Department for Education

Schools block national funding formula 2024 to 2025: technical note

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Chapter 1: Introduction and overview

Introduction

1.1. This document explains how we have calculated the local authority (LA) level schools block (SB) actual primary and secondary units of funding for the financial year to 31 March 2025 (the year 2024-25). It also covers the calculation of the provisional LA-level and notional school-level 2024-25 total funding allocations under the national funding formula (NFF).

1.2. The schools NFF was updated in October 2023, which means that the NFF factor values are now different from those previously published in July 2023. For further information on that update, please see the 2024-25 national funding formula policy document[1]. This document reflects the updated schools NFF.

a. Chapter 2 sets out how we have defined the baseline pupil count and funding, which are used to apply the funding floor and to understand the impact of the NFF. LAs can see these calculations in NFF Report D2 which will be made available for them on the COLLECT system.

b. Chapter 3 sets out each component of the schools NFF that is calculated at a school level, including the minimum per pupil funding levels and the funding floor. It also sets out how the new split sites factor is calculated. LAs can see these calculations in NFF COLLECT reports E2 and F2.

c. Chapter 4 sets out the calculation of the LA-level primary and secondary units of funding, bringing together school-level output from the previous chapters. It also covers LA-level calculations of the premises, growth and falling rolls factors. LAs can see these calculations in NFF COLLECT reports H and I.

d. Chapter 5 sets out the differences between the data used to calculate the LA-level allocations and the data used to illustrate the impact of the NFF at a school level. LAs and schools can see the calculation behind the school-level illustrations in COLLECT report C (individual school summary); schools can see their own calculation, while LAs can see the calculations for all the schools in their area.

e. At the end of this note, after the annexes, there is a glossary of the key abbreviations used in the note.

1.3. Under the NFF the SB will allocate funding for pupils in reception to Year 11 in state-funded mainstream schools and academies in England. Special schools, alternative

[1] See the 2024-25 NFF policy document - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

provision, provision in nursery schools and classes, sixth-form provision and post-16 only institutions are not funded under this formula.

1.4. The City of London and Isles of Scilly are also excluded as they will receive a separate education grant covering funding for their schools. Our NFF calculations also exclude the two city technology colleges which are funded outside of the dedicated schools grant (DSG).

1.5. We have published two outputs:

a. LA-level SB 2024-25 primary and secondary units of funding (which will be used to derive the final DSG SB funding for LAs in December 2023) and provisional NFF SB allocations to LAs for 2024-25.

b. Notional NFF allocations to schools for 2024-25.

Differences between the 2023-24 NFF and the 2024-25 NFF

1.6. The main formula in 2024-25 is similar to the formula in 2023-24. However, we have introduced some changes:[2]

a. Unit values have been increased as set out in Chapter 3.

b. The NFF calculations for 2024-25 are based on the most up-to-date school and pupil characteristics data. These are taken from the 2023-24 authority proforma tool (APT) data and the 2023/24 general annual grant (GAG) data.

c. In 2023-24, mainstream schools are receiving a grant[3] worth £1.45 billion in addition to the DSG. From 2024-25, funding previously distributed through this grant will be allocated through the SB by: adding to the baseline (Chapter 2); increasing the basic per pupil funding, the funding for pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years (FSM6) and the lump sum funding (Chapter 3); and increasing the minimum per pupil funding (Chapter 3).

d. In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2022 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and the 2022 key stage 2 (KS2) tests are used as a proxy for the 2021 assessments, which were cancelled due to the pandemic. 2019 data continues to be used as a proxy for the missing 2020 assessments.

e. From 2024-25, we are introducing a formularised split sites factor in the NFF which local authorities will be required to mirror in their local formulae. This replaces the

[2] Set out in the 2024-25 NFF policy document - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[3] Mainstream schools additional grant 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

previous locally determined, and optional, split sites factor used by some local authorities.

f. Local authorities will be funded for falling rolls as well as growth.

Data and modelling approach

1.7. To calculate the LA-level SB 2024-25 units of funding and provisional impacts at LA level of the NFF, we have used pupil and school characteristics data from the 2023-24 APT, which is based on October 2022 school census data, as adjusted by LAs[4].

1.8. To illustrate the impact of the formula on individual schools for 2024-25, we have used data from the 2023-24 APT for LA maintained schools, and for academies and free schools we have used data from their general annual grant statement for the academic year 2023/24. These two data sources do not reflect any changes after March 2023. Chapter 5 provides more detail.

1.9. We have taken this approach for the notional calculations for individual schools because we want schools and LAs to be able to compare the impact of the formula directly to the funding they receive now.

1.10. Schools' actual allocations for 2024-25 will be based on more up-to-date pupil data as well as being the result of LAs' local funding formula arrangements, so these notional allocations should not be taken as firm and actual allocations.

1.11. As we have used data from the 2023-24 APT for maintained schools and from the 2023/24 GAG for academies and free schools to illustrate the school-level impact of the NFF, the total of the notional impact across all schools (from the 'Impact of the schools NFF' table[5]) will not match the total of the provisional LA allocations (from the NFF summary table[6]).

1.12. The NFF calculation is split into three components, which for the purposes of this note we will refer to as:

a. Core NFF funding: this makes up the vast majority of the SB. The LA-level primary and secondary NFF units of funding represent core NFF funding, which covers funding through the:

[4] Schools block technical specification 2023 to 2024: for use in schools block allocations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2024-to-2025

[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2024-to-2025

i. Pupil-led factors: basic per-pupil, free school meals, free school meals ever 6, income deprivation affecting children index, low prior attainment, English as an additional language and mobility;

ii. School-led factors: lump sum and sparsity;

iii. Protection funding: minimum per pupil funding and funding floor;

iv. Area cost adjustment: this is a multiplier that applies to both pupil-led and school-led factors and enables the core NFF funding amounts to take account of geographical variation in labour market costs (further explanation is in Chapter 3).

b. Premises funding: this covers funding through the private finance initiative (PFI), rates and exceptional circumstances factors, and the new split sites factor.
c. Growth and falling rolls funding: this is allocated at LA level to support LAs to manage changes in pupil numbers.

Chapter 2: Establishing baseline funding for LA allocations

2.1. The NFF calculates notional allocations at school level and then aggregates these to produce LA-level allocations. The calculation of LA-level allocations uses pupil and funding data from the 2023-24 APT for both schools and academies so that the funding is all on a consistent basis. This means the notional 2024-25 allocations for academies which contribute towards the 2024-25 LA-level allocations are based on their APT allocations, not their actual GAG allocation.

2.2. This chapter sets out the baseline funding used to calculate 2024-25 SB allocations to LAs under the NFF. Chapter 5 sets out how we have separately calculated notional allocations at school level to illustrate the impact of the formula. These notional allocations use pupil and funding data from 2023/24 GAG statements for academies and free schools, rather than data from the APT.

Core NFF funding baseline

2.3. Each school's NFF funding floor baseline is calculated based on its notional 2023-24 NFF funding.

2.4. For schools which do not have a 2023-24 NFF baseline (for instance, schools which have opened recently), we have created a theoretical baseline based on the provisional 2023-24 NFF allocations in the relevant LA. This is to ensure that new schools are not disadvantaged compared to other schools in their LA area. We have done this separately for each LA for three categories of school: (a) new schools with no predecessor, (b) schools that have amalgamated and (c) schools that have split. Annex A provides details of the calculation of theoretical baselines.

Baseline pupil count

2.5. For each school we use the total number on roll (NOR) from the 2023-24 NFF.

Baseline additional grant funding

2.6. For each school, we increase the baseline core funding to represent the funding paid through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) in 2023-24.

2.7. We calculate the additional baseline core funding using the mainstream schools additional grant per-pupil and per-school funding rates, combined with pupil count data, numbers of pupils who had been recorded as eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years (FSM6) and area cost adjustment (ACA) data from the 2023-24 NFF. This methodology ensures that the per-pupil baselines calculated for

the funding floor reflect the per-pupil amount schools attract from the additional grant in 2023-24. The additional grant funding rates are set out in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Mainstream schools additional grant funding rates

Grant element	Unit value
Primary basic per-pupil	£119
Key stage 3 (KS3) basic per-pupil	£168
Key stage 4 (KS4) basic per-pupil	£190
Primary FSM6 per-pupil	£104
Secondary FSM6 per-pupil	£152
Lump sum	£4,510

Figure 1: This table shows the funding rates for the mainstream schools additional grant.

2.8. The pre-ACA baseline additional grant funding for a given school is equal to:

a. Primary basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by 2023-24 NFF primary APT-adjusted pupil count, plus

b. KS3 basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by the 2023-24 NFF KS3 APT-adjusted pupil count, plus

c. KS4 basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by the 2023-24 NFF KS4 APT-adjusted pupil count, plus

d. Primary FSM6 per-pupil unit value multiplied by the number of primary FSM6 pupils funded in the 2023-24 NFF, plus

e. Secondary FSM6 per-pupil unit value multiplied by the number of secondary FSM6 pupils funded in the 2023-24 NFF, plus

f. The lump sum unit value.

2.9. We multiply the pre-ACA baseline additional grant funding by the school's 2023-24 NFF ACA to give the baseline additional grant funding. Note that this is a full-year amount for all schools, even if they were not open for the full year in the 2023-24 NFF.

2.10. For information about the pupil counts and ACAs used within this calculation for (a) new schools with no predecessor, (b) schools that have amalgamated and (c) schools that have split, see Annex A.

Baseline core funding

2.11. For each school, the baseline core funding is the total notional 2023-24 NFF allocation, excluding premises, growth and split sites funding.

Adjusted baseline funding

2.12. For each school, we adjust its baseline funding to be consistent with the proportion of the year its 2024-25 NFF funding is calculated for. We call this its adjusted baseline and use this when applying the funding floor.

2.13. To derive the adjusted baseline funding, we:

a. Divide the baseline core funding by the proportion of the year the school was funded in the 2023-24 NFF to give every school a full-year equivalent baseline.

b. Add the baseline additional grant funding to the result from step a.

c. Multiply the result from step b by the proportion of the year the school is open in the 2024-25 NFF.

Chapter 3: Core NFF funding calculation for LA allocations

3.1. In this chapter, we set out each component of the 2024-25 schools NFF that is calculated at a school level.

3.2. For calculating LA allocations, we use data from the 2023-24 APT for both maintained schools and academies.

3.3. For calculating the notional impact on individual schools, we use 2023-24 APT data for maintained schools and 2023/24 GAG data for academies and free schools,[7] to reflect more closely the actual funding that schools receive. Chapter 5 describes the calculation of the notional impact on individual schools.

3.4. Core NFF funding covers funding through the NFF that is calculated at a school level. Through the core NFF funding calculation we derive the NFF primary and secondary per-pupil units of funding for 2024-25, for each LA.

3.5. The NFF uses pupil numbers as adjusted by LAs in the APT[8]. We refer to this as the "APT-adjusted pupil count".

3.6. APT data is based on October 2022 school census data. Any adjustment that an LA makes to census data in the APT overrides the relevant school census data item and is used for the LA-level NFF[9].

