

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 11th November 2011

Report of: Director of Childrens Services
Director of Corporate Resources

**Report
No:**

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Report Title: **Schools Finance Regulations Consultation 2012**

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:** This report does **not** contain information which warrants its
consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose: To inform Schools Forum of the proposed changes to the School
Funding regulations – April 2012

Recommendations: The Schools Forum is asked to comment on the proposed changes
to the School Finance Regulations

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

1. Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on changes to the School Funding Regulations from April 2012.

There are very few changes proposed as there are no major changes to the funding system.

2. Proposed Changes

The following Changes are proposed:-

a) Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) Disapplications

The minimum funding guarantee means that no school's budget will reduce by more than 1.5% per pupil, excluding exempt items.

In Bolton exempt items relate to those that are set out within the funding regulations, eg Rates, Statements of SEN, NQT funding

In previous years if a Local Authority wanted to disapply additional formula factors from the minimum funding guarantee calculation then it had to be approved by the Secretary of State.

72 requests from 59 different Local Authorities were received in 2011-12. Bolton did not submit a request.

The level of the MFG for 2012-13 has not yet been announced, yet the DfE are keen to make improvements to the process of disapplications and reduce work for Local Authorities, Schools Forums and the Department.

It is proposed that Disapplications can be agreed locally, subject to Schools Forum approval where:-

- These have been agreed unconditionally in 2011-12
- They relate to factors that were consistently approved in 2011-12 (Including Advanced Skills Teachers, site specific factors where the schools circumstances have changed.)

Examples of approved exemptions	Examples of exemptions not approved
Advanced Skills Teachers	Whole scale formula review
Site factors linked to change in circumstances – eg split site	Mainstreaming of Grants
1:1/Extended Svcs – conditional approval	

Exemptions were not approved where the extent of losses would be well beyond the Minimum Funding Guarantee.

b) Pupil Premium for Excluded pupils

Where an excluded pupil attracts the pupil premium, this funding should move with the pupil, as well as the age-weighted funding.

This is being dealt with via a change in the funding regulations, rather than a change in the pupil premium conditions of grant

c) Remissions of boarding fees

In certain circumstances registered pupils boarding at maintained schools have the right to have their boarding fees remitted by the Local Authority for the area in which they would ordinarily reside were they not at boarding school.

The current Education Bill will replicate this right for registered pupils boarding at Academies. A specific category of allowable central expenditure, within the central schools budget will be introduced in order to fund this.

3. Consultation

Any comments on the proposals should be sent to the Department for Education by Friday 11th November

4. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to comment on the proposed changes to the Schools Finance Regulations