

Schools and Academies Funding 2026-27

1. Indicative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2026-27

The information below provides indicative DSG funding for Bury as announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in November 2025, with comparisons to the last financial year 2025-26.

For the second year, information that is usually issued to Local Authorities in the Summer Term was received at the end of November. This includes National Funding Formula information, along with Operational Guidance for 2026-27 in relation to the Schools Block and the Central Schools Services Block. Dedicated Schools Grant allocations, and school data are due to be issued during the last week of the Autumn Term. No information has been issued yet, in relation to the Early Years Block or the High Needs Block.

1a. Schools Block

In 2025-26 schools received additional funding through separate National Insurance Contributions (NICs) grants and the Schools Budget Support Grant (SBSG), in addition to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

The funding for these additional grants will be added to the baseline funding for 2026-27. Initial estimates indicate a per pupil increase of 5.5% (Primary pupils) and 6% (Secondary pupils) when compared with 2025-26. The additional increase in Secondary funding reflects the increase in deprivation captured on the October 2024 census. However, once the baseline is adjusted for the rolling-in of separate grants, the overall increase is around 2.1% on all factors.

The effect of the separate grants has been factored into the increase in the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level, but no further percentage uplift has been applied for 2026-27.

The National Funding Formula uses data from the prior year's school census. For 2026-27 this means that DSG paid to Local Authorities will be based on October 2024 census data and this will not reflect the expansion in Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility. Schools will therefore receive funding for the costs of FSM expansion, starting from September 2026, through a separate grant.

Final school-level DSG allocations will be based on October 2025 pupil census data. Provisional census data demonstrates a further decline in pupil numbers in Bury Schools, which will have an impact on the overall funding and on individual schools.

School	Funded Oct-24	Draft Oct-25	Variance
TOTAL PRIMARY	15637.0	15320	-317
TOTAL SECONDARY	11403.5	11353	-51
TOTAL SPECIAL	764.0	760	-4
TOTAL	27905.0	27766	-372

The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) is a protection against changes in per pupil school budget share (SBS) funding between the 2025-26 and 2026-27. The amount of protection will vary according to the impact of local changes in the funding formula and the effect of these on individual per pupil rates.

In 2026-27, local authorities have the flexibility to set local MFG between minus 0.5% and 0% compared to the baseline. The baseline will include funding in respect of the additional grants.

1b. High Needs Block

High Needs funding allocations are subject to future announcements.

The Core Schools Budget Grants will be incorporated into DSG funding for Special Schools in 2026-27.

1c. Central Schools Services Block

The 2025-26 NIC grant for centrally employed school staff will be rolled into the 2026-27 CSSB. This will be added to each local authority's baseline

Funding for historic commitments continues to be subject to a year-on-year reduction of 20%.

1d. Early Years Block

Early Years funding allocations are subject to future announcements.

2 Formula Unit Values

Schools' Forum is required to recommend the formula unit values to be applied to all Mainstream Schools & Academies funding allocations on an annual basis.

The formula unit values applied to Bury Schools and Academies funding formula already directly mirror the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) unit values.

The NFF Unit Values applicable to 2026-27 are set out below.

