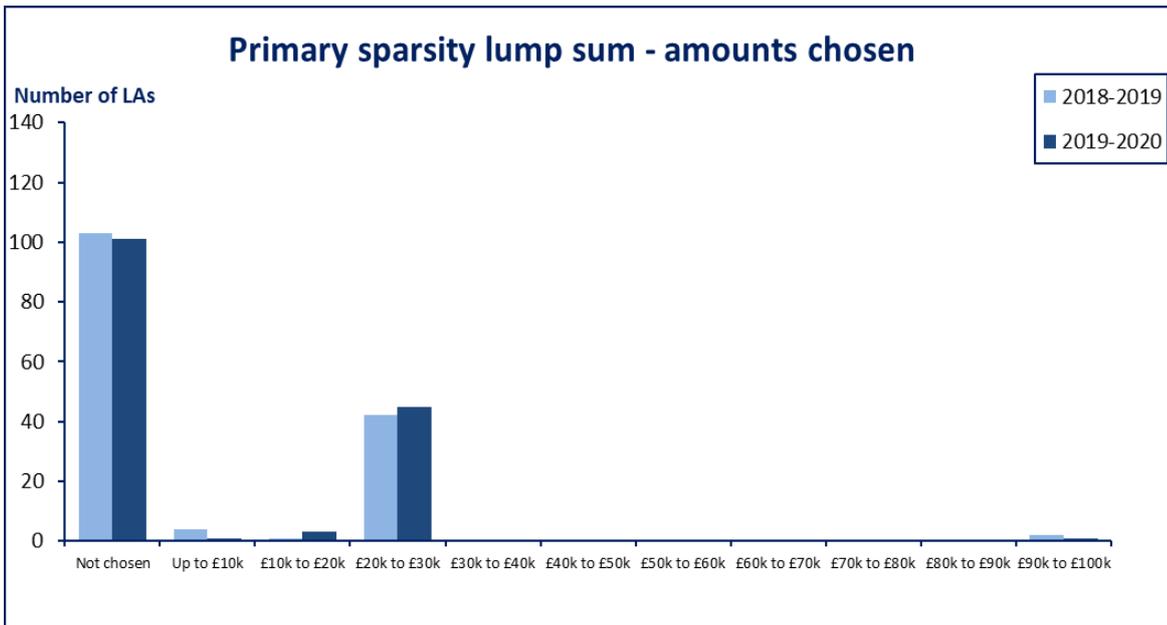


Sparsity

Whether a school is deemed to be sparse depends on two considerations: its “sparsity distance” and the average number of pupils per year group.

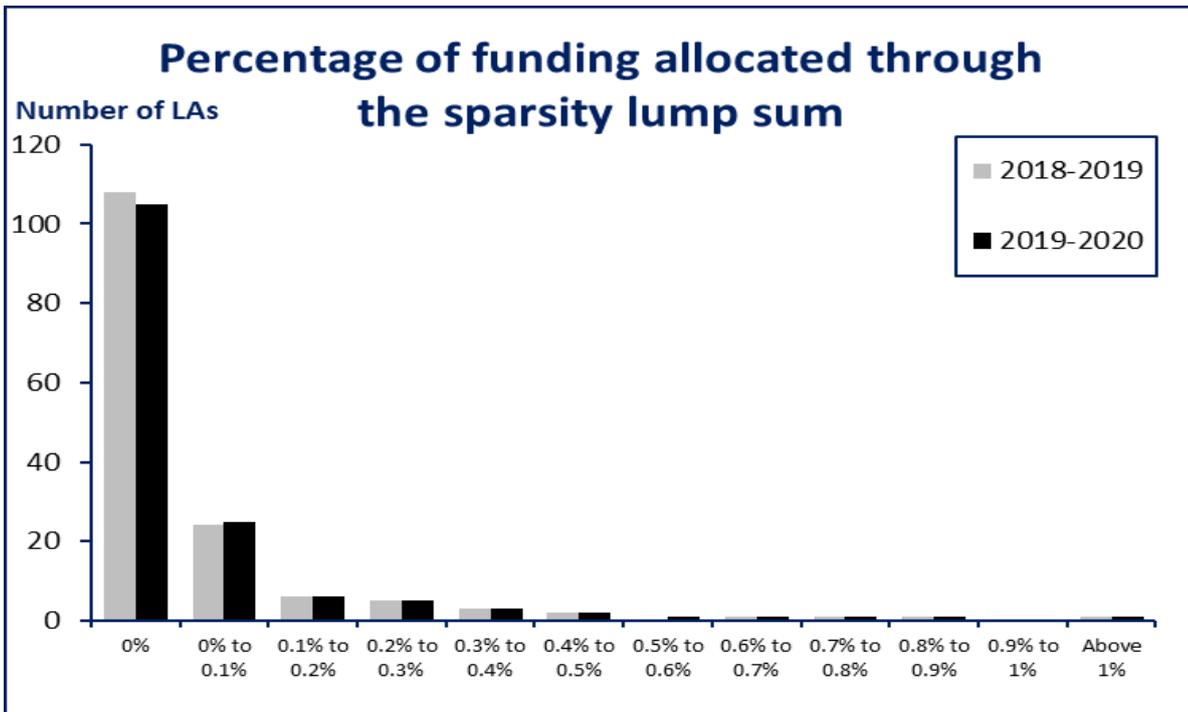
A school’s sparsity distance is derived from those pupils for whom it is their closest school (irrespective of whether they attend it). For all those pupils, the average distance to their second nearest school is calculated. Distances are calculated using the crow flies distance from a pupil’s postcode to a school’s postcode, although authorities are able to submit a request to vary how distance is measured for sparsity funding allocations.

