

General Education Duties De-delegation 2027-28

Schools Forum



September 15th 2026

Agenda item 4b

PAPER TYPE

☐ INFORMATION

☒ CONSULTATION

☐ DECISION / VOTE

Meeting date	15 th September 2026
Agenda item	4b
Report author	Michael Hawkins & Luisa Hansen
Appendices	Appendices 1 & 2

Purpose

Recommendation to Schools Forum

To approve the request to seek views on the proposal to de-delegate funding for the statutory General Education duties from maintained schools block budgets of £12.36 per pupil.

Decision and voting requirements

QUESTION / PROPOSAL	Agree to de-delegation of General Education duties from maintained schools block budgets of £12.36 per pupil to support the statutory duties required.
Who may vote?	Maintained schools only
Voting method	Show of hands

1. Executive summary

Proposal to agree to a de-delegation of General Education duties from maintained schools block budgets of £12.36 per pupil to support the statutory duties required.

The de-delegation of General Education Duties enables the council to fund a range of **statutory** responsibilities on behalf of maintained schools through a small deduction from maintained school budget shares. The proposal for 2027/28 is £12.36 per pupil and will support the delivery of statutory local authority duties for maintained schools that cannot be funded through other Dedicated Schools Grant allocations, including governance, attendance, financial oversight, staffing, compliance, and regulatory functions.

2. Background and context

Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the Education Services Grant (ESG) from maintained schools budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools Forum. Until 1 April 2017, the Council received an ESG grant to cover the cost of delivering its responsibilities in respect of maintained schools. This had two elements: a retained duties element covering the Council's duties to all schools (which now forms the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant) and a general duties rate which related to maintained schools only. The general duties rate ended on 1 April 2017 with a transitional grant being payable to local authorities for 2017/18. This resulted in a reduction in the Council's grant income of c£2M from 2018/19 whilst the duties remain.

The Council proposes to charge the maintained school budget shares £12.36 per pupil to cover the costs of the services listed below, which were previously funded by ESG, totalling £217k. This is a small uplift of 3% to represent increased costs from the previous year.

- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)
- Expenditure on inspecting attendance registers under the Education (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)
- Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, • paragraph 74)
- Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)
- Appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67) and consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68).
- Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)

Last year, benchmarking was undertaken to ensure that the charges to Hillingdon schools are in line with other local authorities. It was found that Hillingdon charges a quarter of the average cost charged by other Local Authorities.

Table 1: Benchmarking per pupil net expenditure

<i>Per pupil expenditure net</i>	Hillingdon	Outer London	England
School improvement 1.6.7	£0	£5	£7
Statutory/ Regulatory duties 1.5.3, 1.6.4	£3	£12	£11

* Per capita figures are derived using the Section 251 Outturn data with pupil numbers and/or population estimates, depending on the sub-category of the planned expenditure being looked at.

Please note, the benchmarking figures are not accurate charges to schools but are calculated against population to benchmark costs per pupil net expenditure, which is why the amount being requested doesn't correlate with this amount. The benchmarking should be used as a comparative tool rather than actual amounts.

Examples of charges in other LAs for General Education Duties for maintained schools:

- Manchester - £17.45 per pupil (24/25)
- BCP - £23.15 per pupil (23/24)
- West Sussex - £27.58 per pupil
- Norfolk - £18 per pupil (23/24)

Please note: no charges are being proposed specifically for school improvement, in line with last year. Other LAs do charge for this function, often in addition to the general education duties.

Free School Meal checking – As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting children and families, Hillingdon Council is now in the second year of its Free School Meals (FSM) auto-enrolment programme. The initiative uses existing Local Authority data to automatically identify and register eligible pupils, ensuring families do not miss out on support.

The programme has become even more important following the Department for Education's (DfE) reforms introduced from September 2026, which created two categories of benefits-based free school meals: Targeted FSM for pupils from households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less, and Expanded FSM for other pupils from households receiving Universal Credit. While Expanded FSM extends free meal entitlement, only pupils eligible for Targeted FSM attract Pupil Premium funding and form part of the Ever 6 FSM cohort.

