

Introduction

SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION 2013/2014

PLEASE RESPOND BY 31st July 2012

Barnet, like all local authorities, is required to build a new school funding formula for mainstream primary and secondary schools, academies and free schools from April 2013.

This consultation asks schools about the principles we should use to direct funding most fairly to Barnet schools. The results of the consultation will be used to create a formula which will be presented for approval by all schools in September 2012 as well as the Schools Forum in October.

We are restricted by the government to using the following factors in our formula:

- a) A lump sum**
- b) A flat rate per pupil (AWPU) with separate rates for primary and secondary**
- c) Deprivation: Free school meals**
- d) Deprivation: IDACI**
- e) Additional Educational Need: Low prior attainment**
- f) Additional Educational Need: English as an Additional Language**
- g) Rates (NNDR and council tax)**
- h) Split sites**

All other funding elements have been withdrawn, but it is important to emphasise that the total money available will be roughly the same as 2012/13. Funding formerly distributed through withdrawn elements will now be allocated through the remaining factors - eg internal and external areas would be added to the AWPU.

For reference, in 2012/13 the split between the various types of elements for primaries and secondaries is as follows:

Total amount to distribute: £112.6m, £87.7m

Lump Sums 9.2%, 6.3%

Rates and Split Sites: 0.9%, 0.7%

Deprivation: 7.9%, 6.0%

Additional Educational Need: 6.6%, 4.2%

Pupil AWPU: 75.4%, 82.9%

As well as their budget share, schools can also expect to receive:

- a) The pupil premium for free school meals, service and looked after children**

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- b) Early years funding for nursery children**
- c) Post 16 funding for 6th forms**
- d) Statement top-ups under the new 'place plus' system**

This consultation does not attempt to cover funding for:

- a) Special schools and additional resourced provision**
- b) PRUs**

These will be funded at a base place rate (£10,000 for specials and ARPs, £8,000 in PRUs) plus a top-up linked to the agreed cost of the individual children on roll.

Local authorities will be required to delegate to schools and academies the funding for a range of budgets formerly managed by the local authority. This includes contingencies for additional classes, insurance, behaviour support and union officials. With the agreement of the primary and secondary maintained school representatives on the Schools Forum, this money can be top-sliced from maintained school budgets and 'de-delegated' back to Barnet to continue to offer these services. Academies and free schools will keep their share of the central funding but will be able to buy into services the LA provides.

The eleven questions of this survey are each preceded with information to assist you in your response.

Thank you for taking the time to take part in this survey. The results will be presented to schools in September.

Please select 'Next' to continue on to the next page.

Instructions

We have tried to make the survey as easy as possible to complete.

Many of the questions have a range of options for you to choose from. Please choose the option closest to your opinion and tick the relevant box or boxes.

Please be assured that all your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please select 'Next' to continue on to the next page.

* 1. PRINCIPLES

In building a new funding formula for Barnet schools we can follow one of two principles.

a) to try to predict the government's national funding formula which is due in 2015,

or

b) to try to mirror Barnet's existing funding formula as closely as possible.

As we can only use eight possible funding factors, both are likely to result in a number of schools needing the protection of the minimum funding guarantee (-1.5%).

Which of these principles do you think Barnet should use for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 funding formula?

- We should try to predict the future national funding formula
- We should try to match the existing funding formula
- No preference
- No answer

Please make any comments here:

* 2. LUMP SUM

We will still be allowed to provide schools with a lump sum in the funding formula, but this amount must be the same for all schools whether large or small, primary or secondary. The government restricts the amount to a maximum of £150,000 per annum.

A lump sum gives schools, especially small schools, a measure of certainty. However, the new regulations for the calculation of the minimum funding guarantee mean that the lower we set the lump sum, the higher each school's minimum funding level (MFL) will be. A school could therefore be better off with no lump sum in the funding formula.

The difference between the total amount available to distribute to schools and the cost of funding all schools at their minimum funding level is called the headroom. The funding formula will dictate which schools benefit most from the headroom.

In summary, a lower lump sum amount would result in a higher total MFL but less headroom.

Please indicate below how big you think the lump sum should be.

- No lump sum
- £50,000
- £100,000
- £150,000
- No preference
- No answer

Please make any comments here:

* 3. DEPRIVATION

We can target deprivation in schools using either Free School Meals (FSM) or the IDACI index of multiple deprivation. IDACI is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and a school's score is dependent on the home postcodes of all children on roll. We can use both FSM and IDACI together, or choose only one, but we must have a deprivation element in the formula.

At present 8% of primary funding and 6% of secondary funding is directed at deprivation, most of which is based on the number of children eligible for free school meals.

We believe that FSM underestimates deprivation in some faith schools, especially in those where there is cultural reluctance to claim benefits.

IDACI tends to favour schools in the west of the borough because nearly all the postcodes in the west are classified as areas of high deprivation.

IDACI has the advantage of our being able to apply higher funding rates to higher levels of deprivation and thus target funding more exactly.

Which measure of deprivation do you think we should use?