3.7. Core NFF funding covers funding through the basic per-pupil, free school meals (FSM), FSM6, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), low prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, lump sum and sparsity factors. The ACA is also applied, to uplift funding in line with local labour market costs. The minimum per pupil funding and the funding floor are applied to ensure that all schools attract at least the minimum level of per-pupil funding through the formula and that all schools attract at least a 0.5% increase compared to their 2023-24 baseline pupil-led funding per pupil. Notional funding for schools which will be open for part of the financial year to 31 March 2024 is scaled down pro rata.

[7] In cases where a maintained school becomes an academy after 31 March 2023, we use APT data, as GAG data is not available in time. For any academy closing before 1 September 2023, we use APT data, as the school will not receive any GAG for 2023/24.

[8] Where the LA has applied reception uplift, the NFF removes it, since this is not a component of the formula.

[9] The exception to this is low prior attainment, which has been recalculated using 2022 assessment results as the proxy for 2021 (when key stage assessments were cancelled due to Covid). Recalculated LPA proportions override those in the APT. See also Paragraph 3.20 onwards.

Basic per-pupil funding

Figure 2: Basic per-pupil funding factors

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Primary basic per-pupil funding	£3,562	Each pupil on the school roll in year groups from reception to year 6 inclusive. The primary APT-adjusted pupil count is based on data from the 2023-24 APT and excludes reception uplift.
Key stage 3 (KS3) basic per-pupil funding	£5,022	Each pupil on the school roll in year groups from year 7 to year 9 inclusive. The KS3 APT-adjusted pupil count is based on data from the 2023-24 APT.
Key stage 4 (KS4) basic per-pupil funding	£5,661	Each pupil on the school roll in year 10 and year 11. The KS4 APT-adjusted pupil count is based on data from the 2023-24 APT.

Figure 2: **This table shows the basic per-pupil funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.**

3.8. We have taken the 2023-24 factor values and added £119 to the primary basic per-pupil funding, £168 to the KS3 basic per-pupil funding and £190 to the KS4 basic per-pupil funding to cover the funding previously allocated through the mainstream schools additional grant.

3.9. We have made a 1.4% percent increase to the factor values including the mainstream schools additional grant, in line with the annual increase in other funding factors.

3.10. The total NFF funding through the basic per-pupil factor is equal to:

a. Primary basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count, plus

b. KS3 basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by the KS3 APT-adjusted pupil count, plus

c. KS4 basic per-pupil unit value multiplied by the KS4 APT-adjusted pupil count.

Additional needs funding

3.11. The additional needs factors allocate funding to schools based on the number of pupils who have particular characteristics. For each factor, schools attract a unit of funding per eligible pupil. The number of eligible pupils is worked out by calculating (from APT data) the proportion of pupils in the school who are eligible for each factor, and then applying this proportion to the APT-adjusted pupil count. This step is necessary to ensure the changes to the pupil numbers due to any adjustments made by LAs in the APT feed through into the number of eligible pupils for the various additional needs factors.

3.12. The proportion of pupils eligible for each factor only takes account of pupils for whom data is available. We assume that pupils with missing characteristics data are eligible for the factor at the same rate as the other pupils for whom we do have data. Therefore, we multiply the proportion of pupils eligible by the total number of pupils in the school's relevant phase. This is the same methodology as LAs currently use to allocate funding to schools. For example:

a. School A has 400 pupils but only 380 have valid data returns for free school meal (FSM) eligibility.

b. Of the 380 pupils with valid FSM data, 95 are claiming FSM, and 285 do not claim FSM. Therefore, the proportion of pupils at School A that are eligible for funding through the FSM factor is 25% (95 divided by 380).

c. The total number of eligible pupils is calculated by multiplying the total pupil count, 400, by the school's proportion of FSM-eligible pupils, 25%. Therefore, School A attracts funding through the FSM factor for 400 x 25% = 100 eligible pupils.

3.13. The additional needs factors are additive: pupils attract funding for all the factors for which they are eligible. So, for example, a pupil currently eligible for FSM attracts the FSM unit value amount and the FSM Ever 6 ("FSM6") unit value.

Socio-economic deprivation – eligibility for free school meals (FSM)

3.14. Figure 3 shows the unit values for the FSM funding factors. To cover the funding previously allocated through the mainstream schools additional grant, we have added £104 per primary pupil and £152 per secondary pupil to the 2023-24 FSM6 factor values for primary and secondary, respectively. The primary and secondary FSM factor values have been uplifted by 1.6% in line with the GDP deflator forecast for 2024-25. The primary and secondary FSM6 factor values (including the mainstream schools additional grant) have been uplifted by 1.4% in accordance with the other formula factors.

Figure 3: FSM funding factors

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Primary FSM	£490	Schools attract funding for all FSM-eligible primary pupils through this factor. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of FSM-eligible primary pupils (reception to year 6 inclusive) from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count.
Secondary FSM	£490	Schools attract funding for all FSM-eligible secondary pupils through this factor. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of FSM-eligible secondary pupils (years 7 to 11 inclusive) from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the secondary APT-adjusted pupil count (KS3 APT-adjusted pupil count plus KS4 APT-adjusted pupil count).
Primary FSM6	£820	Schools attract funding for all primary pupils who have been recorded as eligible for FSM at any time in the last six years (FSM6) through this factor (this includes all primary pupils who are currently eligible for FSM). We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of FSM6-eligible primary pupils calculated from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count.
Secondary FSM6	£1,200	Schools attract funding for all secondary pupils who have been recorded as eligible for FSM at any time in the last six years through this factor (this includes all secondary pupils who are currently eligible for FSM). We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of FSM6-eligible secondary pupils calculated from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the secondary APT-adjusted pupil count.

Figure 3: This table shows the FSM funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.

Socio-economic deprivation – Area-level deprivation data: income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)[10]

3.16. The IDACI factor is based on the IDACI dataset for 2019, which is published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). IDACI is a relative measure of socio-economic deprivation: an IDACI 'score' is calculated for a lower layer super output area (LSOA, an area with typically about 1,500 residents) based on the characteristics of households in that area. The IDACI score of a given area does not mean that every child living in that area has particular deprivation characteristics: it is a measure of the likelihood that a child is in a household experiencing relative socio-economic deprivation. LSOAs are ranked by score, from the most deprived LSOA, with the highest score, to the least deprived LSOA.

3.17. For school funding purposes, the NFF uses IDACI ranks to group LSOAs into seven bands of decreasing deprivation; for example, Band A comprises the most deprived 2.5% of LSOAs. Figure 4 shows the six bands that attract funding.

Figure 4: NFF IDACI bands

Factor	Ranks	Band
Pupils in the most deprived 2.5% of LSOAs	1 to 821	A
Pupils in the next 5% most deprived LSOAs	822 to 2463	B
Pupils in the next 5% most deprived LSOAs	2464 to 4105	C
Pupils in the next 5% most deprived LSOAs	4106 to 5747	D
Pupils in the next 10% most deprived LSOAs	5748 to 9032	E
Pupils in the next 10% most deprived LSOAs	9033 to 12316	F

Figure 4: This table shows the NFF IDACI bands. Band G (the least deprived) does not attract funding and is not shown.

3.18. We match IDACI data to pupils' home postcode data recorded in the October 2022 school census to find their LSOA, and hence the IDACI band for each pupil in a school. The amount of IDACI funding which a school attracts depends on the IDACI band of each pupil. The funding for each band is set out in Figure 5.

[10]Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), English indices of deprivation 2019, September 2019

3.19. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils for funding through each IDACI band by taking the proportion of pupils in the relevant IDACI band and multiplying it by the APT-adjusted pupil count for the relevant phase (primary or secondary).

Figure 5: IDACI funding factors

Factor	Unit value
Primary IDACI band A	£680
Primary IDACI band B	£515
Primary IDACI band C	£485
Primary IDACI band D	£445
Primary IDACI band E	£285
Primary IDACI band F	£235
Secondary IDACI band A	£945
Secondary IDACI band B	£740
Secondary IDACI band C	£690
Secondary IDACI band D	£630
Secondary IDACI band E	£450
Secondary IDACI band F	£340

Figure 5: This table shows the IDACI funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.

Low prior attainment factor (LPA)

3.20. We use early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) attainment data to work out how many pupils are eligible for funding through the LPA factor. The LPA funding factors are set out in Figure 6.

Figure 6: LPA funding factors

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Primary LPA	£1,170	Schools attract funding through this factor for all primary pupils who did not reach a good level of development at early years foundation stage (EYFS). We do not have EYFS data for pupils in reception because they are assessed at the end of the reception year. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by working out the proportion of LPA-eligible pupils in years 1 to 6[11] and multiplying this proportion by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count, which includes pupils in reception.
Secondary LPA	£1,775	Schools attract funding for all secondary pupils who did not achieve the expected level at KS2 in one or more of reading, writing and mathematics through this factor. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by: Taking the proportion of LPA-eligible pupils in each secondary year[12], Applying to each year group the relevant weighting set out in Figure 7. Multiplying by the APT-adjusted pupil count for the relevant year group And summing the results for each year group.

Figure 6: This table shows the LPA funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.

3.21. The cancellation of assessments due to the COVID-19 pandemic means that attainment data is not available for those who would have been assessed in summer 2020 and 2021. In each school,

[11] (taking into account the proxies for the Covid years, as described in this section)

[12] (taking into account the proxies for the Covid years, as described in this section)

a. the LPA proportion of those who would have been assessed in 2020 is assumed to be the same as the LPA proportion of those who were assessed in 2019[13], and

b. the LPA proportion of those who would have been assessed in 2021 is assumed to be the same as the LPA proportion of those who were assessed in 2022[14] (this is a change from the 2023-24 NFF, where 2019 was used as the proxy for 2021).

For new schools which opened after October 2022, autumn census data is not available, and we apply the following principles:-

a. For primary LPA we use APT data.
b. For new secondary schools, we use the school's APT data for all year groups except year 8. For year 8 we use the LPA proportion for year 7 in the LA [15].

3.22. Secondary LPA pupil numbers are weighted to reflect the fact that the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in the key stage 2 assessment has changed over time. The weightings are set out in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Secondary LPA weightings

Year group in October 2022	Weighting
7	0.54469
8	0.54469
9	0.64527
10	0.64527
11	0.63586

Figure 7: This table shows the weightings for secondary low prior attainment

English as an additional language factor (EAL)

3.23. The pupils attracting funding through the NFF EAL factor are those recorded on the census as having entered state education in England during the last three years,

[13] Where there is no 2019 assessment data, the LPA proportion from the 2022-23 APT is used, or failing that, the LPA proportion for the relevant cohort in the local authority.

[14] Where there is no 2022 assessment data, we use the LPA proportion for the relevant cohort in the local authority.

[15] The APT uses the same proxy for 2020 assessment (2019) as the NFF. The APT gives a separate LPA proportion for each secondary year group, and one overall LPA proportion for the primary year groups in a school.

whose first language is not English. References to “EAL-eligible” pupils in this section refer to pupils eligible to attract funding through the NFF EAL factor as described above. The funding factors for EAL are set out in Figure 8.

Figure 8: EAL funding factors

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Primary EAL	£590	Schools attract funding for all EAL-eligible primary pupils through this factor. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of EAL-eligible primary pupils from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count.
Secondary EAL	£1,585	Schools attract funding for all EAL-eligible secondary pupils through this factor. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of EAL-eligible secondary pupils from the 2023-24 APT and multiplying by the secondary APT-adjusted pupil count.

