



Department
for Education

Central school services block national funding formula 2026 to 2027: technical note

November 2025

Contents

Introduction	3
Baselines for ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments	4
Funding for local authority ongoing responsibilities	5
Basic factor funding	6
Deprivation factor funding	7
Protection	8
Funding for historic commitments	9
Annex A: Funding included in the baseline for ongoing responsibilities	10
Glossary of abbreviations	14

Introduction

1. This technical note provides the detailed methodology for the central school services block (CSSB) national funding formula (NFF) that is used to generate the local authority (LA) funding allocations for financial year 2026 to 2027 (denoted “2026-27” for the remainder of this note, with other financial years denoted in similar shorthand).
2. The CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England. CSSB funding is split into two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities and funding for historic commitments. LAs’ total CSSB NFF funding is the sum of these two values.
3. The Isles of Scilly and City of London have been excluded from these allocations, as these LAs will receive a central grant from the government which will include funding for central school services.

Baselines for ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments

4. In December 2024, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published each LA's 2025-26 DSG allocations, including those for both ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments in the CSSB. Updates to the 2025-26 DSG allocations were issued in March and July 2025. It is the July 2025 version of the 2025-26 DSG allocations that form the 2025-26 LA baselines for the CSSB in 2026-27. The baselines are used to apply year-on-year protections to LAs' 2026-27 CSSB allocations.
5. In 2026-27, funding is being rolled into the CSSB which was provided separately in 2025-26 in respect of centrally employed staff, through the National Insurance Contributions (NICs) grant and the Schools Budget Support grant (SBSG).¹
6. In rolling these funding streams into the CSSB, the funding is being added to each local authority's CSSB baseline for 2026-27 – as set out in Annex A. The total quantum allocated through these funding streams is also being added to the funding for ongoing responsibilities in 2026-27, as outlined in the next section.

Rolling in the centrally employed staff grant funding into the baseline

7. For the rolling in of the NICs grant, per pupil amounts have been calculated by dividing the funding allocated to each local authority through the 2025-26 NICs grant with the LAs' 2025-26 DSG pupil numbers. These per pupil amounts have then been added to each LA's CSSB per pupil baselines for ongoing responsibilities.
8. The 2025-26 allocations provided funding for a full year for support staff, but for 7/12s of the year for teaching staff (because the 2025 teachers' pay award took effect from September 2025). For the SBSG we have therefore recalculated the grant on an annualised basis before rolling them into the CSSB baseline.

¹ Information on these two grants can be found on [NICG 2025-26 guidance](#) and [SBSG 2025-26 guidance](#)

Funding for local authority ongoing responsibilities

9. This section explains how each LA's CSSB NFF allocation for ongoing responsibilities has been calculated. The provisional allocations for 2026-27 reflect any protections affecting LAs' funding for ongoing responsibilities, the calculation of which is explained in the final section of this note.
10. The CSSB NFF allocates funding to LAs for ongoing responsibilities using a pupil-led formula. The formula uses two main factors:
 - a basic per-pupil factor, through which LAs receive the majority of funding; and
 - a deprivation per-pupil factor.
11. The pupil counts used to calculate CSSB allocations are LAs' schools block pupil counts, taken from the 2025-26 DSG allocations – that is, pupils in mainstream schools in year groups reception to year 11 inclusive, including pupils occupying places in special educational needs (SEN) units. Detailed guidance on these pupil numbers is given alongside the allocations.
12. The total budget for ongoing responsibilities in 2026-27 is £379m². This includes the following funding streams given out separately in 2025-26, which have now been rolled in to the CSSB NFF:
 - £22 million for centrally employed staff through the NICs grant,
 - £17 million for centrally employed staff through the SBSG. (In 2025-26 local authorities received £12 million for 7 months through the SBSG. This has recalculated on an annualised basis to cover the full-year costs)

² The total budget for ongoing responsibilities and the funding for NICs grant and SBSG are rounded to the nearest £1m.

