



Academies planning calendar 2026 to 2027

A summary of key dates and actions relating to academy funding, finance and trust compliance with their funding.

September 2026

Information and published guidance

- [Findings following the assurance work](#) for the year 2025 to 2026 relating to:
 - academy trust financial statements
 - academy funding audits
 - financial management and governance reviews
- Pupil number adjustment (PNA) plans start for the 2025 to 2026 debts
- PE and sport premium conditions of grant for the 2026 to 2027 AY

October 2026

Trust action

- Autumn [school census](#) day, **1 October 2026**
- Academies can begin consultation on admission arrangements for September 2028 from **1 October 2026**. Academies must publicly consult for a minimum of 6 weeks by 31 January 2027 if they:
 - are proposing changes to their admission arrangements
 - have not consulted in the past 7 years
- Academies in scope submit estimated pupil numbers for the 2027 to 2028 AY
- Academies must return the school census by **28 October 2026**

Information and published guidance

- [Academy trust handbook](#) for 2026 comes into effect
- 16 to 19 revenue funding allocation data for 2026 to 2027
- PNA calculator and guidance notes for 2026 to 2027 AY
- High needs place change guidance 2027 to 2028
- Accounts submission coversheet (ASC) online form available for trusts to submit their audited financial statements, auditors management letter and annual summary internal scrutiny report
- [Schools budget support grant 2026 \(SBSG26\)](#) allocations
- PE and sport premium transition allocations 2026 to 2027

Payment

- Second quarterly [pupil premium for 2026 to 2027](#) FY
- [Universal infant free school meals \(UIFSM\): 2026 to 2027](#) for newly eligible academies
- [Post-16 National Insurance contributions \(NICs\) grant 2026 to 2027](#)
- Initial teacher training (ITT) general mentor grant
- [Early years teachers' pay grant \(EYTPG\) grant for 2026 to 2027](#) payments made to local authorities to pass on to eligible academies

November 2026

Trust action

- [School workforce census](#) day **5 November 2026**
- [Academies accounts return](#) online form available by early November 2026

Information and published guidance

- Early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) funding allocations for time-off timetable
- Early career training programme for mentors (ECTPM) allocations
- [School resource management self-assessment checklist](#) support notes

Payment

- PE and sport premium payment for the 2026 to 2027 AY
- [Schools budget support grant 2026 \(SBSG26\)](#)
- [Free breakfast clubs grant: 2026 to 2027](#) arrears payment for summer term 2026 and first fixed payment for 2026 to 2027
- [16 to 19 Teachers' pension scheme employer contribution grant](#)

For the latest information and actions from DfE about funding, assurance and resource management, [view DfE Update on GOV.UK](#)

December 2026

Trust action

- The landing and buildings collection tool (LBCT) is under review and will not be published in autumn 2026 as previously planned. We will provide an update by the end of the 2026 calendar year. Please visit our [LBCT guidance](#) for more information.
- Academies must return the school workforce census by **4 December 2026**
- Deadline for trusts to submit their 2025 to 2026 audited financial statements, auditor's management letter, annual summary internal scrutiny report and accounts submission coversheet by **31 December 2026**

Announcement

- DfE announces the schools revenue funding settlement for 2027 to 2028

Payment

- [National school breakfast club programme](#)
- Early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) funding
- Early career training programme for mentors (ECTPM) funding

January 2027

Trust action

- Spring school census day - **21 January 2027**
- Academies accounts return submission deadline **26 January 2027**
- Trusts publish their 2025 to 2026 audited financial statements on their website by **31 January 2026**
- [School resource management self-assessment check-list](#) online form available
- Multi-academy trusts publish a summary statement of their financial arrangements on their website alongside their audited accounts
- Academies expecting high needs place funding in 2027 to 2028 academic year to check place change published outcomes for use in funding allocations
- Complete consultation on admission arrangements for September 2028 (if required) by **31 January 2027**