The sparsity factor may be applied to small schools where the average distance to pupils’ second nearest school is at least two miles (for primary schools, middle schools and all through schools) or three miles (for secondary schools). Schools must also have an average number of pupils per year group no larger than 21.4 pupils for primary schools, 120 pupils for secondary schools, 69.2 pupils for middle schools or 62.5 pupils for all-through schools. Local authorities can narrow the eligibility criteria for the factor, by increasing the average distance to the second nearest school and/or reducing the average pupil number maximum thresholds, but they cannot widen the eligibility criteria. Local authorities can set different sparsity lump sum amounts for each of these four phases of school, up to a maximum of £100,000 per school. They can also choose in each case whether to apply a ‘taper’ so that the funding given to a sparse school depends on how many pupils they have (so that the smaller schools receive higher sparsity funding) or that all sparse schools receive the same specified sparsity lump sum. Additional sparsity funding of £50,000 can also be allocated to very small, sparse secondary schools. In 2019 to 2020 authorities were also allowed to apply to use the rules set out in the [NFF technical note](#). These rules allow for a lump sum of up to £25,000 for primary schools and £65,000 for secondary schools, middle school and all-through schools. Where the school has fewer pupils than half the year group threshold a weighting is applied to the lump sum amount meaning affected schools only receive a portion of the lump sum.



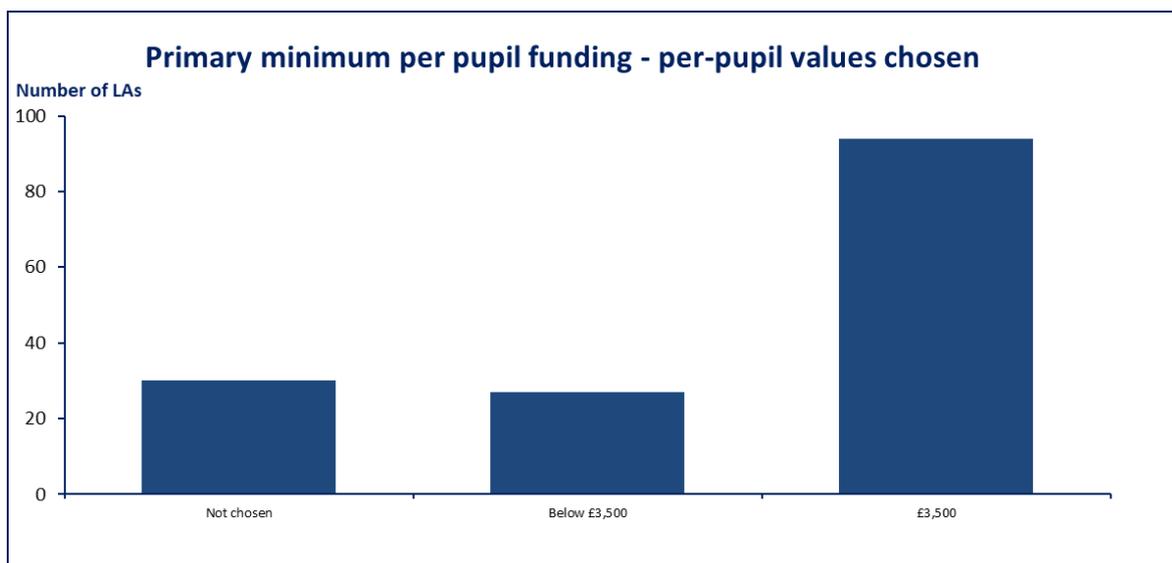
In 2019 to 2020 51 authorities are using the sparsity factor compared to 50 in 2018 to 2019. The increase in authorities using this factor reflects a number of authorities using the NFF rates. Many of those authorities not using the factor do not have any schools meeting the maximum permissible average year group size or minimum permissible distance thresholds for eligibility for funding through the factor, so do not have any sparse schools.

