

Appendix 2 – Growth Fund Criteria 2024-25

Eligibility

Growth funding will be paid:

- To mainstream maintained schools and academies which have expanded permanently at the request of the council to meet the need for places in an area, and numbers admitted exceed the previous permanent PAN, or;
- To mainstream maintained schools and academies which have exceeded PAN temporarily at the request of the council to meet short-term demand for places in an area, and;
- Where the number on roll overall has increased. (The requirement for an overall increase in roll will not apply where an additional class is required to comply with regulations relating to maximum class size.)

Growth funding will not be available for mainstream maintained schools or academies experiencing 'natural', year-on-year growth unless the permanent PAN is exceeded in prior agreement with the council.

Methodology

Where no new class is required, an allocation will be made based on the numbers being admitted above the pre-expansion or permanent PAN, assuming the number on roll has increased overall. For maintained schools funding will be allocated on the basis of the appropriate portion of the full-year AWPU; for additional pupils admitted in September, 7/12 of the full-year amount will be payable. For pupils admitted after that but before the end of the financial year 3/12 of the full-year amount will be payable.

As academies are funded on an academic year based on the previous year's October census pupil numbers they will also receive funding for the period April to August based on 5/12 of the full year amount.

Example:

Previous PAN – 45

New PAN – 60

55 pupils admitted to Reception in September, all other year groups remain at 45

Admissions above previous PAN = 10

Growth Fund allocation = $(10 \times \text{AWPU}) \times 7 / 12$

Where numbers in other cohorts have fallen, these will be netted off against the Growth Fund allocation. In the example above, had the Year 6 cohort reduced by 5 (and all others remained constant), the allocation would have been based on $10 - 5 = 5$ pupils multiplied by the relevant proportion of the AWPU.

Where a new class is to be established, the Growth Fund will allocate sufficient to cover the costs of a teacher and teaching assistant (TA) for the relevant portion of the financial year. Payments will be

standardised at the cost of a teacher at point M3 on the pay scale (including oncosts) and Grade 7B for a TA. Schools will be required to justify why they need to form an additional class.

Where the expansion is permanent and where there is growth in numbers year-on-year, Growth Funding will be available until the new PAN has applied to all year groups in the school; 3 years for an infant school, 4 years for a junior, 7 years for a primary and 5 years for a secondary school.

Where the expansion is temporary, e.g. a 'bulge' cohort, Growth Funding will be available for only the year in which the permanent PAN has been exceeded.

Where a new classroom is being provided as part of a permanent expansion, the Growth Fund will cover reasonable equipment costs – tables, chairs, in-class storage, interactive screen (where this is not being funded as part of the construction project). Schools will be asked to provide a breakdown of the costs of equipment. This will be a one-off payment on the classroom being used for the first time.

Where the calculated lump sum funding for a new class is below the DfE's minimum requirement of £1,550 per pupil then the funding will be based on £1,550 x number of additional pupils admitted above the PAN.

Letters will be issued to eligible mainstream maintained schools and academies on x May 2024 (tbc) asking for a breakdown of anticipated costs, and with a deadline of x May 2024 (tbc) to respond. This timeline will allow for final place numbers to be confirmed after both primary and secondary reallocations have taken place. Mainstream maintained schools and academies will be notified of the allocated growth funding on x June 2024 (tbc).