

Schools and Academies Funding Update 2024-25

1. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024-25

Following the publication of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations on 19 December 2023, which takes into account the fully validated October 2023 pupil census, the 2024-25 DSG for Bury is summarised in the table below.

* Please note that the 2023-24 baseline shown below includes the Mainstream Additional Grant in the Schools Block and the Early Years supplementary Grant in the Early Years Block. This is for the purpose of demonstrating the actual variance as these have been incorporated into the 2024-25 DSG.

2024 to 2025 DSG allocations, before recoupment and deductions for national non-domestic rates, and for direct funding of high needs places by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)						
Dedicated schools grant (DSG):		Schools block	Central school services block	High needs block	Early years block	Total DSG allocation
351	BURY	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)
	2023-24 DSG, including additional grants	154,929,419	1,037,945	45,243,107	14,570,700	215,781,171
	2024-25	157,626,868	1,077,628	46,967,042	22,654,385	228,325,923
	Variance to 2023-24 £	2,697,449	39,683	1,723,935	8,083,685	12,544,752
	Variance to 2023-24 %	1.7%	3.8%	3.8%	55.5%	5.8%

2 Schools Block

The application of the NFF unit values, agreed at Schools Forum in November 2023, across the above factors results in the allocations shown in the table below. The amount of funding distributed to schools, including the centralised Rates payments, equates to almost 100% of the Schools Block Funding. The effect of pupil number variances between the October funding census collections for 2022 and 2023 needs to be noted in respect to the impact on the figures included in the table below.

Primary schools have seen an overall net reduction of 190.5 pupils.
Secondary schools have seen an overall net increase of 66 pupils.

For both sectors Forum will be aware that there will be individual schools with reductions, and others with gains to pupil numbers. They will all need to financially plan for pupil number changes, in order to sustain their balanced budget positions.

Factor	Sub-level	2023-24	2024-25	Variance £	Variance %
Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary	£54,473,700	£56,504,006	£2,030,306	3.7%
	Key Stage 3	£32,619,345	£34,980,741	£2,361,396	7.2%
	Key Stage 4	£24,338,609	£25,582,059	£1,243,450	5.1%
Deprivation Factors					
Free School Meals	Primary	£1,695,705	£1,693,126	-£2,579	-0.2%
	Secondary	£1,288,800	£1,434,593	£145,793	11.3%
Free School Meals - Ever 6	Primary	£2,552,705	£2,874,437	£321,732	12.6%
	Secondary	£3,100,300	£3,716,695	£616,395	19.9%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Primary	IDACI F	£328,298	£331,136	£2,839	0.9%
	IDACI E	£762,983	£756,521	-£6,461	-0.8%
	IDACI D	£440,552	£440,859	£306	0.1%
	IDACI C	£835,789	£843,627	£7,838	0.9%
	IDACI B	£311,831	£318,970	£7,139	2.3%
	IDACI A	£318,111	£322,286	£4,175	1.3%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Secondary	IDACI F	£334,363	£349,061	£14,698	4.4%
	IDACI E	£841,879	£855,135	£13,256	1.6%
	IDACI D	£438,646	£438,418	-£228	-0.1%
	IDACI C	£856,348	£888,689	£32,341	3.8%
	IDACI B	£347,208	£345,696	-£1,512	-0.4%
	IDACI A	£349,188	£377,304	£28,117	8.1%
Additional Educational Needs Factors					
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Primary	£941,927	£1,031,515	£89,588	9.5%
	Secondary	£437,476	£533,990	£96,514	22.1%
Low Prior Attainment	Primary	£5,577,065	£5,969,730	£392,665	7.0%
	Secondary	£4,380,502	£4,509,362	£128,860	2.9%
Mobility	Primary	£89,607	£106,472	£16,865	18.8%
	Secondary	£22,767	£52,187	£29,420	100.0%
School Factors					
Lump Sum	Primary	£8,192,000	£8,467,200	£275,200	3.4%
	Secondary	£1,664,000	£1,960,000	£296,000	17.8%
Total Allocated via NFF		£147,539,704	£155,683,814	£8,144,110	5.5%
Other Factors					
Rates		£1,188,224	£1,538,229	£350,005	29.5%
Minimum Funding Level		£488,365	£341,724	-£146,641	-30.0%
Minimum Funding Guarantee		£94,807	£61,590	-£33,217	-35.0%
Growth fund		£0	£0	£0	-
LA prior commitment to DfE for guaranteed pupil numbers for new high school Sep-24 to Mar-25		£0	-£620,000	-£620,000	-
Available for transfer to High Needs Block		£521,068	£621,511	£100,443	19.3%
TOTAL		£149,832,168	£157,626,868	£7,794,700	5.2%

Note: £621,511 transfer to the High Needs Block is 0.39% of the total Schools Block. This is within the permitted 0.5% which was approved at the last meeting.

3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

Schools' Forum is required to approve the allocation of budgets included under the CSSB, which was created several years ago in place of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) retained functions funding for Local Authorities. The former ESG funding was added to the DSG in April 2018 in order to help sustain the services that it is intended to support.

