

# SCHOOLS FORUM



Subject	<b>Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools 2026-27</b>
Meeting Date	23 January 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive Summary	The BCP Scheme has been updated to reflect the latest statutory guidance and proposed local financial arrangements. A short consultation has been undertaken with maintained schools.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>The Scheme of Financing Maintained Schools is to be agreed by maintained school representatives.</b>
Reasons for Recommendations	Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton, Children, Young People, Education and Skills
Corporate Directors	Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For information and decision

## Background

1. The local authority is required to maintain and publish a scheme for financing maintained schools, setting out the financial relationship with the maintained schools in the authority's area. Amendments to the Scheme may be proposed by the authority after consultation with all maintained schools and is to be agreed by maintained school members of the Schools Forum. The Secretary of State may also direct changes to all authorities' schemes for financing schools.

## Summary of Changes

2. Various minor amendments and updates have been made to reflect current practice without materially changing the purpose or effect of the scheme. Some references to obsolete documents and legislation have been removed.
3. The freedom of schools to choose their own insurance provider has been clarified with reference to the Secretary of States Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA) as mentioned in the DfE Scheme.

4. Clarity has been added to the procurement section of the scheme regarding the provision which has the effect of disapplying from schools any provision of LA procurement standing orders which would require them to seek local authority officer countersignature for any contracts for goods or services for a value below £60,000 in any one year.

### **Consultation with Maintained Schools**

5. A consultation with maintained schools was undertaken between 22 January and 3 February on the proposed updates to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.
6. Two responses were received, neither raised any objections nor proposed any amendments. One response asked for clarification on some of the scheme provisions and a request was made for an earlier transfer of the budget share payment when the 28<sup>th</sup> falls on the weekend.
7. Following the feedback the following amendment is proposed for payment to be made on the 28th of the month or the penultimate working day prior to this. The previous version stated last working day prior to this.

### **Financial Implications**

8. The financial implications for maintained schools are set out in detail in the Scheme.

### **Legal Implications**

9. The proposed scheme is compliant with the latest statutory guidance issued by the DfE
10. Consultation has taken place with all maintained schools as required by the School Funding Statutory Framework

### **Background Papers**

11. [Draft Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools](#)