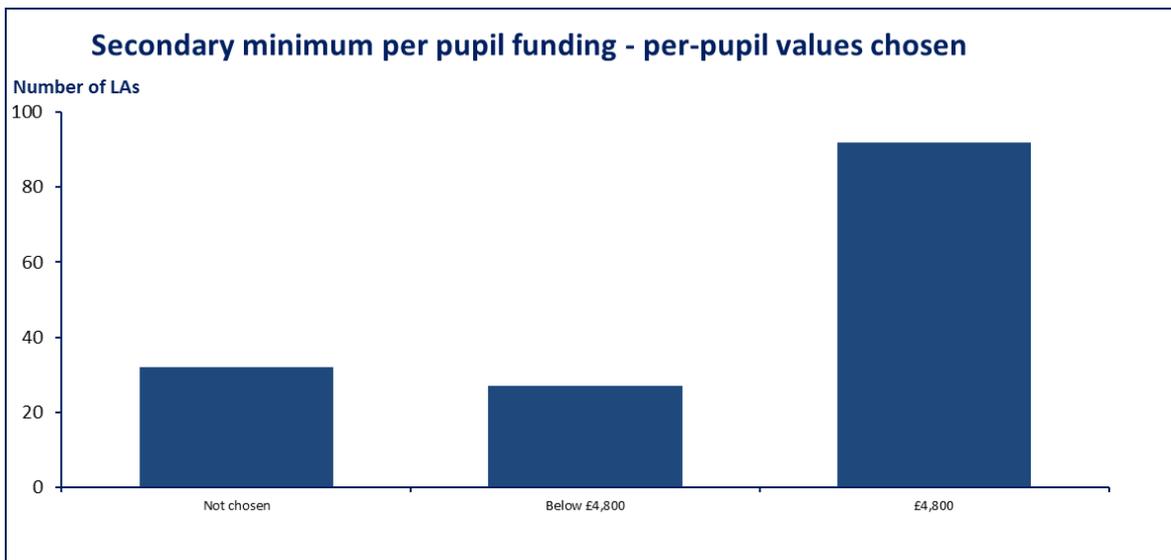
Of those that are using the factor, and excluding the Isles of Scilly (a notional 3.9%), the proportion of their schools block funding which they are allocating through this factor ranged from 0.001% to 0.83%. Across all authorities, 0.06% of funding has been allocated through this factor, unchanged from the 2018 to 2019 formulae.



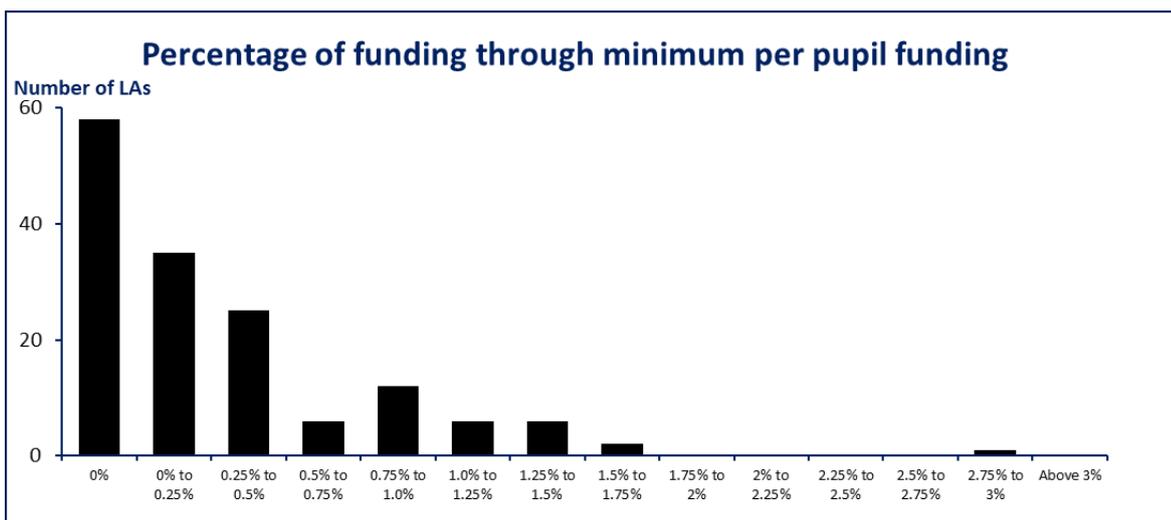
Minimum per pupil levels

The NFF provides local authorities with a guaranteed minimum per-pupil funding of £3,500 for primary pupils and £4,800 for secondary pupils in 2019 to 2020, based on the school's total core funding. In 2019 to 2020 local authorities can use this factor to set a guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding up to these maximum levels.