Basic factor funding

13. LAs will receive the majority of their CSSB NFF ongoing responsibilities funding through a basic per-pupil rate. This subsection explains how LAs' allocations, through this factor, have been calculated. This calculation uses, for each LA, a general labour market (GLM) area cost adjustment (ACA). More information about the ACAs, including the ACA³ figure for each LA, is provided in the ACA technical note, which is published alongside this technical note.
14. Each LA's GLM ACA weighted pupil count is calculated as:

the LA's schools block pupil count

multiplied by

the LA's GLM ACA.
15. The total budget for the basic per-pupil factor is £341 million (90% of the total £379m funding for ongoing responsibilities). This £341 million is divided by the national GLM ACA weighted pupil count to give the 'national basic per-pupil funding rate pre-ACA'.
16. Each LA's CSSB NFF funding rate for the basic per-pupil factor is this national rate multiplied by the LA's ACA, and their resulting allocation for the basic per-pupil factor is then calculated as:

the LA's funding rate for the basic per-pupil factor

multiplied by

the LA's schools block pupil count as given by the 2025-26 DSG allocations.

Note that for the provisional allocations accompanying this publication, the 2025-26 pupil count has been used. The final 2026-27 DSG allocations will be based on the 2026-27 pupil count.

³ The ACAs used are rounded to 6 decimal places.

Deprivation factor funding

17. The remaining 10% (£38 million) of the national budget for ongoing responsibilities is allocated to LAs through the deprivation factor.
18. This factor uses the proportion of FSM6 pupils in mainstream schools as indicated in LAs' schools block data. For each school in an LA, the primary and secondary FSM6 proportions are multiplied by the primary and secondary schools block pupil counts, respectively, and the results summed across all schools in the LA to derive a total FSM6 pupil count. This LA level FSM6 count is divided by the total pupil count for the LA to produce an LA Level FSM6 proportion. This proportion is then applied to the 2025-26 adjusted schools block pupil count to produce the CSSB FSM6 pupil count. The adjusted schools block pupil counts differ from the initial schools block pupil counts, in that they account for any adjustments made between the October 2024 census, and the July 2025-26 DSG publication.
19. In a similar approach to the basic factor, a GLM ACA weighted CSSB FSM6 count is calculated for each LA. We calculate:
 - the LA's CSSB FSM6 pupil count (as described above)
 - multiplied by
 - the LA's GLM ACA.
20. The total budget for the deprivation factor is then divided by the national GLM ACA weighted FSM6 pupil count: this gives the 'national deprivation funding rate pre-ACA'.
21. Each LA's CSSB NFF funding rate for the deprivation per-pupil factor is this national rate multiplied by their ACA, and their resulting allocation for the deprivation per pupil factor is then calculated as:
 - the LA's funding rate for the deprivation per pupil factor
 - multiplied by
 - the LA's FSM6 pupil count

Protection

22. LAs that are set to face reductions in per-pupil funding for ongoing responsibilities, compared to their 2025-26 baseline, will be protected against large year-on-year losses. This year-on-year protection is paid for by placing a maximum on the year-on-year gains an LA can receive in per-pupil funding. This protection operates on the LA's ongoing responsibilities funding rate; that is, their total ongoing responsibilities funding divided by their 2025-26 DSG allocations pupil count.
23. The maximum per-pupil reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities any LA will receive is 2.5%. Permitted gains in per-pupil funding are set at the highest level possible that ensures the total CSSB funding does not exceed the available budget. In 2026-27 LAs will be able to gain a maximum of 2.13% per pupil for ongoing responsibilities.

Funding for historic commitments

24. In 2026-27, for LAs that receive it, their historic commitments funding will be reduced by 20% compared to their 2025-26 baseline.
25. As in 2025-26, historic commitments funding will be protected from dropping below the total value of ongoing prudential borrowing or termination of employment costs, based on evidence received by the department. The NFF allocations will not include this protection as this will be applied later in the year, following evaluations made of the applications received from local authorities.

Annex A: Funding included in the baseline for ongoing responsibilities

- The table below provides a breakdown of the separate funding streams provided to local authorities in 2025-26, which have been rolled into the baseline for ongoing responsibilities.

