

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

Note

At this stage we are still awaiting the outcomes from the response to the call for evidence from the Department for Education, when we have details about any proposed changes we will review the working group principles to reflect any changes. At this stage we will keep the principles at the status quo.

Principles

1. That the funding supports an inclusive ethos, where pupils' special educational needs across all phases of education will ordinarily be met in their local mainstream school, or through the continuum of locally maintained / funded provision including mainstream nurseries and schools, resourced provisions and units and special schools, rather than an expectation of relying on special school provision. Early years settings, schools and colleges will deliver high quality provision through their skilled staff, supported where necessary by specialists and experts
2. The Local Authority and Special schools continue to work together to seek to provide sufficient funding to special schools whilst recognising that the funding is cash flat and we need to establish a sustainable solution.
3. The authority will work with each Special School to agree the number of commissioned places for the academic year 2016-17.
4. For 2016-17 we are not intending to alter the Element 3 Top-up funding model or band values (of bands A-H).
5. Members of the working group will be expected to seek views and input from schools not represented at the working group and to ensure their colleagues are aware of any consultations issued by the Local Authority in respect of school funding.