

Schools Forum Meetings Schedule & Work Programme for the 2019/20 Academic Year

Schedule of Meetings

- **Wednesday 18 September 2019, 8am**
- **Wednesday 16 October 2019, 8am**
- **Wednesday 4 December 2019, 8am**
- **Wednesday 8 January 2020, 8am**
- **Wednesday 15 January 2020, 8am PROVISIONAL MEETING**
- **Wednesday 11 March 2020, 8am**
- **Wednesday 20 May 2020, 8am**
- **Wednesday 8 July 2020, 8am**

Proposed Work Programme

Autumn Term 2019

Key Dates

- Expected confirmation of direction & implementation of National Funding Formula arrangements 2020/21.
- Expected announcement of autumn spending settlement, including outcomes of the SEND Call for Evidence.
- 3 October 2019 – Schools' October Census.
- Mid December – ESFA publication of pupil numbers & other data from October Census on which 2020/21 allocations will be calculated.
- Mid December – DfE to confirm Authority 2020/21 DSG allocation, including High Needs Block funding.
- Announcement of Pupil Premium and other grants for the 2020/21 financial year.

Planned Business

- Reaction to the autumn spending review & impact on DSG, including the DfE's SEND call for Evidence. Work streams from this.
- High Needs Block affordability, strategic development of places-sufficiency and alternative provisions.
- High Needs Block places commissioning.
- The position of financial responsibilities, between health and education, in the commissioning of continuing care.
- National Funding Formula primary & secondary and work streams from this.
- Early Years Single Funding Formula review and other early years funding matters, including the development of EYIF and the funding of maintained nursery schools.
- High Needs Funding model (ranges model) review.
- The delivery of change in alternative provision financing.
- Bradford District's Primary, Secondary, Early Years and High Needs funding consultations & consideration of responses. The Schools Forum to agree the funding formulae for the 2020/21 financial year.
- Further information, discussion and consideration of the financial impact of the conversion of maintained schools to academy status.
- The review of items to be delegated / centrally within the DSG managed from April 2020.
- Confirmation 2018/19 DSG final carry forward balances (available one off monies).
- Consideration of wider DSG and school / academy budget-level cost pressures in 2020/21, implications and strategies for supporting these.
- Consideration of the Council's wider budget position 2020/21.
- Consideration of Forum membership. Response to any further Schools Forum Regulations changes.
- Update on 2019/20 DSG contingencies and central funds spending (view on one off monies available).
- Update on the delivery of the Education Improvement Strategy and attainment results summer 2019 (impact assessment) including Looked After Children.
- Update on pupil planning and the impact of Academies & Free Schools.
- Continued discussion on issues related to falling rolls and under subscription.

Spring Term 2020

Key Dates

- 16 January – Schools' January Census & Early Years Census.
- 21 January – deadline for the submission of the final APT to the ESFA, with values of the mainstream formula factors fixed.
- March publication of final Post 16 allocations for 2020/21.
- 28 February – deadline for publication of 2020/21 budgets for maintained schools (not including Early years funding).
- 31 March – deadline for publication of 2020/21 EYSFF allocations.
- 30 April – completion of S251 Budget Statement to DfE.

Planned Business

- Final recommendations on all aspects of DSG funding for 2020/21, including school & early years budgets. high needs and centrally managed items; Forum exercise of statutory powers.
- Further consideration of the National Funding Formula impact and timing.
- Evaluation of the impact / anticipated impact of 2020/21 DSG recommendations.
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic planning to meet growing need and balance affordability).
- Review of Scheme for Financing Schools for 2020/21 (and directed revisions).
- Review of Schools Forum membership.
- Update on pupil planning and the impact of Academies & Free Schools. Continued discussion on issues related to falling rolls and under subscription.
- Agreement of any allocations from the 2019/20 Schools Block Falling Rolls Fund.
- Annual report on outcomes for Children Looked After and the impact of our Pupil Premium funding strategy.

Summer Term 2020

Key Dates

- 1 April – closedown of maintained school accounts for the 2019/20 financial year (carry forward balances).
- 15 May – deadline for submission of Governor Approved Budgets (maintained schools) for 2020/21 to the Local Authority.
- 14 May – Schools' May Census.
- Early Years DSG Block updated for January 2020 pupil numbers.

Planned Business

- Consideration of Forum membership & election of the Chair & Vice Chair of the Schools Forum.
- Discussion on review of key Authority protocols relating to the financial management of maintained schools e.g. the Financial Classification.
- Continued consideration of the National Funding Formula. Early discussions on 2021/22 changes (when 'hard' NFF is anticipated to be introduced).
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic planning to meet growing need and balance affordability).
- Update on compliance of maintained schools with the Schools Financial Value Standard.
- Further information, discussion and consideration of the financial impact of the conversion of maintained schools to academy status.
- Review of school balances held at 31 March 2020 (maintained schools). Further consideration of the financial position of schools and academies.
- Update on pupil planning and the impact of Academies & Free Schools. Continued discussion on issues related to falling rolls and under subscription.