The overall amount of grant in the 2024-25 CSSB has increased by 3.8%.

The following should be noted:

- funding for historic commitments within the CSSB has been reduced annually with a move towards total removal. Funding for the historic commitment for the Safeguarding in Schools Officer has therefore been built into the CYP Departmental budget;
- The centralised National Copyright Licences cost increases are not yet known but they have increased by more than the standard funding increase in recent years. Therefore provision is made for this in the figures below;
- there is a reduced requirement for the former Teachers' Pay and Pension Grant funding for teachers employed in central services due to the cessation of the Curriculum Language Access Service;
- the other services funded via the CSSB have been increased in line with the overall funding increase.

This leaves an unallocated balance of £100,300.

Movements from the Central Services Block to any other block are not subject to any limit and can be made in consultation with Schools Forum.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)	2023-24	2024-25	Variance £	Variance %
Section 251 – Central Provision				
1.4.1 Combined Budgets Historical Commitment – Safeguarding in Schools Officer	£49,800	£0	-£49,800	-100.0%
1.4.2 Admissions	£205,800	£213,600	£7,800	3.8%
1.4.3 Schools' Forum	£17,600	£18,300	£700	4.0%
1.4.14 National Copyright Licences	£168,800	£185,000	£16,200	9.6%
Section 251 - Former ESG Services				
1.5.1 Education Welfare	£278,600	£289,200	£10,600	3.8%
1.5.2 Asset Management	£96,100	£99,800	£3,700	3.9%
1.5.3 Statutory / Regulatory inc SACRE	£67,400	£70,000	£2,600	3.9%
Other				
1.4.14 Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	£153,845	£101,428	-£52,417	-34.1%
Transfer to High Needs	£0	£100,300	£100,300	-
Total Central School Services Block (CSSB)	£1,037,945	£1,077,628	£39,683	3.8%

PROPOSAL 1:

Bury's Schools' Forum recommend the allocation of CSSB budgets as outlined to the applicable services for 2024-25 and to transfer the remaining balance to the High Needs Block in support of the DSG Management Plan.

4. High Needs Block

High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the DSG, enabling them to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The overall amount of grant in the 2024-25 High Needs Block has increased by 3.8%.

The final allocations include adjustments for:

- October 2023 Special Schools census data;
- the new Brookhaven School (academy);
- hospital education funding – the 2024-25 allocation is lower than the final 2023-24 allocation which included additional funding in relation to September to March 2022-23.

Further updates on the High Needs position will be brought to future Schools' Forum meetings, including monitoring reports on the delivery of the Safety Valve agreement.

National Funding Formula (NFF) 2024-25	DSG 2023-24	DSG 2024-25 Dec-23	Variation 2024-25 to 2023-24	
High Needs Block				
High needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	£39,948,132	£43,067,032		
Additional High Needs Funding	£1,834,157	0		
Baseline High Needs funding	£41,782,288	£43,067,032	£1,284,744	3.1%
Basic entitlement factor unit of funding (area cost adjusted)	£4,700.08	£4,699.78	-£0	0%
Number of pupils in special schools/academies	613.5	739	125.5	20%
Basic entitlement factor	£2,883,500	£3,473,138	£589,638	20%
Additional funding for new and growing special free schools	£6,000	£6,000	£0	0%
Import/export adjustment (based on January 2023 school census and February R06 2022/23 ILR)	-£282,000	-£282,000	£0	0%
Hospital Education plus historic teachers' pay/pension	£853,318	£702,872	-£150,446	18%
Total High Needs Block before deductions	£45,243,107	£46,967,042	£1,723,936	3.8%
Total High Needs Block after FE/Academy Recoupment	£40,661,107	£42,331,042		

5. Early Years Block

Forum should note that the Early Years Block will be adjusted in-year 2024-25 in respect to fluctuations in Early Years participation. The final funding allocation is based on two sets of January census data:

January 2024 accounts for April 2024 to August 2024 (5/12ths)

January 2025 accounts for September 2024 to March 2025 (7/12ths)

Therefore the funding received from the DfE is based on take up of places as at the two census dates. The Authority funds Early Years providers on actual take up of places, as notified by providers through the Early Years Portal which means that there is inevitably a variance in the funding allocated and the actual costs each year.

The free childcare offer will be extended so that eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks per year from the term after their child turns 9 months to when they start school.

The initial indicative funding for 2024-25 is therefore significantly higher than in 2023-24:

DSG Early Years Block	2023-24	2024-25	Variation 2024-25 to 2023-24	
3&4 YO Basic Entitlement	£7,766,524	£8,669,976	£903,452	12%
3&4 YO Extended Entitlement	£4,110,961	£4,589,175	£478,214	12%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£1,496,723	£2,021,752	£525,029	35%
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£0	£3,965,723	£3,965,723	-
Under 2s entitlement	£0	£2,733,537	£2,733,537	-
Early Years pupil premium for 3 & 4-year-olds	£147,238	£161,486	£14,248	10%
Early Years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	£0	£87,575	£87,575	-
Early Years pupil premium for under 2s	£0	£4,380	£4,380	-
Disability access fund for 3 & 4-year-olds	£86,112	£123,760	£37,648	44%
Disability access fund for 2-year-olds	£0	£32,760	£32,760	-
Disability access fund for under 2s	£0	£11,830	£11,830	-
Maintained Nursery Supplementary Funding	£214,531	£252,431	£37,900	18%
TOTAL	£13,822,089	£22,654,385	£8,832,296	64%

A separate Early Years Funding Consultation paper is included with the papers for this meeting.

