

MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – CHANGES TO THE FUNDING
FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS.

- This document forms part of the consultation process on the proposed changes to the funding formula which delegates funding to schools within Monmouthshire.
- The relevant Welsh Government legislation that Monmouthshire Local Education Authority is bound by is:

The Schools Budget Share (Wales) Regulations 2010.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGES TO THE FORMULA FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE
SCHOOLS.**

Date of Issue: **16th October 2019**

Action Required: **Consultation closes noon on the 21st November 2019.**

Title of Document: The Review of Funding for Schools in Monmouthshire Consultation Document.

Audience: All Head teachers of Monmouthshire Schools, Chairs of Governing Bodies of Monmouthshire Schools, The Schools Budget Forum, the Senior Leadership Team, the Departmental Management Team of the Children and Young People Directorate, Diocesan Directors of Education, and All Elected Members.

Overview: This document details the background that gave rise to the review of the current consultation on Schools funding and then outlines the new proposals for the distribution of this funding.

Action Required: A proforma (Appendix 2) is enclosed for your response. The completed form should be sent to the address below by the consultation closing date of **noon on the 21st November 2019**

Responses to: Nikki Wellington

Finance Manager
Children and Young People Directorate
Monmouthshire County Council
@Innovation House
PO Box 106
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 9AN
e-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Further Information: Enquiries about this consultation document should be directed to **Nikki Wellington**

Nikki Wellington
Tel: 01633 644549 / 07766 504389
e-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Additional Copies: These can be obtained from Nikki Wellington (telephone number and e-mail address above)

Related Documents: The Schools Budget Shares (Wales) Regulations 2010

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Appendix 1 – Response Proforma

Appendix 2 – Proposed changes per school.

1. Background

- 1.1 The school budget forum reviews the funding formula for school regularly to ensure that the funding is distributed to schools in the fairest way.
- 1.2 Following a meeting of the School Budget Funding Forum on the 12th September 2019, members agreed to consult on the basis for delegating the following parts of the funding formula:
 - Free School Meals (this does not affect any funding relating to deprivation or the Pupil Development Grant).
 - Payroll
 - Advertising
 - Administration
 - Foreign language assistants.

2. Issues with current arrangements

- 2.1 The School Budget Forum requested that all parts of the formula, excluding funding for additional learning needs be reviewed. The review was to ensure that the distribution of the funding is relevant and reflects the cost drivers in the schools.
- 2.2 There is no proposal from this consultation to reduce the total funding going to schools, however given that the total budget will be distributed in a different way, should this be agreed, there will be some schools who will gain and some that will lose.
- 2.3 The School Budget Forum asked that a working group be set up of interested parties to review the current distribution and make proposals to be consulted on. This working group met twice, once in July to look at the total formula and agree areas to be review, and again in September to decide on the proposals to take forward.
- 2.4 These proposals were agreed at the School Budget Forum on the 12th September 2019.
- 2.5 The financial summary of each proposal per school is shown in appendix 2. It should be noted that this is using the pupil numbers at January 2019, but will change each year. The implementation date, if agreed is 1st April 2020.

3. Proposals.

3.1 Free School Meals: (Secondary Schools Only, exc Mouton House)

- All secondary schools contract their own school meal service and therefore receive funding for pupils who are entitled to free school meals. This does not affect Mouton House or any of our Primary schools as the service is provided free by the Local Authority.

- Currently the funding for key stage 3 is £4.79 per pupil and this drops to £2.39 for key stage 4. It is unclear as to the reasons for the reduction and given that they are both compulsory school years the working group are proposing that the funding is £4.79 for both key stages.

3.2 Payroll:

- Currently the funding for primary schools is £3.61 per pupil and £4.53 for secondary schools. All schools currently buy into the service level agreement for payroll, however the funding per school will not always cover the cost of this. The service level agreement charges a fixed rate per school that has been inflated over a number of years. Any changes to the Service Level Agreement will not be affected by these proposed changes.
- The proposal is to fund all schools a consistent rate of £3.61 per pupil. The pupil numbers in a school will have a direct impact on the number of staff employed.

3.3 Advertising:

- The current formula funds all schools £0.85 per pupil to advertise. Schools rarely use this funding for advertising, therefore the working group felt that this funding should be distributed in a more appropriate way.
- The proposal is to move this funding to be distributed as part of the general allowances provided to schools. This would mean that the following weighting would be applied:

Nursery	1.43
Foundation Phase	1.00
Key Stage 1	1.00
Year 7	0.65
Year 8	0.90
Year 9	1.00
Years 10 & 11	1.12.

3.4 Administration (Primary Schools Only):

- The current formula has several administration elements of funding. These are split between the age weight pupil units with a top up of £4,414 for each primary school funded via the lump sum.
- The proposal is to bring all these elements together and fund as one through the age weighted pupil units. There will be no loss of total funding but the schools with larger pupil numbers will attract more funding.

3.5 Foreign Language Assistants (Secondary Schools Only):

- All our secondary schools are funded a lump sum of £11,246 to fund foreign language assistants. It has been confirmed by our schools that they no longer employ these and as such the funding is outdated.
- The proposal is to move this funding to the age weighted pupil units for secondary schools only.

4. Responses – to be received by noon on the 21st November 2019.

Please use appendix 1 below to complete your response.

APPENDIX 1 – RESPONSE PROFORMA

Formula area	I agree	I disagree	If disagree what is your proposal.
Free School Meals (ref 3.1)			
Payroll (ref 3.2)			
Advertising (ref 3.3)			
Administration (ref 3.4)			
Foreign Language Assistants (ref 3.5)			