Figure 8: This table shows the EAL funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.

Mobility Factor

3.24. The pupils eligible for funding through the NFF mobility factor are pupils whose school census record at their current school (or one of its predecessors) in the last three years indicates an entry date which is not typical[16]. For year groups 1 to 11, ‘typical’ means that the first census on which a pupil is recorded as attending the school (or its predecessors) is the October census. So, ‘not typical’ means that the first census a pupil is recorded as attending the school is a January or May census. For the reception year, ‘typical’ means the first census is October or January.

3.25. Due to COVID-19, there was no school census in May 2020, so it was not possible to detect a pupil’s arrival at a school between January and May 2020 in the usual way. Instead, where a pupil who was not at the school in the January 2020 census has an entry date recorded in the October 2020 census of between the date of the January

[16] The school census record of an individual pupil is established by tracing the pupil’s unique reference number back through earlier termly censuses.

2020 census and the date of the (cancelled) May 2020 census, that pupil attracts mobility funding (providing the school itself was open before the January 2020 census).

3.26. In Figure 9, 5 pupils attending an all-through school are illustrated. Pupil 1's first appearance is in an October census, so that pupil is not classified as mobile for the purposes of the NFF mobility factor. Pupil 2, who was in year 11 in 2022/23, had an entry date in April 2020, so they are classified as mobile under the special rule set out in Paragraph 3.25 above. Pupil 3's first census is January and so is mobile. Pupil 4's first census is January but as the pupil was in reception at the time, they are not mobile. Pupil 5 has been at the school for at least 3 years so is not eligible for mobility funding.

Figure 9: Mobility example

School census	Pupil 1	Pupil 2	Pupil 3	Pupil 4	Pupil 5
October 2019					Y5
January 2020			Y1		Y5
No May 2020 census: special rules		Y8	Y1		Y5
October 2020		Y9	Y2		Y6
January 2021		Y9	Y2	YR	Y6
May 2021		Y9	Y2	YR	Y6
October 2021		Y10	Y3	Y1	Y7
January 2022		Y10	Y3	Y1	Y7
May 2022		Y10	Y3	Y1	Y7
October 2022	Y7	Y11	Y4	Y2	Y8

Figure 9: This table shows the census appearances for five pupils at one school (or its predecessors) to support the explanation of how the mobility factor is calculated in Paragraph 3.26.

3.27. The funding factors, and threshold, for mobility are set out in Figure 10

Figure 10: Mobility - funding factors for pupils above the threshold

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Primary Mobility	£960	Schools attract funding for all mobility-eligible primary pupils through this factor, above a threshold set at 6% of the primary NOR. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of mobility-eligible primary pupils (after applying the threshold) and multiplying by the primary APT-adjusted pupil count.
Secondary Mobility	£1,380	Schools attract funding for all mobility-eligible secondary pupils through this factor, above a threshold set at 6% of the secondary NOR. We calculate the total number of eligible pupils by taking the proportion of mobility-eligible secondary pupils (after applying the threshold) and multiplying by the secondary APT-adjusted pupil count.

Figure 10: This table shows the mobility funding factors, their unit value and the eligibility criteria for each factor.

Lump sum

3.28. Each school attracts a lump sum (see Figure 11) irrespective of its size or phase. The 2024-25 lump sum has been calculated by first adding £4,510 from the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) to the 2023-24 lump sum, and then applying the annual factor value uplift of 1.4% to this amount.

Figure 11: Lump sum funding factor

Factor	Unit value	Eligibility
Lump sum	£134,400	All schools attract this lump sum amount – we do not differentiate funding by phase.

Figure 11: This table shows the lump sum funding factor, the unit value and the eligibility criteria for the factor.

Sparsity

3.29. The sparsity factor targets extra funding to schools that are both small and remote.

3.30. Remoteness is defined by a school's sparsity distance. To calculate the sparsity distance, we take all the pupils for whom it is the nearest compatible school[17] and find the average road distance from these pupils' home postcode to their second nearest compatible school.

3.31. The amount allocated depends on both average year group size and sparsity distance. The range of factor values is shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Sparsity factor values

Factor	Unit value
Sparsity funding for primary schools	£0 - £57,100
Sparsity funding for secondary, middle and all-through schools	£0 - £83,000

Figure 12: This table shows the sparsity factor unit values.

3.32. A school is eligible for sparsity funding if:

a. The sparsity distance is above the tapered distance threshold set out in Figure 13, and

b. The average year group size (calculated as the APT-adjusted pupil count divided by number of year groups present at the school) is below the tapered year group threshold set out in Figure 14[18].

Figure 13: Sparsity distance thresholds

School phase	Main distance threshold	Tapered distance threshold
Primary, middle, and all-through schools	2 miles	1.6 miles
Secondary schools	3 miles	2.4 miles

[17] For the purposes of this factor, a compatible school means one which a pupil of the relevant age and gender could attend. Selective grammar schools are excluded when identifying the second nearest compatible school, but faith schools are included.

[18] In the rare case that there is no year group data for a school on the 2023-24 APT, we assume that the school is not eligible for sparsity funding.

Figure 13: This table shows the distance thresholds.

Figure 14: Sparsity year group thresholds

Phase	**Main year group threshold** (average number of pupils)	**Tapered year group threshold** (average number of pupils)
Primary	10.70	21.40
Secondary	60.00	120.00
Middle	34.60	69.20
All-through	31.25	62.50

Figure 14: This table shows the sparsity year group thresholds.

3.33. Schools which are both equal to or above the main distance threshold and equal to or below the main year group threshold attract the maximum sparsity unit values for their phase. Where a school is between either or both the main and tapered thresholds, a sparsity weighting applies.

Sparsity weighting

3.34. For each school that is eligible for sparsity funding, we calculate a sparsity weighting, which sets the proportion of the maximum sparsity unit value each sparse school is allocated. The sparsity weighting is calculated in two stages.

a. First, we apply a year group size weighting. This tapers the proportion of the sparsity unit value if the school's average year group size is between the tapered and main year group thresholds. Tapering depends on how close the average year group size is to the main year group threshold.

b. Then we apply a distance weighting. This tapers the proportion of the sparsity unit value according to how close to the main distance threshold their sparsity distance is.

3.35. The year group size weighting for schools with an average year group size of less than or equal to the main year group threshold is 100%. These sparse schools attract the maximum sparsity unit value if their sparsity distance is greater than or equal to the main distance threshold.

3.36. The year group size weighting for sparse schools with an average year group size that is between the tapered and the main year group thresholds is calculated as follows:

$$S = \left(1 - \frac{A - T_M}{T_M}\right), \quad where \quad T_M < A < T_T$$

Where:

S is the year group size weighting

A is the average year group size of the school

T_M is the main year group threshold

T_T is the tapered year group threshold

3.37. This means that a sparse school with an average year group size that is halfway between the tapered threshold and the main threshold, and with a sparsity distance greater than or equal to the main distance threshold, attracts sparsity funding of half the maximum. The year group size weighting for primary, middle, secondary, and all-through schools is set out in Figure 14.

Figure 15: Sparsity year group size weighting

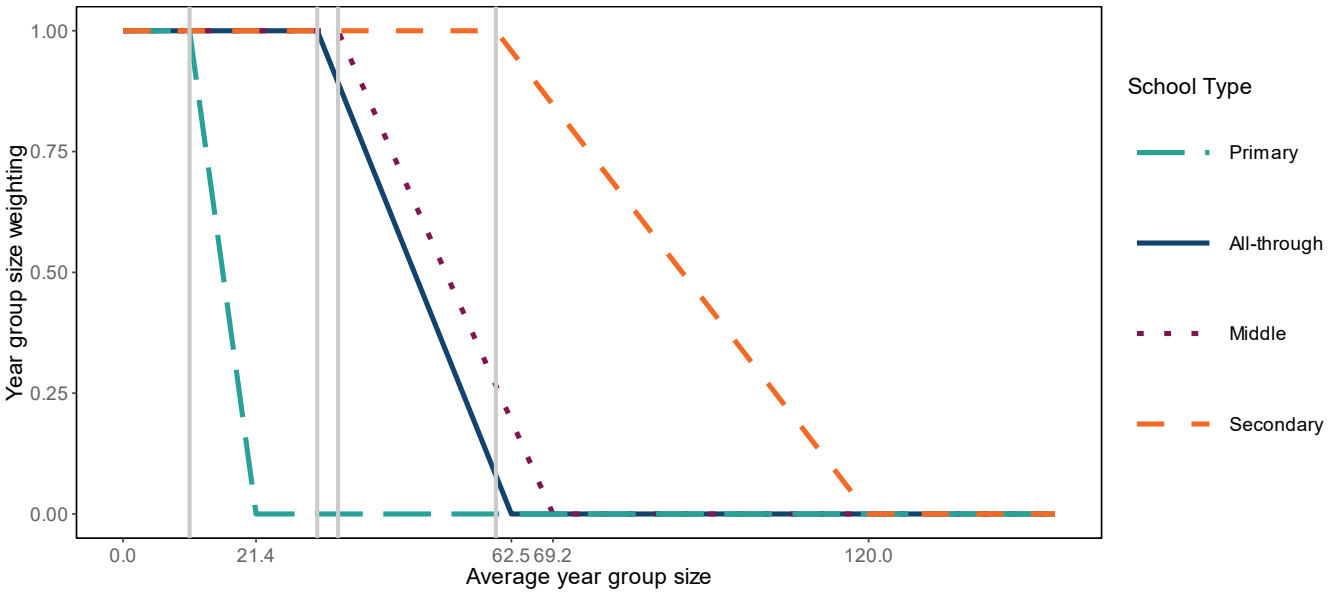

Figure 15: This figure shows the year group size weighting as a function of average year group size.

3.38. The distance weighting for schools with a sparsity distance greater than or equal to the main distance threshold is 100%. These sparse schools therefore attract sparsity funding equal to the maximum sparsity unit value multiplied by the calculated year-group weighting.

3.39. The distance weighting for sparse schools with sparsity distances between the main and tapered thresholds is calculated as follows:

$$W = \left(1 - \frac{D_M - d}{D_M - D_T}\right), \quad where \quad D_T < d < D_M$$

Where:

W is the distance weighting

D_M is the main sparsity distance threshold

D_T is the tapered sparsity distance threshold

d is the school's sparsity distance

3.40. This means that a school whose sparsity distance is halfway between the tapered distance threshold and the main distance threshold would attract half as much funding as a school of the same phase and average year group size, with a sparsity distance greater than the main threshold.