Factor	Sub-level	2025-26	PROVISIONAL 2026-27	Variance to 2025-26		Of which = 25-26 grant transfer	Variance excl. grant transfer
		£	£	£	%	£	%
Basic Entitlement	Primary	3,847	4,064	217	5.6%	133	2.2%
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Key Stage 3	5,422	5,686	264	4.9%	146	2.2%
	Key Stage 4	6,113	6,410	297	4.9%	165	2.2%
Deprivation							
Free School Meals	Primary FSM	495	505	10	2.0%	0	2.0%
	Secondary FSM	495	505	10	2.0%	0	2.0%
Free School Meals - Ever 6	Primary FSM 6	1,060	1,210	150	14.2%	124	2.5%
	Secondary FSM 6	1,555	1,725	170	10.9%	132	2.4%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Primary	IDACI F	235	240	5	2.1%	0	2.1%
	IDACI E	285	290	5	1.8%	0	1.8%
	IDACI D	445	455	10	2.2%	0	2.2%
	IDACI C	490	500	10	2.0%	0	2.0%
	IDACI B	520	530	10	1.9%	0	1.9%
	IDACI A	685	700	15	2.2%	0	2.2%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Secondary	IDACI F	340	345	5	1.5%	0	1.5%
	IDACI E	450	460	10	2.2%	0	2.2%
	IDACI D	635	650	15	2.4%	0	2.4%
	IDACI C	695	710	15	2.2%	0	2.2%
	IDACI B	745	760	15	2.0%	0	2.0%
	IDACI A	950	970	20	2.1%	0	2.1%
Additional Education Needs Factors							
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Years Primary	595	610	15	2.5%	0	2.5%
	EAL 3 Years Secondary	1,595	1,630	35	2.2%	0	2.2%
Mobility	Pupils starting school outside normal entry	965	985	20	2.1%	0	2.1%
		1,385	1,415	30	2.2%	0	2.2%
Low cost, high incidence SEN	Low Attainment Primary (below expected EYFS)	1,175	1,200	25	2.1%	0	2.1%
	Pupils not achieving (KS2 level 4 English and Maths)	1,785	1,825	40	2.2%	0	2.2%
School-Led Factors							
Lump Sum	Primary	145,100	152,700	7,600	5.2%	4,486	2.1%
	Secondary	145,100	152,700	7,600	5.2%	4,486	2.1%
Split Site	Basic Eligibility	54,000	55,100	1,100	2.0%		
	Distance Eligibility Minimum	0	0				
	Distance Eligibility Maximum	27,000	27,600	600	2.2%		
Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels	MFL - Primary	4,955	5,115	160	3.2%	159	0.0%
	MFL - Secondary	6,465	6,640	175	2.7%	174	0.0%

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Schools' Forum (all mainstream members) recommends all the unit values specified in the table provided, to be applied in compliance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) to Bury's Mainstream schools and academies funding formula for 2026-27.

3. De-delegation

For maintained mainstream schools only, the formula mechanism contains options for schools to choose to de-delegate an amount from their formula allocation to contribute to Local Authority services that work to support them. Academies can buy back into Free School Meals Benefit Checking and Trade Union Facilities Time.

Schools' Forum (Maintained Mainstream only) is required to recommend the De-delegated items each year. The table below proposes the level of de-delegation to be recommended for 2026-27.

Please note that the proposed value for Union Facilities Time includes an additional increase due to a change in representative (UPS1 to UPS3) and a small amount (£0.14 per pupil) to allow for the additional cost of the exceptional circumstances discussed at previous meetings.

	Schools of Concern	FSM Benefits checking	Trade Union Facilities Time	Local Authority School Improvement
	Per pupil	Per FSM6	Per pupil	Per pupil
2025-26	£6.88	£5.73	£4.59	£16.38
Proposed 2026-27	£7.09	£5.90	£4.87	£16.87

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Schools' Forum (maintained school representatives) recommends the de-delegated values for 2026-27, summarised as follows:

- Schools of Concern @ £7.09 per pupil
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checking @ £5.90 per FSM6
- Trade Union Facilities Time @ £4.87 per pupil
- School Improvement Brokerage and Monitoring Grant @ £16.87 per-pupil.

4. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a protection within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that ensures a school's per-pupil funding does not decrease by more than a set percentage from one academic year to the next. For the 2026-2027 financial year, the allowed MFG range is between **-0.5% and 0.0%** for mainstream schools, meaning local authorities could choose to guarantee no decrease (0%) or allow a small one (-0.5%) to make the local formula work. This safeguard is a local authority decision based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

In 2025-26, Bury set the MFG at +0.0%. 18 schools benefitted from MFG protection. For comparison, the impact of a possible change to the MFG is shown in the table below, using the 2025-26 values.

