

Criteria for in-year budget allocations to schools admitting a disproportionate number of SEND pupils numbers

The DfE encourages LAs to allocate additional resources to schools that admit a disproportionate number of pupils with SEN with a clear expectation that this will affect only a minority of schools. The rationale of the contingency is that the normal operation of the simplified Funding Formula does not adequately resource schools for all costs when there is a large concentration of high needs pupils and inclusion of pupils into mainstream schools rather than specialist providers should be encouraged.

There is no prescribed methodology on how such a fund should work and the scheme agreed by the Forum following consultation schools requires schools to meet both of the following criteria:

1. Where the proportion of pupils on roll classified as high need exceeds 4% of total pupil numbers in a primary school and 2% in a secondary school, and
2. Where the proportion that top up funding paid to support High Needs pupils compared to the total budget allocated via the BF Funding Formula exceeds 2% in a primary school and 1% in a secondary school.

Approved by the Schools Forum on 15 July 2021