3.41. Figure 16 shows the sparsity distance weighting.

Figure 16: Sparsity distance weighting

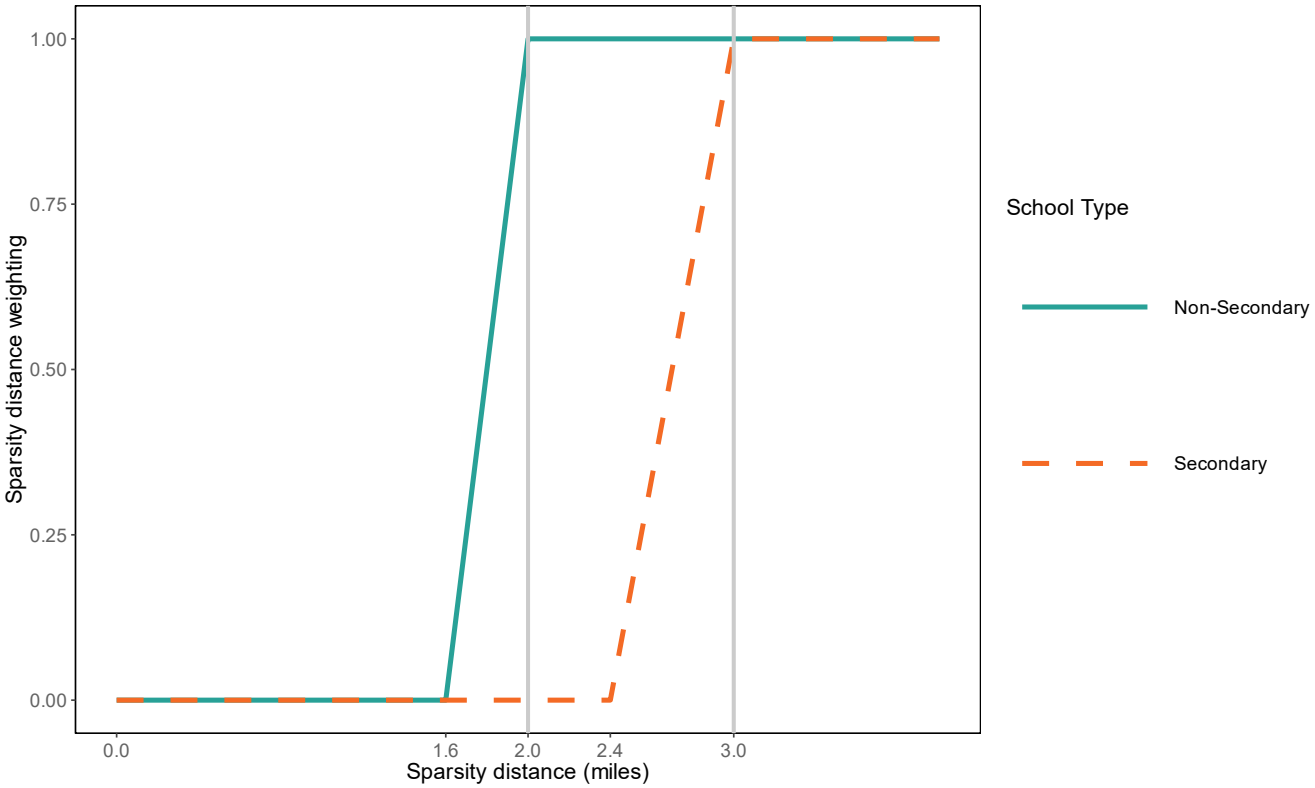

Figure 16: This figure shows the sparsity distance weighting.

3.42. The final sparsity funding amount allocated is the maximum unit value for the school's phase (see Figure 12), multiplied by the year group weighting (as set out in

Paragraph 3.36) and multiplied by the distance weighting (as set out in Paragraph 3.39).

3.43. Figure 17 shows a worked example of the sparsity tapers.

Figure 17: Calculation of sparsity weighting

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Calculate the average year group size	Divide the APT-adjusted pupil count by the number of year groups.	Primary School X has an APT-adjusted pupil count of 112. It has seven year groups. The average year group size is 112 ÷ 7 = 16.0
2) Establish the year group size thresholds, and decide whether a weighting is applicable	Year group size thresholds are set out in Figure 14. If the average year group size is between the main and tapered thresholds, calculate a weighting.	The main threshold for primary schools is 10.7 pupils and the tapered threshold is 21.4 pupils. School X is between the two, so we apply a weighting.
3) Calculate the year group size weighting	Apply the equation in Paragraph 3.36	The year group size weighting is 1 – ((16.0 - 10.7) / 10.7) = 0.504673
4) Establish the distance thresholds, and decide whether a weighting is applicable	Distance thresholds are set out in Figure 13. If the sparsity distance is between the main and tapered thresholds, calculate a weighting.	School X's sparsity distance is 1.9 miles. The main distance threshold for primary schools is 2 miles and the tapered threshold is 1.6 miles. School X is between the two, so we apply a weighting.
5) Calculate the distance weighting	Apply the equation in Paragraph 3.39	The distance weighting is 1 – (2 – 1.9) / (2 – 1.6) = 0.75

Calculation step	Description	Example
6) Calculate the sparsity funding	Multiply the maximum sparsity factor value for the phase of the school (as shown in Figure 12) by the distance and year group size weightings	The maximum sparsity funding for a primary school is £57,100. School X's sparsity funding is £57,100 x 0.504673 x 0.75 = £21,613[19]

Figure 17: This table shows the sparsity weighting calculation

Split sites

3.44. The new split sites factor targets extra funding to schools which operate across more than one site.

3.45. The split sites factor is made up of two parts:

i. Basic eligibility funding: Schools attract a lump sum payment for each of their additional eligible sites – up to a maximum of three additional sites.

ii. Distance funding: Additional eligible sites that are separated from the school's main site by more than 100 metres attract distance funding on top of the basic eligibility funding – up to a maximum of three additional sites.

3.46. Schools attract basic eligibility funding for each of their additional sites (up to a maximum of 3 per school) which:

a. Are part of the same school - i.e. have the same unique reference number (URN) as the school's main site.

b. Are separated from the school's main site by a public road or a railway.

c. Have a building on them which is primarily used for the education of 5 to 16-year-old pupils in mainstream education. This excludes playing fields, ancillary buildings and buildings leased full time by the school.

3.47. A school attracts distance funding for each additional site (up to a maximum of three) where the road distance (see Annex C for further detail) between a school's main site and the additional eligible site is above the tapered distance threshold of 100 metres.

[19] For simplicity, numbers are rounded to the nearest pound in this example, but in the NFF itself we work with unrounded numbers.

If a school has more than three additional sites, the distance funding is calculated based on the three sites which are furthest away from the school's main site.

Figure 18: Split sites distance thresholds

Main distance threshold	Tapered distance threshold
500m	100m

Figure 18: This table shows the distance thresholds.

3.48. The amount allocated depends on the number of additional eligible sites and the split sites distance. The same unit values and thresholds apply for primary and secondary schools. The range of values is shown in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Split sites factor values

Factor	Unit value
Basic eligibility, per additional site (up to a maximum of 3 additional sites)	£53,700
Distance eligibility, per additional site (up to a maximum of 3 additional sites)	£0 - £26,900

Figure 19: This table shows the split sites factor unit values.

3.49. For 2024-25, school's split sites funding will be protected against losses which occur due to the introduction of the national split sites factor. For details on how this is calculated and applied see Paragraph 3.66.

Distance weighting

3.50. For each site that meets the criteria for split sites distance funding, we calculate a distance weighting. This tapers the proportion of the distance funding unit value according to how close to the main distance threshold their split site road distance is.

3.51. The distance weighting for schools with a split site distance greater than or equal to the main distance threshold is 1.

3.52. The distance weighting for split site schools with distances between the main and tapered thresholds is calculated as follows:

$$\left(W = 1 - \frac{500 - d}{500 - 100}\right), \quad where\, d > 100$$

where:

W is the distance weighting

500 relates to the 500m main distance threshold

100 relates to the 100m tapered distance threshold

d is the school's split site distance

3.53. Figure 20 shows the split site distance weighting.

Figure 20: Split site distance weighting

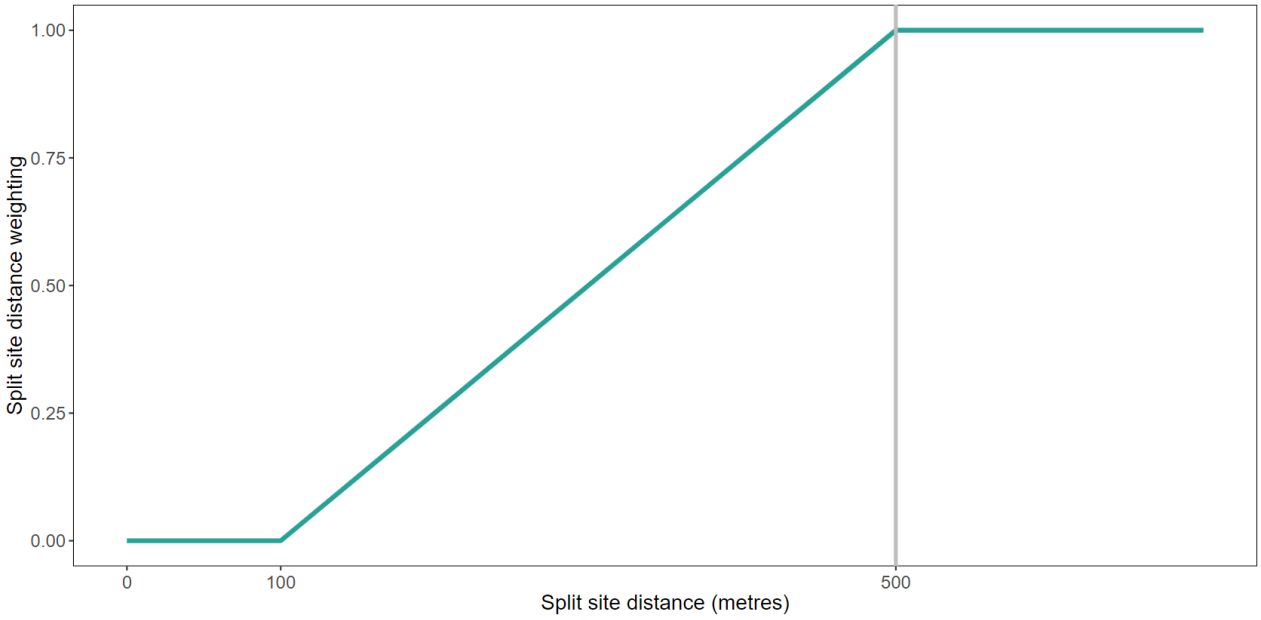

Figure 20: This figure shows the split site distance weighting.