To deliver the programme, a cross-Council working group was established, bringing together officers from Business Intelligence, Revenues and Benefits, Education, Data Protection, FIS, Public Health, Finance and Admissions. By combining datasets across services, the Council can proactively identify eligible families, maximise FSM uptake, and ensure residents receive the support and funding to which they are entitled.

4198 pupils CYPs have been identified as being eligible for FSM but not recorded on the May census 2026.

Settings	Eligible expanded	Eligible targeted	Pupil Premium	Total Pupil Premium for targeted	Total
Early Years	93	119	£650	£77,350	212
Primary	1526	484	£1550	£750,200	2010
Secondary	1209	203	£1100	£223,300	1412
Post-16	489	75	n/a	n/a	564
Grand Total	3317	881		£1,050,850	4198

Cost per pupil in other LAs:

Newcastle – Primary £2.31, secondary £3.69

Telford & Wrekin - £9 for each eligible child

Norfolk - £4.23 (24/25)

Further analysis was undertaken on individual school budgets which evidences Hillingdon schools have higher per-pupil funding than other areas. For Hillingdon schools, the average per pupil net expenditure is £6,155 compared to national - £5,782

Staffing

Whilst the Education Improvement Service is often predominantly funded from the general education duties/ school improvement de-delegation, only a proportion of the service is funded through these contributions, and the rest is funded by the Council currently. This may be reviewed in future. EIP service costs: The structure for the EIP team totals £766,500 for staffing. This includes Education Improvement advisors and coordinators, governance and safeguarding officers, and the post 16 officer. The contribution of £217k is roughly 28% of the team's costs, with the remaining amount funded from General Fund.

Question for consultation:

1. Do you agree to de-delegate £208k from schools block to fund the statutory general education duties for maintained schools? This equates to roughly £12.36 per pupil.

The survey can be accessed here: [Schools Block Transfer & General Education Duties \(Maintained\) Consultation 2027-28](#)

(The survey captures feedback for both the General Education Duties request as well as the Schools Block Transfer. Schools who state they are maintained will have access to part 2 which is the

General Education duties feedback. Where schools state they are an academy, the survey will end after Part 1 - the Schools Block transfer feedback.)

3. Proposal or current position

3.1 Implementation and timescales

When	Milestone / action	Lead
September 2026	Paper brought to Forum to agree consultation	Michael Hawkins
September 2026	Survey to go live to school leaders to seek their views	Clerk
October 2026	Forum to vote, using feedback from the consultation, on the decision to de-delegate the General Education duties	Chair
November 2026	Disapplication request to be submitted to the DfE if Schools Forum are not in support of the request. No disapplication request is necessary if Forum vote to approve this.	Finance

4. Financial implications

Funding source	Dedicated Schools Grant: Maintained Schools Block
Value	£208k (estimate based on 2026/27 pupil numbers) - 3% uplift from previous financial year
Financial year or academic year period	Financial year

5. Impact on children, schools and the system

Area	Expected impact	How it will be monitored
Children and young people	Positive impact due to delivering statutory support services to support education and education settings	Reviewed termly. Measured by effective delivery of services.
Schools and settings	Minimal financial impact. The support will ensure schools meet their statutory obligations, e.g. Pupil Premium, maximise the additional funding they receive and reduce workload due to enhanced support.	Reviewed termly. Measured by effective delivery of services
SEND and inclusion	As above	Reviewed termly. Measured by effective delivery of services
Families and communities	Enhanced support due to education services working closely with education settings to meet statutory duties.	Reviewed termly. Measured by effective delivery of services

6. Statutory considerations

[Schools operational guide: 2026 to 2027](#)

The statutory considerations and duties are set out in Appendix 2.