- Free School Meals and IDACI together
- IDACI only
- Free School Meals only
- No preference
- No answer

Please make any comments here:

* 4. FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If we use free school meals eligibility to target deprivation funding we have the choice of using:

either current free school meal eligibility as recorded on the most recent October census (FSM)

or free school meal eligibility over the last 6 years using the national database of pupil records over the last 15 censuses (FSM6). This measure is used for the pupil premium.

We cannot use both measures.

FSM6 has a wider coverage than FSM as it picks up any child who has been eligible at some time in the last 6 years at any state school they attended. FSM6 data is provided by the government and is more difficult to verify than FSM.

Fewer children would be eligible with FSM but if the funding envelope is the same, the unit rate would be higher.

FSM measures the current family situation, but FSM6 is an indicator of past as well as current circumstances which could affect a child's achievement.

Please indicate below which free school meal measure should be used in the Barnet funding formula.

- FSM
- FSM6
- No preference
- No answer

Please make any comments here:

* 5. IDACI

IDACI scores range from 0 to 1 - the higher the number the higher the deprivation. We are likely to receive the data in a banded format for each school. There will probably be 6 bands, although the bottom band will not be funded:

- Band 0: 0.0 - 0.2**
- Band 1: 0.2 - 0.25**
- Bank 2: 0.25 - 0.3**
- Band 3: 0.3 - 0.4**
- Band 4: 0.4 - 0.5**
- Band 5: 0.5 - 1.0**

Few schools in Barnet have deprivation in the top band and many would be in Bands 1 and 2.

We can apply different funding rates to different bands and thus target funding more effectively, but we need to know what the relative weightings should be for each band.

In the question below we ask you to give a weighting on the scale of 0 to 10 for Bands 1-4. Band 5 will be weighted at 10 and Band 0 at 0. For example if you choose a weighting of 0 for Bands 1-3 and 10 for Band 4, it would direct all the IDACI funding at those few schools with an IDACI score of over 0.4.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No answer
Band 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Band 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Band 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Band 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please make any comments here:

* 6. PRIOR ATTAINMENT

We can target schools which have pupils with low prior attainment by using the data from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) or Key Stage 2 (KS2). EYFS is to be used for primary, infant and junior schools and KS2 for secondary schools.

Please indicate whether you think we should use prior attainment as a formula factor:

	Yes	No	No preference	No answer
EYFS in primary, infant and junior schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
KS2 in secondary schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please make any comments here:

*** 7. ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**

The government will be providing Barnet with census data showing those children who are in their first three years of learning English. For many this will be the three years from Reception to Year 2 but older children who are new to education in the UK will also be identified. If we use this data as a funding factor, the bulk of the money would go to infant and primary schools.

Please indicate below whether you think we should use EAL as a funding factor.

- We should use EAL in the funding formula
- We should not use EAL in the funding formula
- No preference
- No answer

Please make any comments here:

* 8. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING FACTORS

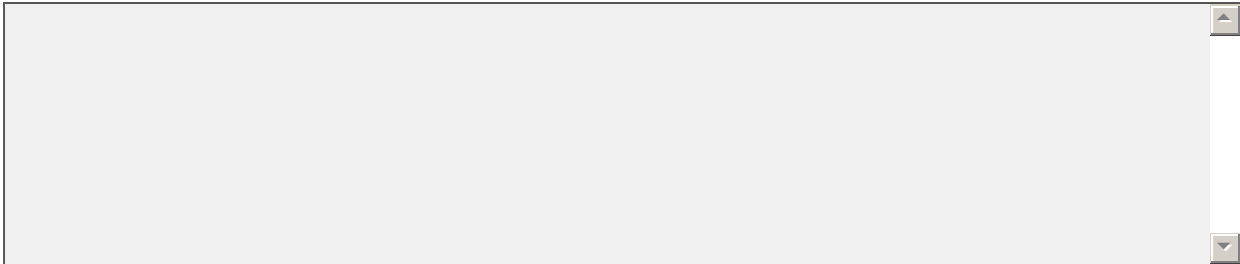
As explained in Question 1, many schools will receive funding at their minimum funding level (MFL), but for some, the funding formula will take them above the MFL. The relative importance placed on each of the funding factors will determine which schools are funded above the MFL - eg those with most pupils, or those with highest deprivation.

Please rank the funding factors below in order of importance where 1 is highest importance and 6 is lowest.

<input type="text"/>	IDACI
<input type="text"/>	Free School Meals (FSM / FSM6)
<input type="text"/>	Per pupil funding
<input type="text"/>	Prior Attainment
<input type="text"/>	EAL
<input type="text"/>	Lump sum

9. OTHER COMMENTS

If you have any other suggestions about the new school funding formula, please use the box below:



*** 10. SCHOOL TYPE**

Please select your school type from the list below:

- Nursery
- Primary
- Secondary
- Academy

Other school type (please specify):

*** 11. RESPONDENT DETAILS**

Please complete the details below. To maintain fairness, we will only include one response from each school in our analysis.

Name	<input type="text"/>
School	<input type="text"/>
Position	<input type="text"/>

Survey Complete

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please encourage colleagues from other schools to take part also.