Local Authority Name	National Insurance Contributions Grant for centrally employed staff	Schools Budget Support Grant for centrally employed staff ⁴
Barking and Dagenham	£36,704	£30,627
Barnet	£0	£0
Barnsley	£128,004	£107,860
Bath and North East Somerset	£4,732	£4,721
Bedford	£47,345	£39,063
Bexley	£89,355	£68,532
Birmingham	£487,515	£385,070
Blackburn with Darwen	£77,670	£63,976
Blackpool	£0	£0
Bolton	£344,631	£259,957
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£0	£0
Bracknell Forest	£19,660	£18,849
Bradford	£696,384	£542,740
Brent	£68,017	£67,316
Brighton and Hove	£93,308	£82,112
Bristol, City of	£0	£0
Bromley	£103,227	£85,127
Buckinghamshire	£78,941	£70,394
Bury	£26,039	£20,903
Calderdale	£7,725	£7,507
Cambridgeshire	£175,555	£149,818
Camden	£46,305	£42,349
Central Bedfordshire	£169,469	£134,184
Cheshire East	£203,084	£154,946
Cheshire West and Chester	£0	£0
Cornwall	£104,600	£90,074
County Durham	£147,693	£131,638
Coventry	£114,549	£107,199
Croydon	£79,444	£71,282
Cumberland	£0	£0

⁴ The amounts rolled into the baseline for SBSG are larger than the amounts paid out through the SBSG in 2025-26. That is because the 2025-26 SBSG funding allocations have been recalculated on an annualised basis before they have been added to the baseline.

Local Authority Name	National Insurance Contributions Grant for centrally employed staff	Schools Budget Support Grant for centrally employed staff⁴
Darlington	£15,774	£12,550
Derby	£12,112	£11,484
Derbyshire	£1,574,390	£1,156,378
Devon	£96,595	£89,325
Doncaster	£346,755	£255,927
Dorset	£45,357	£40,652
Dudley	£119,798	£100,081
Ealing	£15,356	£15,321
East Riding of Yorkshire	£72,078	£64,574
East Sussex	£222,785	£181,438
Enfield	£57,961	£51,879
Essex	£96,267	£90,470
Gateshead	£453,648	£337,160
Gloucestershire	£83,515	£79,187
Greenwich	£158,835	£121,605
Hackney	£101,337	£87,512
Halton	£0	£0
Hammersmith and Fulham	£20,488	£20,441
Hampshire	£1,112,720	£867,930
Haringey	£61,745	£54,325
Harrow	£61,743	£58,737
Hartlepool	£0	£0
Havering	£241,063	£184,876
Herefordshire, County of	£10,713	£10,688
Hertfordshire	£461,166	£437,437
Hillingdon	£31,624	£26,268
Hounslow	£43,476	£35,789
Isle of Wight	£29,475	£25,209
Islington	£42,135	£35,777
Kensington and Chelsea	£11,838	£11,811
Kent	£74,733	£64,108
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£77,595	£63,604
Kingston upon Thames	£0	£0
Kirklees	£559,892	£414,368
Knowsley	£370,437	£271,521
Lambeth	£10,091	£9,477
Lancashire	£0	£0
Leeds	£556,834	£421,705
Leicester	£136,405	£118,308
Leicestershire	£316,849	£240,062
Lewisham	£24,131	£24,075
Lincolnshire	£206,813	£173,709
Liverpool	£201,294	£171,599
Luton	£50,526	£41,505
Manchester	£60,897	£51,024
Medway	£13,498	£12,464