3.54. Figure 21 shows a worked example of split site funding including the taper.

Figure 21: Calculation of split site funding

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Calculate basic eligibility funding	Multiply the number of eligible sites (up to a maximum of 3) by the basic eligibility unit value	Primary School X operates over three sites: main site A, site B and site C. Sites B and C both meet the split sites basic eligibility criteria. Site B's basic funding = £53,700 Site C's basic funding = £53,700 School X's basic funding is £53,700 x 2 = £107,400.
2) Establish the additional sites' road distances, and decide whether a weighting is applicable for each site	Distance thresholds are set out in Figure 18. If the distance is greater than the tapered threshold i.e., 100m, a weighting should be applied.	The main threshold for distance funding is 500m and the tapered threshold is 100m. Distance between main site A and site B = 50m. Distance between main site A and site C = 300m. Site B is lower than the tapered threshold so does not attract any distance funding. Site C is between the two, so we need to apply a weighting.
3) Calculate the distance weighting for the relevant site(s)	Apply the equation in Paragraph 3.52	Site B's road distance is below the 100m tapered threshold so does not need a weighting. Site C's distance weighting is:1 – (500 – 300) / (500 – 100) = 0.5

Calculation step	Description	Example
4) Calculate the distance funding for the relevant site(s)	Multiply the maximum distance funding unit value by the distance weighting	The maximum distance funding is £26,900. Site B's distance funding = £0 Site C's distance funding is £26,900 x 0.5 = £13,450.
5) Calculate the total split site funding	Add together the basic and distance funding for all sites	Site B's total funding = £53,700 + £0 = £53,700 Site C's total funding = £53,700 + £13,450 = £67,150 School X's total split site funding is £53,700 + £67,150 = £120,850

Figure 21: This table shows the split sites funding calculation

Area cost adjustment (ACA)

3.55. The NFF includes an ACA to reflect geographical variation in labour market costs. The ACA reflects variation in both the general labour market (GLM) and in teacher pay scales. The ACA applies to pupil-led funding (basic per-pupil and additional needs), to school-led funding (lump sum and sparsity) and to split sites funding.

3.56. The SB NFF ACA is a combination of:

a. The teacher pay cost adjustment, an element to reflect the differences in the basic pay ranges between the four regional pay bands for teachers and

b. The GLM cost adjustment, an element to reflect geographical variation in wage costs for non-teaching staff.

3.57. For details of the ACA, see the separate technical note Area Cost Adjustment technical note - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

NFF pupil-led unit of funding before applying the minimum per pupil funding and the funding floor

3.58. We calculate the NFF pupil-led unit of funding (before applying the minimum per pupil and funding floor) for each school by:

a. Adding together the total funding through each pupil-led factor (basic per pupil, FSM, FSM6, IDACI, LPA, EAL, mobility).

b. Multiplying that total by the school's ACA.

c. Dividing the result by the school's total APT-adjusted pupil count.

NFF school-led unit of funding

3.59. We calculate the NFF school-led unit of funding for each school by:

a. Adding together the total funding through the two school-led factors (lump sum and sparsity).

b. Multiplying that total by the school's ACA.

Applying the minimum per pupil funding factor

3.60. The NFF includes a factor which sets a minimum per pupil funding that each school attracts through the NFF. This minimum refers to the level in £ of per-pupil funding schools attract through the NFF. It differs from the funding floor, which provides a minimum increase for each school compared to their 2023-24 school baselines. The funding floor is set out in Paragraphs 3.65 onwards.

3.61. The 2024-25 minimum per pupil funding levels for different year groups are set out in Figure 22. For each school, the minimum per pupil is a weighted average of the minimum per pupil for primary, KS3 and KS4, with the weighting determined by the number of year groups in the relevant phase that are present at the school. Only the year groups that contain pupils in 2023-24 are counted in this calculation.

3.62. The minimum per pupil funding levels include additional amounts to cover funding previously allocated through the mainstream schools additional grant 2023 to 2024. Before applying the general annual increase of 1.4%, we have increased the minimum per pupil funding levels by £143, £186 and £208 per primary, KS3 and KS4 pupil respectively. These amounts reflect the average amount of funding these schools currently attract through the grant.

Figure 22: Minimum per pupil funding levels

Year groups	2024-25 minimum per pupil funding levels
Primary	£4,610
KS3	£5,771
KS4	£6,331

Figure 22: This table shows the minimum per pupil funding levels for each phase

3.63. The minimum per pupil for each school is the sum of

£4,610 multiplied by the number of primary year groups

+ £5,771 multiplied by the number of KS3 year groups

+ £6,331 multiplied by the number of KS4 year groups

divided by the total number of year groups in the school.

This means that for a primary school the minimum per pupil is £ 4,610 and for a secondary school with year groups 7 to 11, the minimum per pupil is £5,995.

3.64. To calculate whether a school attracts additional funding as a result of the minimum per pupil factor, we compare the school's NFF per-pupil funding (before the minimum per pupil funding levels and funding floor are applied) to the minimum per pupil funding level for the school. The calculation of the minimum per pupil funding factor is set out in Figure 23.

Figure 23: Calculation of the minimum per pupil

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) NFF pupil-led funding (before the minimum per pupil factor and funding floor)	We start with a school's NFF pupil-led funding (see Paragraph 3.58) before applying the minimum per pupil funding or funding floor (and as if the school were open for the full year).	Secondary school B is open for the whole of 2023-24. School B's NFF pupil-led funding (before the minimum per pupil factor and funding floor) is £5,500 per pupil.
2) NFF school-led funding	We also need to derive the school's school-led funding – see Paragraph 3.59 (as if the school were open for the full year).	The NFF school-led funding for school B is £134,400. It attracts a lump sum like every school but is not eligible for sparsity funding.
3) APT-adjusted pupil count	We use this to calculate the per-pupil funding for the minimum per pupil funding factor calculation.	School B has a total APT-adjusted pupil count of 1,200.

Calculation step	Description	Example
4) NFF per-pupil funding used for the minimum per pupil funding calculation	The per-pupil NFF funding (before the minimum per pupil factor and funding floor) for a school is equal to: NFF pupil-led funding (before the minimum per pupil factor and funding floor) (step 1), multiplied by the APT-adjusted pupil count (step 3), plus NFF school-led funding (step 2), divided by the APT-adjusted pupil count (step 3).	School B's per-pupil NFF funding (before the minimum per pupil factor and funding floor) is equal to: £5,500 multiplied by 1,200 (£6,600,000), plus £134,400 (£6,734,400) divided by 1,200, which equals £5,612[20].
5) School's individual minimum per pupil funding level	The calculation of the minimum per pupil funding level for each school is set out in Paragraph 3.63.	School B is a secondary school with pupils in year groups 7 to 11, so the minimum per pupil funding level is (£5,771 x 3 + £6,331 x 2) / (3 + 2) = £5,995.
6) Does the school attract funding through the minimum per pupil funding factor?	If a school's NFF per-pupil funding (before minimum per pupil and funding floor) is less than the school's individual minimum per pupil funding level, then the school attracts extra funding through the minimum per pupil funding factor. If the NFF per-pupil funding is equal to or greater than the school's individual minimum per pupil funding level, then the school attracts no extra funding through this factor.	School B's per-pupil NFF funding (before minimum per pupil factor and funding floor) is £5,612 (step 4). This is less than school B's individual minimum per pupil funding level, £5,995 (step 5). Therefore, the school attracts a funding uplift through the minimum per pupil funding factor. This is equal to £383 per pupil (£5,995 minus £5,612).

[20] For simplicity, numbers are rounded to the nearest pound in this example, but in the NFF itself we work with unrounded numbers.

Calculation step	Description	Example
7) NFF per-pupil funding (after the minimum per pupil funding, but before the funding floor)	The NFF per-pupil funding after minimum per pupil, but before the funding floor, is calculated by adding any per-pupil funding through the minimum per pupil funding factor (step 6) to the NFF per-pupil funding (step 4) and multiplying by the proportion of the financial year for which the school is open.	School B is open for the full financial year. The NFF per-pupil funding (after the minimum per pupil but before the funding floor) is £5,612 plus £383 multiplied by 100%, i.e., the minimum, £5,995.

Figure 23: This table shows the minimum per pupil funding factor calculation, and how we determine whether any additional funding is required

Applying the funding floor

3.65. Schools' baselines for the funding floor are from the notional 2023-24 core NFF allocations. For schools that do not have a 2023-24 baseline, Annex A describes how a baseline is derived. The NFF's funding floor ensures all schools' NFF allocations in 2024-25 see a minimum gain per pupil of 0.5% above their 2023-24 baseline pupil-led funding.

3.66. For 2024-25, school's split sites funding will be protected against losses which occur due to the introduction of the national split sites factor. This will be in the form of a one-off adjustment to the school's funding floor baseline, whereby a decrease in split sites funding is offset by an increase to the baseline. Conversely, in order to prevent overprotection for schools benefiting from an increase in split sites funding, an increase in split sites funding will be offset by a decrease in the baseline. These adjustments will only be made in 2024-25 when it is the formula changes which cause the change in split sites funding. From 2025-26 onwards, further changes in schools' split sites funding will not be protected through the floor since schools will then only gain or lose split sites eligibility as a result of changes in the school estate. 2025-26 NFF baselines will be derived from notional 2024-25 core NFF allocations, and will therefore continue to take account of changes made to split sites funding in 2024-25.

3.67. To calculate whether a school attracts additional funding as a result of the floor, we look at the difference between the school's funding floor baseline (per pupil) and its 2024-25 NFF pupil-led funding after the minimum per pupil funding levels have been applied.

3.68. Each school's funding floor baseline (per pupil) is calculated by taking the total of the NFF baselines as described in Chapter 2 and subtracting the 2024-25 NFF school-led funding. On top of this, where applicable, we adjust the baseline according to the per-pupil change in split sites funding. This parallels the minimum funding guarantee

(MFG) methodology used in LAs' local funding formulae. Again, we use 2023-24 APT data for all schools in our calculation of the funding floor for use in LA allocations. Figure 24 sets out the funding floor calculation and a worked example.

Figure 24: Calculation of the NFF funding floor

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Total baseline funding	We start with the adjusted baseline from 2023-24 NFF. This is the allocation from the 2023-24 NFF adjusted to include the MSAG baseline funding and adjusted for the proportion of 2023-24 that the school is open.	School A's baseline core funding is £800,000. This includes £23,000 to represent the funding allocated through the MSAG.
2) NFF school-led unit of funding	The baseline for the funding floor calculation excludes 2024-25 NFF school-led funding. We take account of the proportion of the financial year the school is open in 2023-24.	School A is open for 100% of the financial year 2023-24 and has no sparsity funding, so its 2024-25 NFF school-led funding is the lump sum £134,400 x 100% = £134,400.
3) Baseline pupil count	The funding floor calculation is on a per-pupil basis, based on the school's pupil count in the 2023-24 NFF.	School A's baseline pupil count is 150.
4) Funding floor baseline excluding split sites	The baseline for the funding floor is calculated by: Taking the total baseline core funding (step 1), subtracting the 2024-25 NFF school-led unit of funding (step 2), and dividing the result by the baseline pupil count (step 3).	School A's funding floor baseline (excluding split sites) is £4,437[21]. This is £800,000 minus £134,400 (£665,600) divided by 150.

[21] For simplicity, numbers are rounded to the nearest pound in this example, but in the NFF itself we work with unrounded numbers.