Of the 151 local authorities 121 used the factor in 2019 to 2020. Of those using the factor 94 authorities used the maximum secondary rate of £3,500 and a total of 92 authorities used the maximum secondary rate of £4,800.



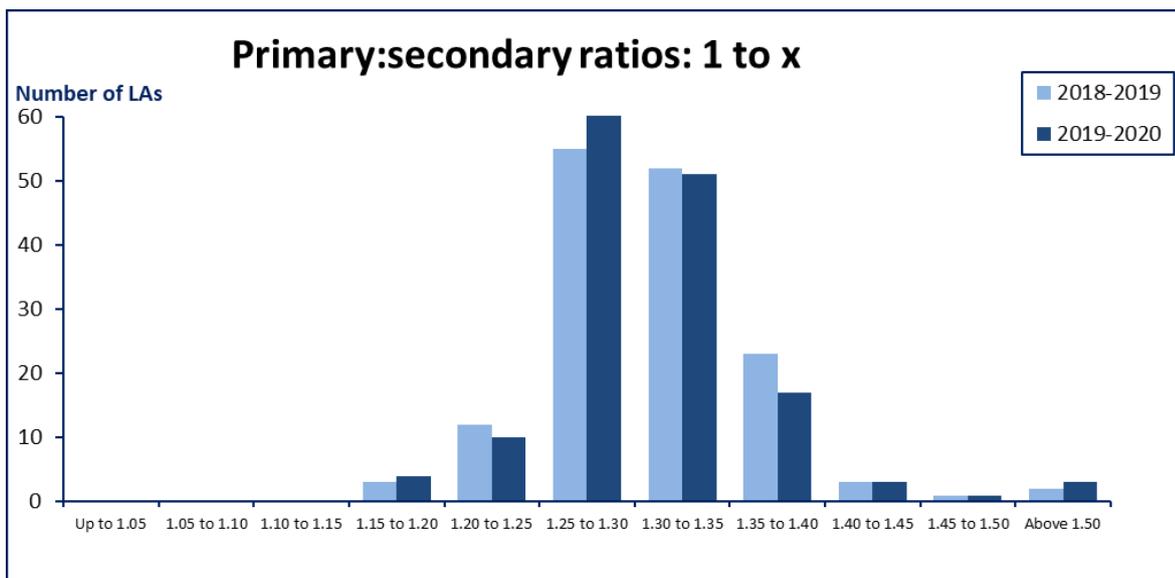
Although 121 authorities used the factor only 93 actually allocated funding through it. This is because all schools in the other 28 authorities were already receiving over the minimum level through the other funding factors. Only 15 authorities allocated more than 1% of their funding through the minimum per pupil level of funding.

Other formula factors

Information for each local authority on the formula factors not discussed in this note (London fringe, split sites, rates, PFI funding, and exceptional circumstances) can be found in the accompanying data file.

Primary:secondary funding ratios

Local authorities' 2019 to 2020 schools block funding formulae have been used to calculate the relative differences in per-pupil funding allocated to secondary pupils compared to primary pupils. With the exception of the City of London, which has a single maintained primary school so does not have secondary pupils, the ratios of secondary to primary per-pupil funding under 2018 to 2019 formulae are shown on the chart below. A ratio of 1:1.24, for instance, indicates that secondary-age pupils in a local authority receive, on average, 24% more funding per head than primary-age pupils.



The overall ratio nationally across all local authorities is 1:1.297, a slight increase from the 2018 to 2019 formulae where it was 1:1.296. For 45 authorities, their ratio in 2019 to 2020 has decreased by more than 0.01 compared to last year, while for 22 authorities, their ratio has increased by more than 0.01. For the remaining 83 authorities, their ratio changed by less than 0.01 either way.

