

Appendix A

Growth Fund Policy

(1) The purpose of the growth fund is to support:

(a) basic need expansions (permanent and bulge) approved by the local authority as these are not captured in the October census until the following year. Additional classes must be part of the growth plan agreed and co-ordinated by the Admissions and Schools Investment team.

(b) additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.

(2) These will be funded from the centrally retained growth fund created from top slicing the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Where a school increases its PAN, in agreement with the Admissions and Schools Investment team, funding will be provided based on AWPU x the number of additional places until these are reflected in the school funding formula. Funding will be adjusted to reflect the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share.

(3) Growth funding will be allocated as follows:

(Primary AWPU or KS3) x 30 to each school, adjusted to reflect the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share until the school receives funding through their funding formula.

For example, new classes opening at any point in September will be funded at $30 \times \text{AWPU} \times 7/12$, and one opening at any point January will be funded at $\text{AWPU} \times 30 \times 3/12$.

Where primary schools have expanded from 1.5 to 2 FE in September, funding will be calculated on $\text{Primary AWPU} \times 15 \times 7/12$.

Academies, as these operate on a different funding cycle, would be funded from the month of opening to the following August but the additional payment relating to April to August period is adjusted against the DfE recoupment amount so that the call on the growth fund is the same as funding maintained schools.

In exceptional cases, an additional £3,000 maybe provided towards start-up costs of outside of the agreed growth fund formula.

(4) Any underspend on growth funding may be carried forward to the following funding period, and any overspent growth funding will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.