Calculation step	Description	Example
5) Funding floor baseline including split sites	The split sites contribution to the funding floor is calculated by: Taking the split sites funding attracted in 2023-24 (as recorded on the APT), subtracting the 2024-25 NFF split sites funding (as calculated in Figure 21), and dividing by the baseline pupil count (step 3). This amount is added to the funding floor baseline from step 4.	School A received £70,000 in split sites funding in 2023-24. It is calculated to attract £60,000 in split sites funding in the 2024-25 NFF. School A's funding floor baseline (including split sites) is £4,504. This is £4,437 plus £67 (£70,000 - £60,000 divided by 150)
6) Minimum gain in 2024-25	The minimum gain per pupil for any school by 2024-25 is a 0.5% increase on their funding floor baseline. To check that each school will see at least a 0.5% gain in 2024-25 we uplift the baseline for the funding floor by 0.5%.	School A's NFF pupil-led funding needs to be at least 0.5% greater than the funding floor baseline – it needs to be at least £4,504 + (£4,504 x 0.5%) = £4,527

Calculation step	Description	Example
7) NFF 2024-25 pupil-led funding (after the minimum per pupil funding but before the funding floor)	We also need to calculate the 2024-25 NFF pupil-led funding, a per-pupil unit of funding that excludes the school-led factors, to use in the funding floor calculation. We take the NFF funding per pupil (after minimum per pupil funding has been added but before the funding floor) and multiply the result by the pupil count for the 2024-25 NFF. We then subtract the 2024-25 school-led funding and divide the result by the pupil count for the 2024-25 NFF. We multiply the result by the proportion of the financial year for which the school is open.	School A's 2024-25 funding per pupil is £5,200. The pupil count for the 2024-25 NFF is 160. The school-led funding is £134,400. School A's 2024-25 NFF pupil-led funding per pupil before the funding floor is ((£5,200 x 160) - £134,400) divided by 160, i.e. £4,360.
8) How much funding does the school attract through the NFF funding floor factor?	We check that each school's NFF pupil-led funding (after minimum per pupil funding but before the funding floor) (step 7) delivers the minimum gain in 2024-25 (step 6). If the NFF pupil-led unit of funding is not at least 0.5% greater than the funding floor baseline, then the school attracts funding through the funding floor factor.	School A's NFF pupil-led funding (after minimum per pupil funding but before the funding floor) of £4,360 (step 7) is less than a 0.5% uplift to the funding floor baseline of £4,527 (step 6), so school A gets £4,527 - £4,360 = £167 per pupil through the funding floor factor.
9) NFF pupil-led funding per pupil (after minimum per pupil funding and the funding floor)	This is equal to: NFF pupil-led funding (after minimum per pupil funding but before the funding floor) (step 7), plus, NFF funding floor per pupil (step 8).	School A's NFF pupil-led funding (after minimum per pupil funding and the funding floor) is £4,527 per pupil, which is £4,360 plus £167.

Figure 24: Calculation of the NFF funding floor baseline for use in LA allocations

Core schools NFF funding – splitting between primary and secondary

3.69. To calculate each LA's primary and secondary per-pupil units of funding for the 2024-25 schools block, we need to split core NFF funding into two categories: primary funding and secondary funding. For most primary and secondary schools, this is trivial. But for middle schools and all-through schools with pupils in both phases, we calculate this split as follows.

3.70. First, we split all funding through the basic per-pupil, FSM, FSM6, IDACI, low prior attainment, EAL and mobility factors (including ACA uplift) between primary and secondary based on the funding through individual factors – all funding through primary factors (for pupils in years reception to 6) is classed as primary funding, and all funding for secondary factors (for pupils in Years 7 to 11) is classed as secondary funding.

3.71. Then, we split all funding through the school-led factors (lump sum and sparsity) between primary and secondary in proportion to the number of primary and secondary pupils at the school. So, if an all-through school has 1,210 pupils, 210 of whom are primary and 1,000 of whom are secondary, 17% of its school-led funding is primary funding and the remaining 83% is secondary funding.

3.72. Finally, we split any extra funding the school attracted through the minimum per pupil funding and funding floor factors between primary and secondary in proportion to the number of primary and secondary pupils. So, for example, if a middle school attracts £100 per pupil through the funding floor and there are 180 primary pupils and 120 secondary pupils in the school, the primary funding through the funding floor is calculated as £100 multiplied by 180 (£18,000) and the secondary funding equals £100 multiplied by 120 (£12,000).

Chapter 4: NFF allocations to LAs

4.1. This chapter describes how we have calculated the provisional funding allocations to LAs for 2024-25, including how we have calculated their actual primary and secondary units of funding. Specifically, this chapter describes:

- The calculation of primary and secondary core NFF funding;
- The calculation of the primary and secondary units of funding for 2024-25;
- The calculation of premises funding;
- The calculation of funding through the growth and falling rolls factor; and
- How the primary and secondary units of funding, premises funding and split sites funding are combined to derive LAs' provisional 2024-25 allocations.

Core NFF funding – provisional funding for 2024-25

4.2. Figure 25 sets out the calculation of the total 2024-25 provisional NFF primary and secondary core NFF funding, before adjusting for duplicates.

Figure 25: Total provisional core NFF funding

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Total primary core NFF funding	We take the total NFF primary core funding for all schools in the LA (described in Chapter 3). This covers all primary funding through the school level formula (pupil-led, school-led, minimum per pupil funding and funding floor factors).	LA 1's total primary core NFF funding is £105.3m.
2) Total secondary core NFF funding	We take the total NFF secondary core NFF funding for all schools in the LA (described in Chapter 3). This covers all secondary funding through the school level formula (pupil-led, school-led, minimum per pupil funding and funding floor factors).	LA 1's total secondary core NFF funding is £92.4m.

Figure 25: Total provisional core 2024-25 NFF funding (before adjusting for duplicates)

2024-25 primary and secondary units of funding

4.3. For each LA we calculate a primary unit of funding (PUF) and secondary unit of funding (SUF) for 2024-25. These are final, actual units of funding for 2024-25 and

will be used to allocate schools block funding to LAs in December 2023. This section describes how the PUFs and SUFs have been calculated; the next section describes how they will be used to calculate LAs' actual schools block allocations for 2024-25.

4.4. Figure 26 sets out the calculation of the 2024-25 NFF primary and secondary units of funding.

Figure 26: 2024-25 LA level NFF primary and secondary units of funding

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Total provisional primary 2024-25 core NFF funding	The total primary core NFF funding in the 2024-25 NFF, based on 2023-24 data. Figure 25, step 1.	LA 1's total primary 2024-25 core NFF funding is £105.3m.
2) Primary pupil count	The primary pupil count is based on the 2023-24 adjusted APT pupil count for all schools open in financial year 2023-24. Each school's contribution to this pupil count takes account of the proportion of the financial year for which the school is open. For each school in the LA, we take: The 2023-24 primary adjusted APT pupil count (based on October 2022 census) and multiply it by the proportion of the financial year 2023-24 the school is open Then we aggregate these amounts to LA level and subtract the total number of unresolved duplicate pupils[22] for the LA that were not apportioned in the 2023-24 DSG allocation.	LA 1's total primary pupil count is 20,000. LA 1 has 2 unresolved duplicate primary pupils. After adjusting for duplicate pupils, the total primary pupil count is 19,998.
3) 2024-25 NFF PUF	To calculate the 2024-25 LA level NFF PUF we divide the total primary 2024-25 core NFF funding (step 1) by the LA's primary pupil count after adjusting for duplicates (step 2).	LA 1's 2024-25 NFF PUF is equal to £105.3m divided by 19,998 primary pupils, £5,266.
4) Total provisional secondary 2024-25 core NFF funding	The total secondary core NFF funding in the 2024-25 NFF, based on 2023-24 data. Figure 25, step 2.	LA 1's total secondary 2024-25 core NFF funding is £92.4m.

[22] See Paragraph 4.7

Calculation step	Description	Example
5) Secondary pupil count	The secondary pupil count is based on the 2023-24 adjusted APT pupil count for all schools open in financial year 2023-24. Each school's contribution to this pupil count takes account of the proportion of the financial year for which the school is open. For each school in the LA, we take: The 2023-24 secondary adjusted APT pupil count (based on October 2022 census); and Multiply it by the proportion of the financial year 2023-24 the school is open Then we aggregate these amounts up to LA level and subtract the total number of unresolved duplicate pupils for the LA that were apportioned in the 2023-24 DSG allocation.	LA 1's total secondary pupil count is 14,000. LA 1 has 1 unresolved duplicate secondary pupil. After adjusting for the duplicate pupil, the total secondary pupil count is 13,999.
6) 2024-25 NFF SUF	To calculate the 2024-25 LA level NFF SUF we divide the total secondary 2024-25 core NFF funding (step 4) by the secondary pupil count (step 5).	LA 1's 2024-25 NFF SUF is equal to £92.4m divided by 13,999 secondary pupils, £6,600.

Figure 26: 2024-25 LA level NFF primary and secondary units of funding

2024-25 premises funding

4.5. Our approach for allocating premises (except for split sites) funding at LA level under the NFF for 2024-25 is to use the levels of funding given on LAs' 2023-24 APTs, in respect of schools eligible for funding under the 2024-25 NFF[23]. For split sites funding, our new formularised amount, as calculated in Chapter 3, replaces the APT amount. For each LA we:

a. Take the 2023-24 PFI premises factor as given on the 2023-24 APT and uplift it in line with RPIX growth from April 2022 to April 2023 (10.4%)[24]. The exception to this is if the PFI figure on the 2023-24 APT for a school is negative. In this case it is rolled over and not uplifted by RPIX;

[23] Certain PFI allocations are subject to adjustment in the light of negotiation between the Department and LAs

[24] RPI All Items Index Excl Mortgage Interest (RPIX): Jan 1987=100 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

b. Take the 2023-24 estimated values from the APT for rates plus any rates adjustments for 2022-23;

c. Take the 2023-24 exceptional circumstances spend from the 2023-24 APT, excluding any non-premises items. Non-premises exceptional circumstances items include adjustments to the minimum per pupil levels and additional lump sums to schools in their second year after amalgamation (an additional lump sum in the first year after amalgamation is treated as premises funding);

d. Take the newly calculated 2024-25 split sites funding amount including ACA;

e. Add the totals from these four steps together to give the 2024-25 NFF actual funding through the premises factors.

This calculation is final and will not be updated at any later point.

Total provisional funding in 2024-25

4.6. We have published the total provisional funding (excluding the growth and falling rolls factors) that each LA would attract under the NFF (2024-25) based on 2023-24 data. Figure 27 sets out the calculation of the total provisional funding in 2024-25.

4.7. For this calculation, we have treated unresolved duplicate pupil numbers[25] in the school census dataset by sharing them proportionally across the schools in which they are recorded (so a pupil found in two schools as a main enrolment would be treated as 50% in each school). To illustrate this, the total provisional funding has been calculated using the 2023-24 DSG schools block counts with the unresolved duplicates apportioned.[26] The PUFs and SUFs have been adjusted to account for this (see Figure 26, steps 2 and 5).

[25] These are different pupils with the same “unique” pupil reference number. In the calculations up to this point, each duplicate pupil is counted as one.

[26] This is for illustration. The actual 2024-25 allocation will use the 2024-25 DSG schools block primary pupil count

Figure 27: Total provisional funding (excluding the growth and falling rolls factors) in 2024-25

Calculation step	Description	Example
1) Total primary 2024-25 core NFF funding	The provisional total funding through primary core schools factors. PUF (Figure 26 step 3) multiplied by 2023-24 DSG schools block primary pupil count.	LA 1's total primary 2024-25 core NFF funding is £5,266 multiplied by the DSG schools block primary pupil count (19,800) £104.3m.
2) Total secondary 2024-25 core NFF funding	The provisional total funding through secondary core schools factors. SUF (Figure 26 step 6) multiplied by 2023-24 DSG schools block secondary pupil count.	LA 1's total secondary 2024-25 core NFF funding is £6,600 multiplied by the DSG schools block secondary pupil count (13,750) £90.8m.
3) 2024-25 provisional funding through the core schools formula	This is: The provisional 2024-25 primary core NFF funding (step 1) Plus the provisional 2024-25 secondary core NFF funding (step 2)	LA 1's total provisional 2024-25 core NFF funding is £195.1m.