For 2024-25 Local authorities are required to pass-through at least 95% of funding for each of the following funding entitlement streams individually:

- 3 & 4YO entitlements (no change)
- Under 2s
- 2YO disadvantaged offer
- 2YO working parents

This pass-through requirement ensures that most of the government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the government's free entitlements. Bury has historically passported more than the minimum requirement for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds.

It should be noted that the DfE has indicated that the minimum 95% pass-through requirement is likely to be increased in future years, following the increase in Early Years funding.

The percentage retained by Local Authorities is used to contribute to Early Years SEN inclusion costs, central support services covering advisory support, sufficiency requirements, free entitlement eligibility checking, and management and administration of the complex Early Years Single Funding Formula determinations, allocations, systems, and statutory reporting requirements.

The table below shows the proposed Central Early Years budget.

DSG Early Years Block	2024-25	Proposed Central Budget	%
3&4 YO Basic Entitlement	£8,669,976	£301,151	3.5%
3&4 YO Extended Entitlement	£4,589,175	£159,405	3.5%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£2,021,752	£57,466	2.8%
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£3,965,723	£112,721	2.8%
Under 2s entitlement	£2,733,537	£137,586	5.0%
Early Years pupil premium for 3 & 4-year-olds	£161,486	£0	£0
Early Years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	£87,575	£0	£0
Early Years pupil premium for under 2s	£4,380	£0	£0
Disability access fund for 3 & 4-year-olds	£123,760	£0	£0
Disability access fund for 2-year-olds	£32,760	£0	£0
Disability access fund for under 2s	£11,830	£0	£0
Maintained Nursery Supplementary Funding	£252,431	£0	£0
TOTAL	£22,654,385	£768,330	3.4%

PROPOSAL 2:

Bury's Schools' Forum approve the above allocation of the Early Years Block.

6. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

School PPG allocations are now aligned to the annual October census used for main school funding purposes.

LAC PPG is still determined using the Local Authority Looked After Children return (SSDA903) as at 31 March each year. This element of the PPG is managed by the Virtual School.

This means that schools may see an in-year reduction in their 2024-25 FSM PPG allocation if a pupil is subsequently identified as LAC on the March 2024 data return. Revised allocations are issued at the end of December each year.

Factor	2023-24 Unit Value	2024-25 Unit Value	Variance £	Variance %
Primary FSM - Ever 6	£1,455	£1,480	£25	1.7%
Secondary FSM - Ever 6	£1,035	£1,050	£15	1.4%
Looked After Children (LAC)	£2,530	£2,570	£40	1.6%
Post LAC	£2,530	£2,570	£40	1.6%
Service	£335	£340	£5	1.5%

7. Teachers' Pay Additional Grant

In July 2023 the government announced £525 million in 2023-24 to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award, with a further £900 million in 2024-25. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula.

For Mainstream Schools and Academies, the 2024-25 indicative allocation for Bury is £2.6 million. School-level allocations will be published in May 2024.

The funding rates consist of the following 3 elements, which are based on factors already in the schools national funding formula:

- a basic per-pupil rate (with different rates for primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4);
- a lump sum paid to all schools, regardless of pupil numbers;
- a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils.

Grant will be calculated by multiplying the relevant funding rates using data from the October 2023 census. The Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) will then be applied.

Maintained mainstream school budget statements issued in February will include an indicative allocation for this grant.

Factor	Unit Value
Per pupil Primary	£62
Per pupil Secondary KS3	£86
Per pupil Secondary KS4	£98
Lump Sum Primary & Secondary	£2,306
Per eligible FSM6 Primary	£53
Per eligible FSM6 Secondary	£77
Area Cost Adjustment	1.00567

Mainstream academies will receive a further allocation for the period April to August 2025.

Special schools will receive funding at £466 per place plus ACA. The indicative 2024-25 allocation for Bury is £297k. School-level allocations will be published in May 2024.

The TPAG will not continue as a separate grant in 2024-25 for early years as that funding has been rolled into the core Early Years DSG funding.

8 Teachers Pensions Increase from April 2024

The outcome of the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme confirmed a need to increase the employer contribution rate. The rate has increased by 5% to 28.6% from 1st April 2024, to ensure that the Scheme continues to meet present and future obligations.

DfE has secured additional funding, to cover the increase in the employer contribution rate for directly funded scheme employers for the financial year 2024-25 to be distributed via a separate grant.

Details will be issued to Local Authorities in due course.