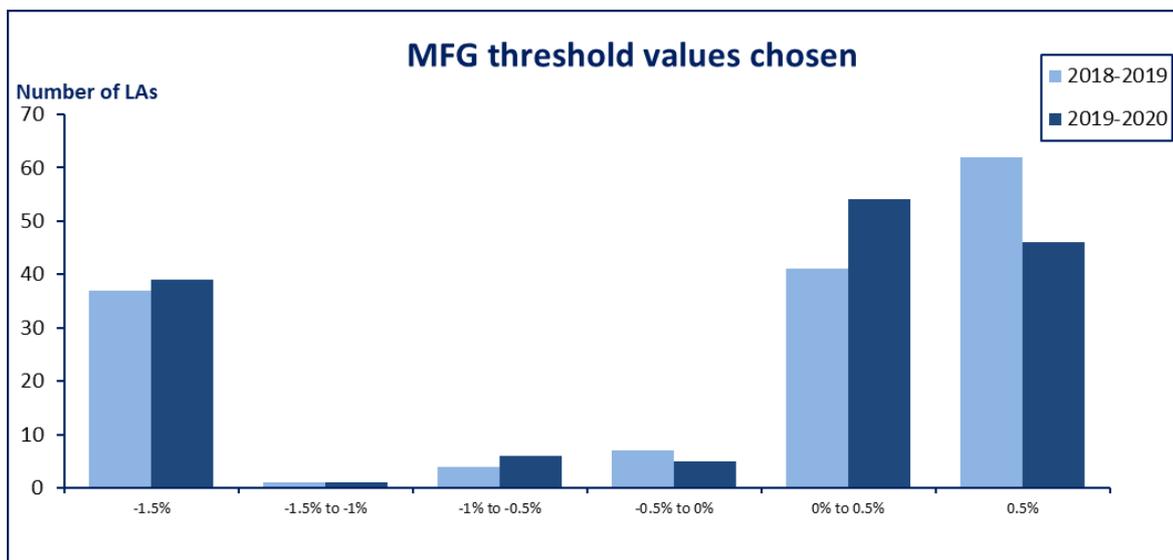
These ratios have been calculated for each local authority from the information they submitted to the ESFA as follows. The first step is to split funding for primary pupils and funding for secondary pupils. For the factors with separate primary and secondary indicators (for example, basic entitlement and deprivation), this split is simply the amount of funding allocated through each type of indicator. For the other factors (with the exception of historic commitments for sixth form funding, which is excluded), the amount of funding allocated to each school in the local authority area is split between primary and secondary in proportion to the number of pupils in each phase at the school. These amounts are aggregated to estimate the total funding for primary pupils and the total funding for secondary pupils. These amounts are then divided, respectively, by the number of primary schools block-funded pupils on roll and the number of secondary

schools block-funded pupils on roll in the authority. This gives per pupil funding amounts for primary and secondary phases, and the ratio of the two is taken.

This calculation excludes the effects on schools' funding of applying the minimum funding guarantee (MFG), and excludes any further capping or scaling factors applied by local authorities to ensure that the total funding allocated through their formulae is affordable within the total DSG schools block they have been allocated for financial year 2019 to 2020. For academies, the calculation is based on the amount of schools block funding they would receive in 2019 to 2020 if they were a maintained school.

Minimum funding guarantee

The MFG protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next. For 2019 to 2020 authorities can continue to set a rate between -1.5% and 0.5% (in years prior to 2018 to 2019 the threshold was fixed at -1.5%). This change allows local authorities to mirror the 0.5% funding floor protection included in the NFF.



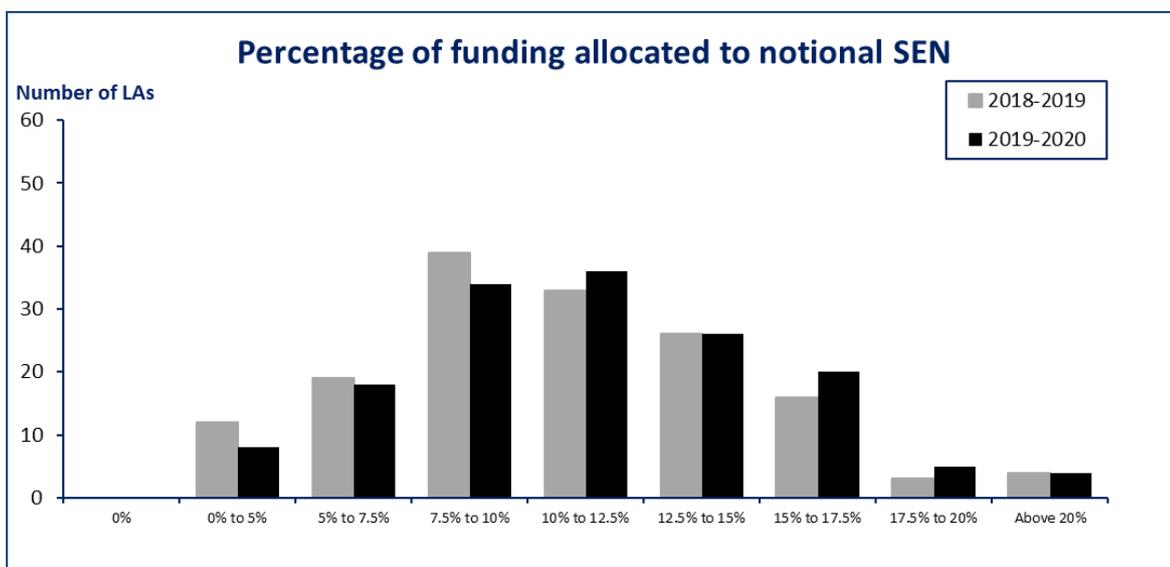
The chart above shows that 100 or 66.2% of authorities have chosen either zero or a positive MFG threshold meaning that schools in those authorities will not see a decrease in their per pupil level of funding in 2019 to 2020. This compares to 103 or 67.8% of authorities in 2018 to 2019. It also shows that 46 or 30.5% have selected a threshold of 0.5% mirroring the funding floor protection as described in the [NFF technical note](#). This is a substantial decrease from 62 or 40.8% in 2018 to 2019. The decrease is likely to have been caused by the introduction in 2019 to 2020 of the funding floor factor which was used to allocate funding by 32 authorities of which only 10 also used a 0.5% MFG threshold.