Calculation step	Description	Example
4) 2024-25 funding through premises	This is the total NFF split sites funding, plus the funding for the other premises factors (taken from the 2023-24 APT), plus an RPIX uplift for PFI. It is described in Paragraph 4.5 and will be used to calculate final funding allocations to LAs for 2024-25 in December 2023.	LA 1's total funding through the premises factor is £40m.
6) Total provisional funding (excluding growth and falling rolls) in 2024-25	The total provisional funding (excluding growth and falling rolls) in 2024-25 is equal to: The 2024-25 provisional funding through the core schools formula (step 3) Plus the 2024-25 funding through premises (step 4).	The total provisional funding (excluding growth and falling rolls) in 2024-25 for LA 1 is £235.1m.

Figure 27: Total provisional funding (excluding the growth and falling rolls factors) in 2024-25

What we have published at LA level

4.8. As part of the 2024-25 announcement, we have published the NFF summary table, which sets out the impact of the NFF on LAs. These LA-level figures cover:

a. The 2023-24 baseline, which is the 2023-24 DSG allocations plus the relevant components of the 2023-24 mainstream grant allocations

b. The actual 2024-25 units of funding for each LA that will be used to calculate schools block allocations in December 2023

c. The provisional impact of the 2024-25 NFF, illustrated using October 2022 pupil numbers.

2024-25 funding through the growth and falling rolls factors

4.9. In the 2024-25 DSG settlement, planned for December 2023, we will allocate funding through the growth and falling rolls factors at LA Level, based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll in each LA within medium super output areas (MSOAs) between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. We have not published provisional growth and falling rolls allocations because they are determined by October 2023 pupil numbers, so it would not provide meaningful information at this stage. See Annex B for further details about the methodology to be used for actual allocations in December.

Chapter 5: Calculating school-level notional allocations

5.1. Chapters 2 and 3 set out the school-level calculations that feed into the calculation of LA-level allocations, described in Chapter 4. LA-level allocations (unlike school-level notional allocations) are based entirely on APT data.

5.2. We have also published school-level figures which illustrate the impact of the NFF for each school. These figures do not show the actual amount of funding that schools will attract in 2024-25. This is because each LA will still be responsible for setting the individual funding formulae for 2024-25 for their area, and because LAs' allocations to schools for 2024-25 will be based on data from the October 2023 school census, while the notional NFF allocations for 2024-25 are based on data from the October 2022 census.

5.3. To calculate the school-level notional figures we use 2023-24 APT data for LA maintained schools and 2023/24 GAG data for academies (as at 31 March 2023) and free schools. For most academies and free schools there is no difference between these two data sources, so the published school-level figures are the same as the school-level figures which we have used in the LA-level calculations. However, for some academies and free schools there are differences between APT and GAG data. There are two reasons for these:

a. Some academies and free schools are funded on estimated pupil numbers rather than census pupil numbers. LAs do not have to use these estimated pupil numbers in the APT.

b. Some academies and free schools have attracted a higher level of funding in the past and so are protected against a higher baseline than used in the APT.

Using APT or GAG data in the calculations

5.4. To illustrate the impact of the 2024-25 NFF on individual schools, wherever the calculations refer to a total number of pupils, a funding baseline, or the proportion of the baseline year the school is open, GAG data is used for academies and free schools, but APT data is used for maintained schools. This section lists the precise aspects of the calculations affected by using GAG data for academies. Apart from the rates part of the premises calculations, the calculation details are the same as those described in Chapters 2 and 3 for LA-level allocations, and only the input data changes.

APT or GAG adjusted pupil count

5.5. As set out in Chapter 3, the adjusted pupil count excludes reception uplift. The adjusted pupil count calculation for school-level illustrations is the same as for the LA allocation calculations, however we use GAG data where applicable for the pupil

count and reception uplift (which is not included in the NFF) for academies and free schools.

Pupil count for additional needs

5.6. The calculation of the number of pupils attracting funding for additional educational needs is described in Chapter 3. The proportion of primary- and secondary-aged pupils attracting funding for each factor (calculated from APT data) is applied to the GAG pupil count in the case of academies and free schools, and to the APT pupil count in the case of maintained schools.

APT or GAG premises

5.7. GAG premises funding does not include funding for rates. Academies and free schools never receive their rates funding through their GAG allocation; instead, the Education and Skills Funding Agency separately reimburses them for their actual rates costs. So, for LA maintained schools, the premises funding includes rates, but for academies, the premises funding excludes rates.

5.8. Premises funding has been shown at 2023-24 APT or 2023/24 GAG amounts, plus an uplift to PFI by RPIX, except for split sites where the 2023-24 APT amount is replaced by the new formularised amount. This has been included in the illustration for consistency with the LA level allocations, but schools should not necessarily expect to see this funding repeated in their actual 2024-25 or 2024/25 allocations.

NFF pupil-led unit of funding (pre minimum per pupil funding and funding floor)

5.9. The calculation is described in Chapter 3. The differences in input data for academies and free schools are:

a. The primary, KS3 and KS4 adjusted pupil counts are based on GAG data where applicable. These pupil counts are used to calculate the basic per-pupil funding.

b. The funding amounts through additional needs factors are based on the proportion of primary or secondary pupils eligible for each factor (these proportions are the same in both the APT and GAG data) and the primary and secondary adjusted pupil count from GAG data where applicable. The total number of pupils eligible for each factor is equal to the eligible proportion multiplied by the APT or GAG primary or secondary pupil count.

c. The proportion of the year for which a school is open is based on GAG data where applicable (refers to academic year rather than financial year). Academies are assumed to be open for the full academic year.[27]

NFF school-led unit of funding

5.10. The calculation is also carried out as described in Chapter 3. The differences in input data for academies and free schools are:

a. The sparsity calculation of the average year group size refers to the GAG adjusted pupil count and year group data where applicable.

a. The proportion of the year for which a school is open is based on GAG data where applicable (refers to academic year). Academies are assumed to be open for the full academic year[28].

NFF minimum per pupil unit of funding

5.11. The calculation is described in Chapter 3. The differences in input data for academies and free schools are that:

a. The adjusted pupil count is based on GAG data where applicable.

b. The number of primary-age, KS3 and KS4 year groups is based on GAG data where applicable.

c. The proportion of the year open is based on GAG data where applicable (refers to academic year).

NFF funding floor

5.12. The calculation of the funding floor is set out in Chapter 3. The differences in input data for academies and free schools are that:

a. The funding floor baseline is based on GAG data where applicable.

b. The adjusted pupil count is based on GAG data where applicable.

[27] The rationale is that academies which open after the start of the academic year are excluded from the dataset, and it is not known whether any academies will close before the end of the academic year.

[28] The rationale is that academies which open after the start of the academic year are excluded from the dataset, and it is not known whether any academies will close before the end of the academic year.

NFF premises funding

5.13. We have included premises funding in the notional school-level figures. The calculation of NFF premises funding here is very similar to the calculation at LA level. Notional 2024-25 premises funding amounts at school level are calculated as:

a. The 2023-24 PFI funding uplifted in line with the RPIX growth from April 2022 to April 2023;[29] plus

b. The new formularised split sites amount; plus

c. The 2023-24 funding amounts for the other premises factors.

What have we published at a school level?

5.14. Our school-level impact table sets out figures for each school. Figure 28 sets out the definition of each output.

[29] The exception to this is if the PFI figure on the 2023-24 APT for a school is negative. In this case it is rolled over and not uplifted by RPIX.

Figure 28: Published output, school level illustrations

Published output	Description
1) Funding baseline	This is the 2023-24 NFF funding allocation, based on APT data for maintained schools and GAG data for academies and free schools.
2) Notional total funding in 2024-25 for maintained schools or 2024/25 for academies	This is the total funding under the 2024-25 NFF. **For LA maintained schools:** This is based on 2023-24 APT data and the 2024-25 NFF. The total notional 2024-25 funding is equal to: The 2024-25 NFF pupil-led unit of funding multiplied by the 2023-24 APT-adjusted pupil count plus the NFF school-led unit of funding plus the notional 2024-25 premises funding. **For academies and free schools:** The notional total funding is based on 2023/24 GAG data and on the 2024-25 NFF. The total notional 2024/25 funding is equal to: The 2024-25 NFF pupil-led unit of funding multiplied by the 2023/24 GAG adjusted pupil count plus the NFF school-led unit of funding plus the notional 2024-25 premises funding.

Figure 28: Published output, school level illustrations

Annex A: Baselines for schools new in 2024-25

A.1. There are three categories of school that are in the 2024-25 NFF but were not in the 2023-24 NFF: brand-new schools; schools that have been created by amalgamating two or more predecessor schools; and schools that have been created by splitting a school into two or more smaller schools.

A.2. For each such school, 2023-24 NFF baselines need to be created. This annex explains how this is done for each category.

A.3. The explanation in each category reflects how we calculate a baseline equivalent to the 2023-24 NFF allocation.

Brand-new schools

A.4. Brand-new schools (new schools on the 2023-24 APT that have no predecessor in the 2022-23 APT and were therefore not included in the 2023-24 NFF) require a theoretical 2023-24 baseline.

A.5. To calculate these theoretical baselines, we use the average primary or secondary 2023-24 NFF funding per pupil for the relevant LA. For part-fringe LAs[30] we split the LA into the fringe and non-fringe parts and treat each as if it were its own separate LA.

Step 1 We calculate the pupil-led funding amount per pupil for each school in the relevant LA that was included in the 2023-24 NFF. We exclude:

a. Schools which were identified as new and growing for the 2023-24 NFF (i.e. schools which opened in the previous seven years and did not yet have pupils in all their planned year groups)

b. schools with theoretical baselines and

c. all-through and middle schools.

We calculate the pupil-led funding amount per pupil for each school by taking the pupil-led 2023-24 NFF allocation (including funding floor and minimum per pupil funding) and dividing by the total NOR for the school in question in the 2023-24 NFF. Schools that were shown in the 2023-24 NFF as only being open for part of the year are treated as having been open for the full year, and their funding is adjusted accordingly.

Step 2 We take a simple average of the 2023-24 pupil-led funding rates per

[30] Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex

pupil for all primary schools in the relevant LA. This gives a primary per-pupil baseline 'rate' for each LA. We then repeat the process for secondary schools, to give a secondary per-pupil baseline 'rate' for each LA.

Step 3 For each new school that requires a theoretical baseline, we multiply the new school's primary and secondary NOR (from the 2023-24 APT) by their LA's primary and secondary per-pupil baseline rate, respectively (from Step 2).

Step 4 We take the pupil-led total from Step 3 and add the 2023-24 NFF ACA-adjusted lump sum (i.e., £128,000 multiplied by the 2023-24 ACA for the area in which the school is situated) to give the total baseline. The baseline for new schools does not include funding for sparsity or premises.

A.6. The rates we have calculated for each LA will be supplied for use in the 2024-25 APT if the LA wishes to adopt them.