Phase	25-26 MFG Adjustment 0.0%	-0.25%	-0.50%
TOTAL	£198,906	£155,598	£119,207
Primary	£2,814	£651	£0
Primary	£1,792	£0	£0
Primary	£8,382	£6,229	£4,075
Primary	£238	£0	£0
Primary	£11,686	£8,829	£5,971
Primary	£1,374	£0	£0
Primary	£19,529	£15,212	£10,894
Primary	£6,933	£4,267	£1,601
Primary	£15,172	£12,588	£10,004
Primary	£9,189	£6,820	£4,450
Primary	£8,154	£5,973	£3,793
Primary	£3,699	£1,869	£39
Primary	£10,686	£8,132	£5,578
Primary	£46,947	£42,159	£37,370
Primary	£28,881	£26,608	£24,334
Primary	£21,428	£16,263	£11,099
Primary	£269	£0	£0
Secondary	£1,733	£0	£0

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Schools' Forum (all members) recommends that the MFG protection is set at -0.5% in line with DfE guidance.

5. Headroom

After all formula factors have been updated as per the above recommendations and in accordance with the National Funding Formula unit values, there should be a balance of DSG Schools Block that remains unallocated. This balance is required to cover any outstanding updates to budget determinations as follows:

- October 2025 census variations – Pupil numbers will be adjusted for in the final Schools Block determination, however any increases in funding required due to variances in pupil cohort characteristics need to be covered from any available headroom monies, for example if increased deprivation funding is required once all up-to-date pupils have been mapped into the respective factors.
- Growth – where schools meet the criteria agreed by Schools Forum in 2023 for Local Authority approved bulge classes.
- Falling Rolls Fund – funding may be set aside from the Schools Block to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years. This is unlikely to be needed.

- Minimum per pupil funding Level (MFL) and Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protections – once all final data has been input there may be increased protections required on individual school budgets to ensure their actual budget allocations comply with the MFL and MFG funding per-pupil levels and protections.

If, when all items above have been updated to reflect the actual individual schools budget determinations, and any amounts to support growth and falling rolls have been allocated, there remains a balance of unallocated Schools Block funding, the Local Authority will factor a transfer of this balance by way of supporting the deficit recovery to the High Needs Block.

Schools' Forum may recommend up to 0.5% transfer of Schools' Block without any disapplication process being required to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

A 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block has been factored into future years as part of DSG Safety Valve Management Plan submitted to the DfE.

If there is insufficient Headroom once all other updates have been completed, then Schools Forum may need to consider how to balance the overall Schools Block by reviewing all formula factors.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Schools' Forum recommends the use of Headroom to address all outstanding items outlined above and a transfer of any balance, up to a maximum of 0.5%, of unallocated Schools Block Headroom to the High Needs Block, the amount to be confirmed at the meeting of Schools' Forum in January 2026.

ACADEMY BALANCES SEPTEMBER 2023 TO AUGUST 2024

Data source: DfE Financial Benchmarking and Insights

Data for academies in a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) includes a share of MAT central finance, and does not necessarily reflect balances available to the school.

