

Bury Council

Department for Children and Young People

For information

Schools Balances

Schools Balances brought forward from 2023-24 totalled £2.555m. At the end of the 2024-25 financial year, Schools Balances totalled £2.484m, a total reduction of £0.071m. These numbers do not include academies that the Local Authority does not report on.

The outturn position is split as follows:

2024-25 Closing School Balances £	
Nursery	81,825
Primary	25,160
Secondary	1,370,489
Special	1,006,945
Total	2,484,419

Included at Appendix 1 is the School Balances detail per Bury School.

It should be noted that, as shown at Appendix 1, the number of schools which are in a deficit position has reduced from 17 at the end of 2023-24, to 12 at the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

Other areas to note

All schools are facing increasing cost pressures, particularly in relation to staff and energy costs. Many Primary schools are facing additional pressures due to a reduction in pupil numbers. Academy schools, that have recently converted, are still included if the balance at conversion has not yet been finalised. However, academies funding is not included in the Council's figures once the balances at conversion are finalised. The surplus balances, for schools that converted in the 2024-25 financial year, were transferred to the academy trusts after finalisation of the accounts in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidelines. These were:

Butterstile Primary School
Cams Lane Primary School
Heaton Park Primary School
Ribble Drive Primary School
Whitefield Primary School
Woodbank Primary School

St. Joseph's RC Primary School
St. Paul's CE Primary School
St. Bernadette's RC Primary School
St. Mary's RC Primary School
Philips High School

St. Joseph's RC Primary had a deficit balance remaining at conversion and, as this was not a sponsored conversion, the deficit was transferred to the Academy Trust.

There are 8 schools with a surplus above the recommended maximum percentage of 8% for Nursery, Primary and Special Schools and 5% for High Schools. These schools are shaded blue.

12 schools ended the year with a deficit and these schools are shaded red. Schools are required to adhere to their budget limits but, in the event of an unplanned deficit occurring, this will be deducted from the following year's budget share. Schools that aren't able to produce a balanced budget for 2025-26 can request approval to set a deficit budget by submitting a deficit recovery management plan to the Executive Director of Children and Young People. The deficit should normally be recovered within two years.

Of the 17 schools that ended 2023-24 with a deficit:

- 5 recovered the deficit in 2024-25;

- 2 converted to academy status;

- 4 have an approved deficit recovery plan;

- 3 have yet to agree a deficit recovery plan;

- 3 planned to balance in 2024-25, but still ended the year with a deficit.

Of the 12 schools ending 2024-25 with a deficit, there are 10 schools that cannot currently set a balanced budget for 2025-26:

- 4 already have an approved deficit recovery plan;

- 4 plans are currently being reviewed by Finance staff before submission for approval;

- 2 have not yet submitted a deficit recovery plan for approval.

Discussions are ongoing with the schools that have not yet submitted a deficit recovery plan.