

Dear Colleague

KCC wishes to support the Schools in relation to business continuity. Please note, this local guidance will be updated as the situation continues to emerge and to reflect any which is subsequently received from the DfE or wider Government announcements to support Schools.

Primary and Secondary Maintained Schools

Schools will continue to receive their 2020-21 school budget, as published on [Kelsi](#), in 12 equal instalments in accordance with the published timetable.

Grant Funding

The guidance and criteria for additional grant allocations to schools in 2020-21 has not been updated by the Department of Education. Therefore, schools should continue to assume they will receive the following grants on the same basis as before, this advice will be updated as more information is provided. These grants include:

- Pupil Premium
- Teachers Pay Grant
- Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant
- Primary PE and Sports Grant
- Year 7 Catch Up
- Infant Free School Meals

High Needs – Mainstream Top-Up Funding

Where a school is currently in receipt of mainstream top-up funding for specific children this will continue to be paid to the school whether the child is in attendance or not.

Reapplications

If your funding period is nearing its end and you wish to reapply for further high needs funding please continue to use the normal process (<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/high-needs-funding-for-schools>). If you are unable to complete the application, please contact your high needs funding officer. We appreciate this is a difficult time and so where it is not possible to contact your high needs funding officer we will automatically renew the current funding rate, pending receipt of an application. A retrospective adjustment will be made if the funding rate is later found to be incorrect.

New or Pending Applications

New and pending applications will continue to be processed as normal. However, the funding start date will depend on individual circumstances based on the following principles:

- Where it is clear from the provision plans submitted with your application the school has had this support in place prior to the application date, the payment will start in accordance with normal processes (from the date of application).
- Where the provision plan suggests that the some or all of the provision used to calculate total cost has yet to be put in place (e.g. for a new admission where needs are well understood on entry), the start of the funding will be

considered on a case by case basis. We understand that in some circumstances providing the provision set out in the claim may involve recruitment of new staff and that you may wish to proceed with your recruitment process where possible and safe to do so.

Contact Details

Occasionally a High Needs Funding Officer may wish to clarify details within an application. In these instances, the High Needs Funding Officer will contact your SENCO via email to arrange a time to talk by phone, Skype or similar.

High Needs – Special Schools and Specialist Resource Provision

Core funding (Element 1 & 2) will continue to be paid based on the higher of either the number of commissioned places or the number of pupils on roll. Top up funding (Element 3) will continue to be funded on the number of pupils on roll, as agreed with SEN, and therefore is unaffected by whether a child is absent or not due to the Coronavirus or whether school is able to remain open.

If a school is in receipt of exceptional pupil need funding, then we will continue honour this payment until at least the end of the Summer Term. If you have any queries please contact the SEN Team.

Funding for additional costs – Free School Meals

The Department of Education has set out its expectation of schools to ensure eligible pupils continue to access free school meals whether the pupil is at home or within school; or when the school is only open for certain groups or is closed temporarily. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>.

The Department of Education have confirmed they will be publishing guidance shortly on how they will compensate schools who incur additional costs in providing free schools meals or vouchers to pupils affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19). At this point we do not know what form or amount this may take but we will update the FAQs as soon as further information is known.

Funding for additional costs – cover for Easter Holidays

The Government has set out its intention to ensure schools remain open for key groups of children during the Easter Holidays. We are awaiting details from the Department of Education as to how this will be funded but in the meantime a school should assume, they will be reimbursed where they are financially disadvantaged as result of providing this facility. Further information will be provided in future FAQs.