Where no balance is shown, data is unavailable due to the date of conversion

Academy Name	Trust	2023-24 In Year Balance	2023-24 Surplus/ Deficit(-)
Butterstile Primary	Collective Community Trust	£203,161	£231,499
Cams Lane Primary	Collective Community Trust	£10,209	£33,362
Chesham Primary	Northern Education Trust	£52,739	£135,530
Christ Church C.E.P, Walshaw	Sycamore CE Trust	-£91,408	£12,319
East Ward Community Primary	Vision Multi Academy Trust	£313,544	£87,507
Elton Community Primary	The Keep Learning Trust	-£191,093	£179,462
Gorsefield Primary	Forward as One CofE Multi Academy Trust	-£45,469	£641,103
Greenhill Primary	Forward as One CofE Multi Academy Trust	-£118,428	£26,805
Greenmount Primary	The Keep Learning Trust	-	-
Hazlehurst Primary	Northern Education Trust	-£17,799	£92,966
Heaton Park Primary	Collective Community Trust	£35,199	£160,789
Higher Lane Primary	Vision Multi Academy Trust	-£211,944	£90,914
Holy Trinity C.E. V.A. Primary	Sycamore CE Trust	£45,301	£52,000
Old Hall Primary	The Keep Learning Trust	-	-
Park View Primary	The Keep Learning Trust	-£162,892	£65,294
Peel Brow Primary	Vision Multi Academy Trust	-£48,886	£24,724
Radcliffe Primary	The Keep Learning Trust	£14,985	£161,244
Radcliffe Hall C.E./Meth Primary	Sycamore CE Trust	£50,239	£93,679
Ribble Drive Community Primary	Collective Community Trust	£22,351	£52,716
St. Bernadette's R.C. Primary	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£117,231	£135,249
St. John's C.E. Primary, Radcliffe	Sycamore CE Trust	£12,576	£126,994
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£57,994	-£148,467
St. Joseph & St. Bede R.C. Primary	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£211,071	£38,440
St. Mary's R.C. Primary, Radcliffe	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£125,125	£44,476
St. Michael's R.C. Primary	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£300,819	-£270,277
St. Paul's C.E. Primary, Bury	Forward as One CofE Multi Academy Trust	£34,272	£30,781
St. Stephen's C.E. Primary	Sycamore CE Trust	£69,594	£73,008

Academy Name	Trust	2023-24 In Year Balance	2023-24 Surplus/ Deficit(-)
St. Thomas's C.E. Primary	Sycamore CE Trust	-£11,301	£267,000
Sedgley Park Community Primary	Collective Community Trust	-	-
Springside Primary	Prestolee Multi Academy Trust	-£185,514	£44,024
Summerseat Methodist Primary	Epworth Education Trust	-£19,982	£47,469
Sunny Bank Primary	Vision Multi Academy Trust	-£72,713	£41,855
Tottington Primary	Prestolee Multi Academy Trust	-£4,556	£60,296
Unsworth Primary	Oak Learning Partnership	-£143,153	£5,448
Wesley Methodist Primary	Epworth Education Trust	£77,148	£313,681
Whitefield Community Primary	Collective Community Trust	£53,389	£159,006
Woodbank Primary	Collective Community Trust	£73,690	£129,628
Yesoiday HaTorah Boys	Yesoiday Hatorah	£33,000	£39,000
Yesoiday HaTorah Girls	Yesoiday Hatorah	-£243,000	£40,000
Hazel Wood High School	Oak Learning Partnership	-£164,460	£864,798
Bury C of E High School	Bishop Fraser CE Trust	-£182,896	£1,230,974
Unsworth Academy	Shaw Education Trust	-£5,607	£248,732
Parrenthorn High School	Vision Multi Academy Trust	-	-
Philips High School	Oak Learning Partnership	-	-
The Heys School	The Rowan Trust	-£115,028	£598,551
St Gabriel's RC High School	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£278,549	£930,844
St Monica's RC High School	St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust	-£368,172	£876,419
STAR Academy Radcliffe	Star Academies	-	-
Tottington High School	Shaw Education Trust	-£324,699	£203,419
Woodhey High School	Shaw Education Trust	£364,346	£761,256
Elms Bank	Oak Learning Partnership	£325,613	£1,209,754
Ash Grove (PRU)	Oak Learning Partnership	-	-
Brookhaven School	Shaw Education Trust	£336,000	£317,000
Total Balances		-£1,692,433	£10,561,271

TOTAL BALANCES PER PUPIL

	Maintained 2024-25		Academies 2023-24	
	Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
Nursery	£81,825	£1,450	-	-
Primary	£25,160	£4	£3,319,524	£340
Secondary	£1,370,489	£422	£5,714,993	£786
Special	£1,006,945	£3,334	£1,526,754	£4,613
Total	£2,484,419	£253	£10,561,271	£608