Amalgamating schools

A.7. Our approach to deriving the 2023-24 baselines for amalgamating schools uses the same method as the APT: we add together the 2023-24 NFF allocations of the predecessor schools.

Step 1 Take the total 2023-24 NFF funding (excluding premises and adjusted for the full year) for each predecessor school (n = the number of schools). Adjust the funding for any part-year open schools to full-year equivalent before summing.

Step 2 Take (n-1) ACA-adjusted 2023-24 lump sums off this amalgamated baseline total (where the predecessor schools have different ACAs, we use the 2023-24 ACA for the successor school's location).

Split schools

A.8. Where the successor schools are all the same phase as the predecessor (for example, a primary school splitting into separate infant and junior schools), each of the successor schools is given the predecessor's 2023-24 NFF per-pupil pupil-led baseline. This is then multiplied by the NOR of the school for which the baseline is being calculated and adjusted to ensure it is on a full-year basis, before adding the 2023-24 NFF ACA-adjusted lump sum. For all other split schools, we use the approach taken for brand-new schools (see Paragraph A.5).

Baseline NOR

A.9. For these three types of schools that did not exist in the 2023-24 NFF, a theoretical

baseline NOR is also needed for the purpose of the funding floor calculation (which is described in Chapter 3). The baseline NOR is taken to be:

a. 2023-24 APT NOR for brand-new schools and split schools

b. The sum of predecessors' APT NOR for amalgamating schools

A.10. We use these NOR values to calculate the amount of additional baseline funding due to now including the mainstream schools additional grant funding within the NFF. We also employ an analogous approach for the baseline FSM6 pupil counts, using the 2023-24 APT counts for brand-new schools and split schools and the sum of predecessors' FSM6 counts for amalgamating schools.

Baseline ACA

A.11. For new, amalgamated and split schools, the baseline ACA is the 2023-24 NFF ACA for the school's location. That is, the ACA from the 2023-24 NFF for the school's LA and, if applicable, fringe area.

GAG theoretical baselines

A.12. The above steps explain how theoretical baselines are calculated in the framework of the APT only data. Equivalent baselines are also calculated following the same steps – but using the equivalent GAG data, rather than APT data where it exists for academies.

Annex B: 2024-25 funding through the growth and falling rolls factors

Our approach to allocating growth and falling rolls funding is set out below. LAs will receive one allocation, which is inclusive of any growth and falling rolls elements.

Growth funding

B.1. We will fund growth in pupil numbers in middle layer super output areas (MSOAs) [31] between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. The growth allocation for each LA will be based on an amount per new primary pupil and an amount per new secondary pupil, plus a lump sum amount for each brand-new school. For each LA we:

a. Use school postcode information to identify which MSOA each school is located in;

b. Count the primary and secondary pupils at schools within each MSOA in the October 2022 and October 2023 censuses;[32]

c. Still at MSOA level, subtract the October 2022 primary count from the October 2023 primary count, giving a primary growth count for each MSOA within the LA, then do the same for secondary. This will be a negative number for any MSOAs with a reduction in pupil numbers between the two censuses;

d. For each phase, sum all positive growth for each MSOA in the LA to give LA-level primary and secondary growth;

e. Identify any new schools in the October 2023 census (new schools are those schools appearing on the October 2023 census for the first time, where no predecessor is found); and

f. Calculate the total LA-level funding through the growth factor following the steps set out in Figure 29.

[31] For information on MSOAs, see ONS Census 2021 Geographies

[32] If an MSOA crosses LA boundaries, then we count the primary and secondary pupils within that MSOA in each LA separately, i.e., we treat the MSOA each side of the LA boundary as a unique MSOA.

Figure 29: Total LA-level funding through the growth factor

Calculation step	Description
1) Total funding for primary growth	Total primary LA growth count x £1,550 x ACA[33]
2) Total funding for secondary growth	Total secondary LA growth count x £2,320 x ACA
3) Total new schools funding	New schools count x £76,195 x ACA
4) Total growth allocation	1) + 2) + 3)

Figure 29: Total LA-level funding through the growth factor in 2024-25

Falling rolls funding

B.2. We will fund falling pupil numbers in middle layer super output areas (MSOAs) [34] between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. The falling rolls allocation for each LA will be based on an allocation per MSOA where the pupil numbers on roll have decreased by 10% or more. For each LA we:

g. Use school postcode information to identify which MSOA each school is located in;

h. Count the primary and secondary pupils at schools within each MSOA in the October 2022 and October 2023 censuses;[35]

i. Still at MSOA level, subtract the October 2022 primary count from the October 2023 primary count, giving a primary falling rolls count for each MSOA within the LA, then do the same for secondary. This will be a negative number for any MSOAs with a reduction in pupil numbers between the two censuses;

j. For each phase, sum all falling rolls figures for each MSOA in the LA where the reduction in the number on roll is at least 10% of the October 2022 pupil count, to give MSOA-level falling rolls funding;

k. Calculate the total LA-level funding through the falling rolls factor following the steps set out in Figure 30.

[33] For core NFF funding, five LAs (Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex) have different ACAs for different localities. For growth and falling rolls funding, each LA has a single ACA which is a pupil-weighted average of their two ACAs.

[34] For information on MSOAs, see ONS Census 2021 Geographies

[35] If an MSOA crosses LA boundaries, then we count the primary and secondary pupils within that MSOA in each LA separately, i.e., we treat the MSOA each side of the LA boundary as a unique MSOA.

Figure 30: Total LA-level funding through the falling rolls

Calculation step	Description
1) Total funding for primary falling rolls	Number of MSOAs where reduction in primary pupil count is at least 10% of the October 2022 primary pupil count x £140,000 x ACA[36]
2) Total funding for secondary falling rolls	Number of MSOAs where reduction in secondary pupil count is at least 10% of the October 2022 secondary pupil count x £140,000 x ACA
4) Total falling rolls allocation	1) + 2)

Figure 30: Total LA-level funding through the falling rolls factor in 2024-25

[36] For core NFF funding, five LAs (Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex) have different ACAs for different localities. For growth and falling rolls funding, each LA has a single ACA which is a pupil-weighted average of their two ACAs.

Annex C: Split sites – calculation of road distance

C.1. This section provides more detail on how eligible split sites schools have had their road distances calculated.

C.2. As part of the 2023-24 Annual Proforma Tool (APT) return, local authorities were asked to list all of the split site schools in their area. They were asked to provide details of the address of each school's main site and other site(s). Additionally, they were asked to provide, where known, each site's Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN).

C.3. UPRNs are a unique numeric identifier for every addressable location, which are allocated and overseen by local authorities.

C.4. Where the LA has provided a UPRN and postcode for a school's site, which both correspond to the same location, then the UPRN has been used in the road distance calculation. If a valid UPRN has not been provided (this means either the UPRN field was left blank, the UPRN provided does not exist in the Ordnance Survey (OS) road network data or the UPRN and postcode provided do not correspond to the same location), then the following methodology has been applied to allocate a valid UPRN to each eligible site:

a. A match on the site's postcode and school name as provided in the APT with postcode and school name in the OS data.

b. A match on the site's postcode and fuzzy match with school name i.e. the postcode provided in the APT matches the OS data exactly and the corresponding school names show a similarity of above 50%. An example is shown in Figure 31 below.

Figure 31: example of matching school postcodes and names

Postcode in APT	School name in APT	Postcode in OS data	School name in OS data	Similarity	Is a match under step a?	Is it a match under step b?
AA1 1AA	Example School	AA1 1AA	Example School	100%	Yes	N/A as we have a match in step a
AA1 1AA	Example School	AA1 1AA	Example CofE School	75%	No	Yes

Figure 31: example of school postcode and name matching

c. Assign the UPRN for the closest building to the site's postcode centroid. This is done by:

    i. Taking the postcode provided in the APT.

    ii. Matching it to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) postcode directory to get the latitude and longitude of the central point for the area that the postcode covers.

    iii. Using the OS data to find the closest building to that longitude and latitude.

C.5. Once we have allocated each site a valid UPRN, we use the OS road network data to identify the closest junction on the road to their locations – this is the same approach taken when calculating sparsity road distances.

C.6. We then calculate the shortest road distance from the nearest point on a road to the school's main site (as listed on Get Information about Schools) to the nearest point on a road to the school's additional site. This shortest route excludes footpaths and, where possible, avoids roads such as farm tracks, guided busways and roads that have been altered for use principally by pedestrians. These road types are excluded when determining the shortest route, because they are either unsuitable for normal journeys between school sites or we cannot be certain they will always be accessible. The calculation considers that one-way roads can in fact be accessed and travelled along from either direction. This is so that the direction of travel (i.e., whether travelling from the main site to the additional site, or in the opposite direction) does not determine the length of the shortest distance.

Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Stands for	Explanation
ACA	Area cost adjustment	A funding multiplier to reflect geographical variation in labour market costs
APT	Authority proforma tool	A form used by local authorities to set their funding formulas for schools. It contains data on schools.
DSG	Dedicated schools grant	The annual grant paid to Local Authorities for school funding
EAL	English as an additional language	A pupil whose first language is not English
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	An assessment of children's attainment in final term in the reception year of school
FSM	Free school meals	A pupil eligible for a free lunch at school.
FSM6	Free school meals ever 6	A pupil who has been eligible for free school meals at any point during any of the last six years
GAG	General annual grant	The annual core funding paid to academies
GLM	General labour market	A dataset of labour market costs published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
IDACI	Income deprivation affecting children index	A deprivation dataset, published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
KS1	Key Stage 1	School years 1-2
KS2	Key Stage 2	School years 3-6
KS3	Key Stage 3	School years 7-9
KS4	Key Stage 4	School years 10-11
LA	Local authority	Local government body with responsibilities for education
LPA	Low prior attainment	A pupil who did not meet the expected standard in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, or in the KS2 tests
LSOA	Lower-Layer Super Output Area	A geographical area containing on average a population of 1,500
MFG	Minimum funding guarantee	The minimum annual increase to per-pupil funding at school-level in the LA funding formulae which determine actual school-level allocations

Abbreviation	Stands for	Explanation
MSAG	Mainstream schools additional grant	A grant in addition to the national funding formula, paid by the Department for Education to local authorities in 2023-24, for mainstream schools
MSOA	Middle-Layer Super Output Area	A geographical area containing on average a population of 7,200
NFF	National Funding Formula	The formula we use to allocate school funding, as described in this document
NOR	Number on roll	The number of pupils registered at a school
OS	Ordnance Survey	Great Britain's national mapping agency. It carries out the official surveying of GB, providing the most accurate and up-to-date geographic data.
PFI	Private Finance Initiative	A long-term contract between a private party and a government entity where the private sector designs, builds, finances and operates a public asset and related services
PUF	Primary unit of funding	The funding rate, by local authority, paid in the schools block DSG for each primary pupil
RPIX	Retail Price Index, all items excluding mortgage interest	A measure of inflation often used in PFI contracts
SB	Schools block	The funding for pupils aged 5 to 16 in mainstream schools in England
SUF	Secondary unit of funding	The funding rate, by local authority, paid in the schools block DSG for each secondary pupil
UPRN	Unique Property Reference Number	The unique identifier for every addressable location in Great Britain

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