The funding floor protection is an optional factor introduced for 2019 to 2020 in order to enable authorities to replicate the NFF more closely. The funding floor provides a similar guaranteed level of funding to that provided by the MFG but uses the 2017 to 2018 NFF baseline figures rather than the 2018 to 2019 allocations.

Overall, 70 local authorities have set their minimum funding guarantee at 0.5%, meaning all schools in that area will gain in cash terms per-pupil compared to 2018 to 2019, or have used the funding floor, meaning that all schools will gain at least 1% compared to the 2017 to 2018 NFF baselines.

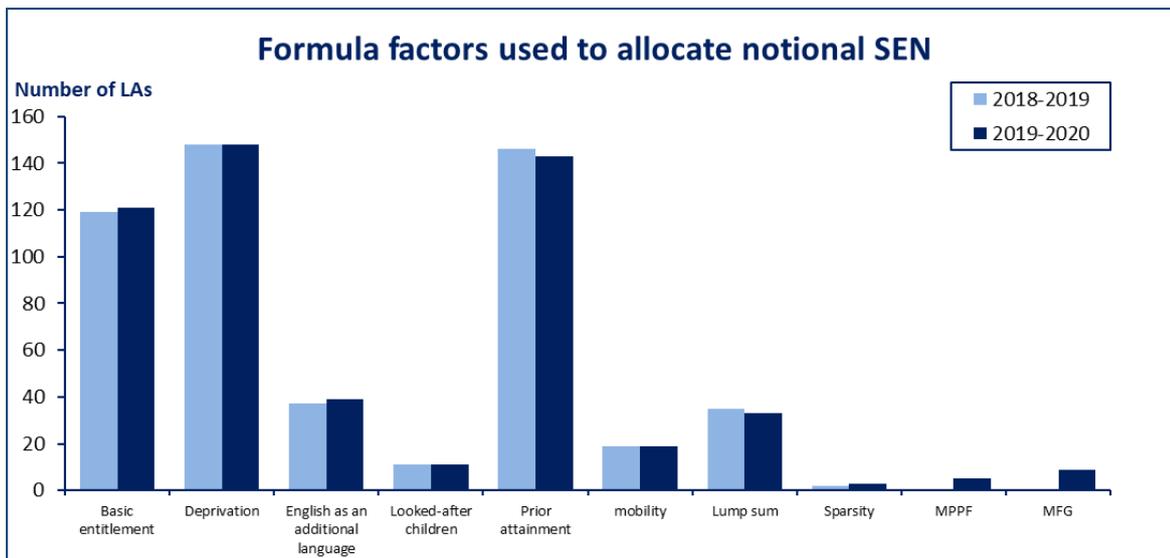
Notional SEN

Funding for notional special educational needs (notional SEN) is not a separate formula factor. Rather, local authorities must specify how much of the schools block funding a school receives through the formula constitutes its notional SEN budget. In their funding formulae for 2019 to 2020, local authorities specify what percentage of funding allocated through each factor contributes to the notional SEN budget.



The chart above shows how, at overall local authority level, the notional SEN budget in 2019 to 2020 varies as a percentage of the total schools block formula allocation (before the application of MFG, capping and scaling). Some 114 (77%) of authorities are allocating between 5% and 15% of schools block funding as notional SEN.

The overall percentage of formula allocation which is designated as the notional SEN budget across all local authorities is 11.5%, a slight increase from 11.1% in 2018 to 2019, which was a large increase from 9.8% in each of the years 2014 to 2015 through to 2017 to 2018. The median notional SEN allocation is 11.1%. However, as the chart shows, like last year there is a wide variation across local authorities.



The chart above shows the number of local authorities for which each factor is being used to determine schools' notional SEN budgets. From 2019 to 2020 authorities could allocate a percentage of funding allocated through the minimum pupil funding guarantee and the MFG to notional SEN. In the 2019 to 2020 formulae deprivation is the factor most commonly contributing to notional SEN with 148 authorities doing this.