Local Authority Name	National Insurance Contributions Grant for centrally employed staff	Schools Budget Support Grant for centrally employed staff⁴
Merton	£0	£0
Middlesbrough	£227,625	£170,733
Milton Keynes	£44,151	£37,412
Newcastle upon Tyne	£612,249	£456,504
Newham	£84,219	£65,446
Norfolk	£180,404	£177,889
North East Lincolnshire	£9,204	£6,992
North Lincolnshire	£154,747	£125,327
North Northamptonshire	£69,259	£57,948
North Somerset	£7,506	£6,296
North Tyneside	£0	£0
North Yorkshire	£0	£0
Northumberland	£191,612	£158,573
Nottingham	£316,570	£239,014
Nottinghamshire	£1,258,289	£936,212
Oldham	£39,393	£36,518
Oxfordshire	£252,864	£216,945
Peterborough	£44,141	£39,184
Plymouth	£103,375	£76,749
Portsmouth	£41,579	£32,960
Reading	£47,723	£35,040
Redbridge	£78,227	£67,917
Redcar and Cleveland	£26,885	£21,656
Richmond upon Thames	£0	£0
Rochdale	£218,273	£165,543
Rotherham	£450,608	£337,731
Rutland	£0	£0
Salford	£119,117	£99,006
Sandwell	£107,549	£91,458
Sefton	£0	£0
Sheffield	£112,127	£98,346
Shropshire	£109,615	£85,142
Slough	£4,400	£4,389
Solihull	£101,251	£87,850
Somerset	£41,116	£41,021
South Gloucestershire	£25,621	£25,562
South Tyneside	£267,658	£196,721
Southampton	£37,025	£35,510
Southend-on-Sea	£11,156	£11,131
Southwark	£60,290	£52,248
St. Helens	£35,259	£27,164
Staffordshire	£198,122	£158,314
Stockport	£77,403	£69,018
Stockton-on-Tees	£198,723	£149,048
Stoke-on-Trent	£391,186	£290,971
Suffolk	£47,272	£44,389

Local Authority Name	National Insurance Contributions Grant for centrally employed staff	Schools Budget Support Grant for centrally employed staff⁴
Sunderland	£0	£0
Surrey	£858,742	£658,772
Sutton	£0	£0
Swindon	£14,251	£14,219
Tameside	£57,514	£50,981
Telford and Wrekin	£256,236	£186,629
Thurrock	£0	£0
Torbay	£5,578	£5,565
Tower Hamlets	£290,809	£222,207
Trafford	£81,921	£72,890
Wakefield	£141,104	£129,708
Walsall	£18,192	£16,126
Waltham Forest	£198,267	£145,348
Wandsworth	£125,967	£107,488
Warrington	£290,981	£212,710
Warwickshire	£197,073	£174,397
West Berkshire	£18,741	£18,697
West Northamptonshire	£27,855	£21,486
West Sussex	£147,420	£127,967
Westminster	£4,052	£4,043
Westmorland and Furness	£193,442	£145,450
Wigan	£129,785	£94,451
Wiltshire	£77,662	£65,975
Windsor and Maidenhead	£0	£0
Wirral	£0	£0
Wokingham	£27,584	£22,005
Wolverhampton	£214,106	£168,672
Worcestershire	£103,294	£91,274
York	£76,292	£60,661

Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Stands for	Explanation
ACA	Area cost adjustment	A funding multiplier to reflect geographical variation in labour market costs
CSSB	Central school services block	This is the NFF block of funding provided to local authorities to carry out their administrative duties to deliver schools funding.
DSG	Dedicated schools grant	The annual grant paid to local authorities for school funding
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency	DfE agency that supported the implementation of our funding policies and the delivery of funding allocations. No longer exists. All functions transferred to the DfE in April 2025.
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
GLM	General Labour Market	Dataset produced by MHCLG designed to reflect geographical variation in pay, applied as the area cost adjustment for the CSSB
LA	Local authority	Local government body with responsibilities for education
NFF	National Funding Formula	The formula we use to allocate school funding, as described in this document
NICs Grant	National Insurance Contributions Grant	A separate grant, paid by the Department for Education in 2025-26 to help cover the increased NICs costs.
SBSG	Schools Budget Support Grant	A separate grant paid by the Department for Education to support increased costs in 2025-26.



Department
for Education

© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3.

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information, you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

About this publication:

enquiries <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

download www.gov.uk/government/publications

Follow us on X: [@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)

Connect with us on Facebook: facebook.com/educationgovuk