Information and published guidance

- Outcomes of requests from local authorities for changes to high needs places for 2027 to 2028 – academies have 2 weeks to submit a query about the outcomes
- Guidance on [estimating your academy funding allocation](#) for April 2027 to March 2028 openers
- Revised general annual grant statements made available in MYESF for 2026 to 2027 following the early PNA exercise

Payment

- Third quarterly [pupil premium for the 2026 to 2027](#) FY

February 2027

Trust action

- Academies must submit their spring census return by **10 February 2027**
- Academies must agree their admission arrangements for entry in September 2028 by **28 February 2027**
- Academies must publish their admission appeals timetable for 2027 on their website by **28 February 2027**

Information and published guidance

- 2027 to 2028 general annual grant funding allocations guidance for all academies

Payment

- Positive early PNA payments made to academies for 2026 to 2027

March 2027

Trust action

- Academies must publish their admission arrangements for entry in September 2028 on their website and send a copy to their local authority by **15 March 2027**
- Deadline for trusts to complete and submit the [school resource management self-assessment check-list](#)

Information and published guidance

- Pre-16 academy revenue funding allocations 2027 to 2028
- In March and April, we are aiming to issue 2027 to 2028
 - 16 to 19 allocation calculation toolkits (ACT), including funding factors and student numbers
 - 16 to 19 revenue funding allocations (including student support, 16 to 19 Bursary Fund and free meals in further education where applicable)
- [Academies accounts direction, model accounts and framework and guidance for external auditors and reporting accountants](#) for 2026 to 2027

Payment

- [Free breakfast clubs grant: 2026 to 2027](#) arrears payment for autumn term 2026 and second fixed payment for 2026 to 2027
- Free school meal expansion mainstream and alternative provision

April 2027

Information and published guidance

- 16 to 19 funding regulations guidance, funding rates and formula guidance for 2027 to 2028
- 16 to 19 student support eligibility and guidance, including 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guidance
- Guidance and workbook for the [budget forecast return](#)
- Provisional allocations of pupil premium for the 2027 to 2028 financial year

Payment

- Final quarterly [pupil premium for the 2026 to 2027](#) FY
- Inclusive mainstream fund – new and growing schools
- School budget support grant 2026 (SBSG26) – new and growing schools
- Pension recoveries

May 2027

Trust action

- Summer [school census](#) day, **20 May 2027**
- Trusts must submit their audited financial statements to Companies House within 9 months of the end of the accounting period which is **31 May 2027**

Information and published guidance

- Main PNA statements for 2026 to 2027 are issued - this includes outcomes for positive and negative adjustments
- [Academies chart of accounts](#) 2027 to 2028

Payment

- School budget support grant 2026 (SBSG26) academy payments for April to August 2027
- Free school meal expansion payments for April to August 2027

June 2027

Trust action

- [Budget forecast return](#) form available
- Academies must submit their summer census return by **16 June 2027**
- Academies agree repayment plans for PNA recoveries for 2026 to 2027

Information and published guidance

- [Academy trust handbook](#) 2027
- 16 to 19 sub-contracting controls guidance for 2025 to 2026

Payment

- Free breakfast clubs grant - arrears payment for spring term 2027 and third fixed payment for 2026 to 2027

July 2027

Information and published guidance

- 16 to 19 interactive census tool

Payment

- Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) - comprising 2026 to 2027 final and 2027 to 2028 provisional payments
- Quarter 1 payment of pupil premium for 2027 to 2028 FY
- Main PNA positive payments made to academies for 2026 to 2027
- Pre and post 16 inclusive mainstream fund
- 16 to 19 Teachers' pension scheme employer contribution grant (TPSECG)

August 2027

Trust action

- Complete and submit the [budget forecast return](#)
- By **1 August**, academies must inform the local authority whether they intend to:
 - be part of the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme for the 2027 to 2028 academic year (if so, they must, by **1 August**, provide the local authority with all the information that the local authority is required to publish on its website, including application forms) **or**
 - handle their own in-year applications for that period (if so, they must, by **31 August**, publish information about making in-year applications on their website, including any forms that parents need to submit)
- By **8 August**, academies must provide the local authority with information on its admission arrangements for September 2028, to allow the local authority to compile the composite prospectus