The majority of authorities are also assigning a percentage of their basic entitlement and prior attainment funding into notional SEN. For the formula factors not displayed on the chart (such as split sites) only a few authorities are using these for notional SEN. Full details on the use of factors to calculate notional SEN in 2019 to 2020 can be found in the accompanying data file.

Overall, the pattern of factors used to calculate notional SEN is similar to 2018 to 2019 formulae.

Growth fund

Subject to the approval of their schools forum, local authorities are able to retain some of their schools block funding centrally (that is, rather than allocate it to their individual schools) for a growth fund. This can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need pressures, to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation, and to meet the costs of new schools. Authorities must use the fund on the same basis for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies in their area.

Some 133 of the 151 authorities are retaining a growth fund in 2019 to 2020, compared to 129 of the 152 authorities doing this in their 2018 to 2019 formulae. The total value of these growth funds is £164.7 million. Growth fund amounts for individual authorities range from £33,000 to £10.3 million. It is worth noting that local authorities may also be spending on growth by adding pupils numbers.

Falling rolls fund

Local authorities were also able to retain funding centrally to support schools currently experiencing falling rolls to prepare for an expected future population bulge, again subject to the approval of their schools forum. The falling rolls fund should be restricted to population increases expected in two to three years in necessary schools which are classed by Ofsted as good or outstanding. The fund cannot be used by authorities to prop up unpopular or failing schools.

Only 24 authorities are retaining a falling rolls fund in their 2019 to 2020 formulae (down from 27 in 2018 to 2019), with a total value of £8.2 million. Falling rolls fund amounts for individual authorities range from £39,000 to £1.5 million.

Information about the data file

Alongside this document, the DfE has published a detailed data file in Microsoft Excel format showing the 2019 to 2020 funding formula used by each local authority, as they stood at 25 March 2019.

“Proforma” sheet

The sheet entitled “Proforma” allows the full data for a single authority to be displayed on the screen. Click on the purple cell near the top of the page next to the local authority name label, then click on the drop-down arrow that appears alongside, to select a new local authority.

“Final MI data 1920” sheet

The sheet entitled “Final MI data 1920” gives the proforma data values for each authority in a large table. This section provides a description of all the columns displayed here.

Minimum level of per pupil funding

This section shows which local authorities have chosen to use the guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding introduced in 2019 to 2020. The section includes details of the rates applied to each of the year groups as well as details of whether mobility and premises funding has been excluded from the allocation when calculating if additional funding is due under the factor.

Reception Uplift

The “Reception Uplift” column indicates which local authorities have opted to increase the count of primary pupils to which the basic entitlement primary indicator applies, to include pupils with deferred entry into reception later in the year. The other column in this section indicates the number of pupils this applies to.

Basic entitlement

This section shows the per-pupil funding amounts local authorities have chosen for the primary and secondary indicators in their 2019 to 2020 formulae; the number of pupils in mainstream maintained schools and academies in the authority as a whole to which each indicator applies; the total amount of schools block funding allocated to maintained schools and academies through each factor; the proportion of schools block funding allocated through each factor; and the proportion of the factor’s funding which contributes towards notional SEN budgets.

Deprivation, looked-after children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, mobility

These sections also show the per-pupil amounts chosen, the number of pupils, the total/proportion of funding allocated to schools through each factor, and contribution to notional SEN budgets. For the indicators where local authorities had a choice as to which specific measure to use for their formulae, columns indicate the selection. Explanations for the entries in these columns are given below. For each, the entry “N/A” means that a local authority has chosen not to use a particular factor or indicator.

English as an additional language – Primary (1/2/3/NA), Secondary (1/2/3/NA):

- EAL 1 Primary / EAL 1 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in the last year.
- EAL 2 Primary / EAL 2 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in either of the last 2 years.
- EAL 3 Primary / EAL 3 Secondary: Indicator used is the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in any of the last 3 years.

Lump sum

Lump sum funding is shown in two places in the data file. Most funding through the lump sum factor is shown in the group of columns entitled “Lump sum”. However there is also a small amount of lump sum funding displayed in the “Exceptional circumstances” section, in columns 2 to 5 of this group (all of which have a column title “Additional lump sum...”). The data here relates specifically to additional lump sum funding which authorities are allocating to schools which amalgamated during the 2018 to 2019 financial year. As explained previously, authorities must allocate such schools additional lump sum funding, so that they receive 85% of the combined lump sums of its predecessors. Authorities could also apply to continue protection for schools which amalgamated during the 2017 to 2018 financial year. The data are presented in this way because authorities recorded any additional lump sum funding for previous year amalgamations in a different section of their formula submission.