7. Consultation and engagement

Who	When	Headline feedback	Response
Maintained School Representatives	September 15th	Approval of de-delegation of funds for statutory education duties	TBC

8. Options considered

Option	Benefits	Drawbacks / risks	Assessment
Option 1: Approval [Preferred]	Effective delivery of statutory services	Small additional cost to maintained schools	PREFERRED
Option 2: No delegation	Maintained schools save a small amount of funding	Risk to effective delivery of statutory services. Schools incur higher costs without the support of education services.	NOT PREFERRED

9. Next steps

- Launch the survey with school leaders
- Survey to run from 21st September to 12pm on 5th October. Only one senior leader to respond to the survey from each school – either the Headteacher or a Governor.
- Feedback will be shared with forum in the October meeting
- Schools Forum members will then vote on the decision in the October meeting

10. Appendices

Ref	Title
Appendix 1	Example modelling based on previous year's census return
Appendix 2	Description of Services for All Schools and for Maintained Schools

Appendix 1: Example modelling based on previous year's census return

NB. values will change but this demonstrates an example of the typical impact on each school.

LAESTAB	School Name	NOR including reception uplift	Education functions for mainstream maintained schools
Total		16,829	208,006.44
3122003	Bourne Primary School	188	2,323.68
3122004	The Breakspear School	630	7,786.80
3122010	Colham Manor Primary School	524	6,476.64
3122012	Coteford Infant School	149	1,841.64
3122016	Deanesfield Primary School	617	7,626.12
3122019	Field End Infant School	207	2,558.52
3122020	Glebe Primary School	581	7,181.16
3122023	Harefield Junior School	211	2,607.96
3122024	Harefield Infant School	121	1,495.56
3122025	Harlyn Primary School	346	4,276.56
3122026	Harmondsworth Primary School	193	2,385.48
3122029	Heathrow Primary School	371	4,585.56
3122032	Lady Bankes Primary School	596	7,366.56
3122036	Minet Junior School	364	4,499.04
3122037	Minet Infant and Nursery School	294	3,633.84
3122038	Newnham Junior School	352	4,350.72
3122039	Newnham Infant and Nursery School	257	3,176.52
3122052	Whitehall Junior School	419	5,178.84
3122054	Whiteheath Junior School	275	3,399.00
3122059	Yeading Junior School	425	5,253.00
3122060	Yeading Infant and Nursery School	335	4,140.60
3122063	Highfield Primary School	236	2,916.96
3122064	Rabbsfarm Primary School	587	7,255.32
3122065	Warrender Primary School	400	4,944.00
3122069	Whitehall Infant School	279	3,448.44
3122074	Whiteheath Infant & Nursery School	197	2,434.92
3122076	Frithwood Primary School	352	4,350.72
3122080	Ruislip Gardens Primary School	255	3,151.80
3122084	Cherry Lane Primary School	503	6,217.08
3123300	Bishop Winnington-Ingram CofE Primary School	202	2,496.72
3123302	Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	180	2,224.80
3123307	Dr Triplett's CofE Primary School	405	5,005.80
3123400	St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	202	2,496.72
3123401	Botwell House Catholic Primary School	615	7,601.40
3123403	St Catherine Catholic Primary School	205	2,533.80
3123404	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	211	2,607.96
3123405	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	607	7,502.52
3125202	Grange Park School	571	7,057.56
3125204	Hillside Infant School	156	1,928.16
3125205	Hillside Junior School	208	2,570.88
3125208	St Andrew's C of E Primary School	181	2,237.16
3125211	Hayes Park School	598	7,391.28

3125409	Oak Wood School	1,104	13,645.44
3125411	Harlington School	1,120	13,843.20

Appendix 2 - Description of Services for All Schools and for Maintained Schools

Below is a tabularised format of information from the Schools Operational Guide 2025-26 which shows the split of services between the two groups of duties, retained duties for all schools and general duties for maintained schools.

From 2017-18, the general duties rate ended and funding previously allocated through the ESG retained duties rate (£15) was transferred into the schools block. Local authorities are able to fund central services previously funded within the retained duties rate (for all schools), with the agreement of schools forum – this is via the Central Block of DSG.

Local authorities are able to fund services previously funded within the general duties rate (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.

The split of services between the two groups is shown below. References are to the relevant schedules in the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020.

