

School Funding Reform 2016-17
Mainstream Schools
Principles for agreement by Schools Forum

1. The Department of Education have advised that the schools block per pupil unit of funding will remain the same as in 2015-16.
2. The Department of Education have advised that all primary & secondary schools will continue receive protected funding levels at minus 1.5% per pupil for 2016-17.
3. For modelling purposes funding for each phase should remain in same proportion / percentage of overall funding as in 2015-16.
4. Ceilings on gains will continue to be imposed to allow for overall affordability (the final percentage level will need to be determined following the funding and data set announcements in December 2015). We will continue to use the current ceiling of 1.5% for modelling purposes.
5. We will seek to minimise the MFG and fluctuations in funding for schools.
6. Results of financial modelling will be shared with working groups and Schools Forum at a high level only (e.g. X schools lose more than £a or b%, Y schools gain more than £c or d%) to ensure that further proposals are informed by principles.
7. The formula factors for primary and secondary schools for 2016-17 will continue to be applied as they were in 2015-16. Any amendments to the formula factors for 2016-17 will only be considered where necessary following the announcement for the funding arrangements for 2016-17 by the Department of Education.
8. Funding values for specific agreed factors will only be adjusted to ensure overall affordability with the exception of the lump sum, see 9 below.
9. The Primary lump sum will continue to be reduced to support amalgamations, with the equivalent funding being allocated through the other formula factors.
10. Members of the working group will be expected to seek views and input from their phases and to ensure their colleagues are aware of any consultations issued by the Local Authority in respect of school funding.