Therefore the total amount of funding that each authority is allocating through the lump sum factor is obtained by summing the values in the “Lump Sum total” and “Additional lump sum total” columns. Similarly, the proportion allocated through the lump sum factor is obtained by summing the values in the “Lump Sum proportion” and “Additional lump sum proportion” columns.

Sparsity

Sparsity funding is also shown in two places in the data file. Most funding through the sparsity factor is shown in the group of columns entitled “Sparsity”. However there is also a small amount of sparsity funding displayed in the “Exceptional circumstances” section, in the group of three columns (headed “Additional sparsity lump sum...”) following the

additional lump sum data. The data here relates specifically to additional sparsity funding which authorities are allocating to very small, sparse secondary schools.

(London) fringe payments, split sites, rates, PFI funding, sixth form, exceptional circumstances

These sections of the data file show the total funding and proportions of funding allocated to schools through each factor.

Schools block

The “Total Funding Schools Block Formula Excl MFG Funding Total (£)” column gives the total amount of money allocated to mainstream maintained schools and academies in 2019 to 2020 under local authorities’ basic funding formulae. This section also includes any additional funding allocated through the guaranteed minimum per pupil level of funding.

Minimum funding guarantee

The MFG protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next and for 2019 to 2020 authorities can choose to set a rate between -1.5% and 0.5%. The column “Minimum Funding Guarantee (£)” is the total funding authorities are allocating to their schools, over and above the amounts derived through their basic formula, to ensure this condition is met.

In addition, local authorities are allowed to set capping and scaling factors to ensure that the amount of funding allocated through their formula (and including any additional funding to ensure the MFG is met) fits within the total DSG schools block available to them. Any change in the per-pupil funding amount in 2019 to 2020 compared to 2018 to 2019 for an individual school can be capped at a level specified by the local authority: these caps are given in the column “Capping Factor”. Any school which sees its per-pupil funding increase by more than the level of the cap will see any additional increase scaled back, to some extent (see next paragraph). For example, in this column a 0% cap means that the local authority will start scaling back any increase in per-pupil funding. A capping factor of 2% means that any rise in per-pupil funding of more than 2% will be scaled back. Where a local authority has set an MFG rate greater than zero then where a cap is applied it is calculated from the MFG value (so if the authority chooses an MFG rate of 0.5% and a cap of 2.5% then gains exceeding 3% will be capped).

The column “Scaling Factor” indicates the amounts by which schools’ increases in per pupil funding over the level of the cap will be reduced. So, for example, a 100% scaling factor means that ALL increases in per-pupil funding above the level of the cap will be removed – in other words the cap is a strict limit on the increase in per-pupil funding in 2019 to 2020 compared to 2018 to 2019. Similarly, a 50% scaling factor means that schools will lose half of any per-pupil funding increase above the level of the cap.

Authorities showing 0% values in both the “Capping Factor” column and the “Scaling Factor” column are not restricting per-pupil increases compared to 2018 to 2019 in order to stay within their available funding.

The “Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied (£)” column shows the total amounts that have been taken off school budgets due to the application of the capping and scaling factors. Clearly, any school requiring additional funding in addition to that specified by a local authority’s basic formula in order to meet the MFG will not also be subject to capping and scaling reductions. Any entry of zero in this column means that capping and scaling has not led to any deductions in funding compared to the basic formula for any schools in the local authority area.

Totals

The “Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (£)” column shows the total schools block funding allocated to mainstream maintained schools and academies in each local authority under their 2019 to 2020 formulae, after additions for MFG funding and deductions from capping and scaling. The total funding figure is higher than the total schools block formula funding plus the net MFG total as it also includes any adjustments made to schools 2018 to 2019 budgets in 2019 to 2020 not included in this publication. Note that the totals will not exactly match the total DSG schools block funding for 2019 to 2020 that has been allocated to each local authority. This is for a number of reasons. The funding formulae specify the funding allocated to individual schools, and so exclude authority level allocations such as the growth fund and falling rolls fund, which are shown in the correspondingly named columns. In addition to this in some cases local authorities can move funding to the high needs block and the funding formulae will reflect any brought forward over- and under-spends, and authorities supplementing DSG from other funding sources.

For the other columns in this section:

- % Distributed through Basic Entitlement – the proportion of schools block funding being allocated through the basic entitlement factor in each local authority, prior to MFG and capping and scaling
- % Pupil Led Funding – the proportion of schools block funding being allocated through the pupil-led factors (i.e. basic entitlement, deprivation, looked-after children, prior attainment, English as an additional language, and mobility), prior to MFG and capping and scaling
- Primary/Secondary Ratio – the local authority’s primary:secondary funding ratio; a figure of 1.24, for example, denotes a ratio of 1:1.24, meaning that secondary age pupils in a local authority receive, on average, 24% more funding per head than primary-age pupils



Education & Skills
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