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
Statutory and regulatory duties	
Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Schedule 2, paragraph 15a)	Functions of local authority related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Schedule 2, paragraph 58)
Planning for the education service as a whole (Schedule 2, paragraph 15b)	Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Schedule 2, paragraph 59)
Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Schedule 2, paragraph 15c)	Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)
Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Schedule 2, paragraph 15d)	Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under section 151 of the 'Local Government Act 1972' for maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 61)
Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under section 151 of the 'Local Government Act 1972' except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 15e)	Functions under regulations made under section 44 of the 'Education Act 2002' (Consistent Financial Reporting) in so far as the functions related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 62)
Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Schedule 2, paragraph 19)	Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 63)
Plans involving collaboration with other local authority services or public or voluntary bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 15f)	Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 64)
Standing 'Advisory Committees for Religious Education' (sacres) (Schedule 2, paragraph 17)	HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 65)
Provision of information to, or, at the request of The Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 21)	Determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 66)
Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Schedule 2, paragraph 22)	Appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67)
	Consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68)
	Compliance with duties under the 'Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974' (Schedule 2, paragraph 69)
	Provision of information to, or, at the request of The Crown relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 70)
	School companies (Schedule 2, paragraph 71)
	Functions under the 'Equality Act 2010' (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)
	Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Schedule 2, paragraph 73)
	Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, paragraph 74)
	Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 75)

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	Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Schedule 2, paragraph 77)
Education Welfare	
Functions in relation to school attendance (Schedule 2, paragraph 16) Responsibilities regarding restrictions on the employment of children (Schedule 2, paragraph 18) Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Schedule 2, paragraph 20)	Inspection of attendance registers (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)
Asset Management	
Management of the local authority's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Schedule 2, paragraph 14a) Landlord responsibilities, including those in relation to land leased to academies for schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 14b)	General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraphs 78a & b (section 542(2)) 'Education Act 1996'; 'School Premises (England) Regulations 2012') to ensure that school buildings have: - appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation) - the ability to sustain appropriate loads - reasonable weather resistance - safe escape routes - appropriate acoustic levels - lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards - adequate water supplies and drainage - playing fields of the appropriate standards General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974) Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings 'Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012'
Central Support Services	

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No functions	Clothing grants (Schedule 2, paragraph 54) Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Schedule 2, paragraph 55) Visual, creative, and performing arts other than music (Schedule 2, paragraph 56) Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming, or athletics) (Schedule 2, paragraph 57) Services set out above will also include administrative costs and overheads relating to these services (regulation 1(4)) for: • expenditure related to functions imposed by or under chapter 4 of part 2 of the 'School Standards and Framework Act 1998' (financing of maintained schools), the administration of grants to the local authority (including preparation of applications) and, where it is the local authority's duty to do so, ensuring payments are made in respect of taxation, national insurance, and superannuation contributions • expenditure on recruitment, training, continuing professional development, performance management and personnel management of staff who are funded by expenditure not met from schools' budget shares and who are paid for services • expenditure in relation to the investigation and resolution of complaints • expenditure on legal services
Premature Retirement and Redundancy	
No functions	Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 79)
Monitoring National Curriculum Assessments	
No functions	Monitoring of national curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)
School Improvement	
No functions	Expenditure related to core school improvement activities of local authorities with respect to maintained schools (Schedule 2, 54)
Other Ongoing Duties	
Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 8); this does not require schools forum approval Operation of the system of admissions and appeals (Schedule 2, paragraph 9) Fees or expenses payable in connection with the attendance of non-SEN pupils at schools not maintained by any local authority (Schedule 2, paragraph 10) Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Schedule 2, paragraph 11) Servicing of schools forums (Schedule 2, paragraph 12)	No Functions

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Back-pay for equal pay claims (Schedule 2, paragraph 13) Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as university technical colleges (UTCs) and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Schedule 2, paragraph 23)	
Historic Commitments	
Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Schedule 2, paragraph 1) Prudential borrowing costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(a)) Termination of employment costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(b)) Contribution to combined budgets (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(c)) SEN transport costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(d))	