
SUBJECT: SPECIAL SCHOOLS & UNIT PROVISION 2016/17

DATE: 9 MARCH 2016

RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

SUMMARY:

1. This paper outlines the proposals for the funding for special schools, units in maintained schools/academies and pupil referral unit (PRU) from April 2016.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

2. Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Special Units

The local authority has identified, based on current profile, the number of places required at the five special schools, four special units and one free school in the 2016/17 financial year.

School	Places April 2016	Places Sept 2016
Springwell School	128	144
Great Oaks School	178	178
The Cedar School	70	70
The Polygon School	55	55
Vermont School	32	32
Bitterne Park School	8	8
Tanners Brook Primary School ¹	14	14
Redbridge Community School	7	7
Rosewood School	32	32
Compass School	160	160
Total	684	700

3. Special schools, special free schools and maintained schools/academies with a special unit are funded on the basis of a flat £10,000 per place plus a per pupil top-up. Schools only receive top-up funding for the actual numbers of pupils in their school.
4. Whilst there is not a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for special school and units, there is a requirement that the top-up element of the funding is set at such a level that, if all the places were filled and the pupils came from the maintaining authority, the school's budget would reduce by no more than 1.5%.
5. It is worth noting that due to the pressures on the High Needs Block for 2016/17, there have been a subsequent requirement to transfer over an additional £1.1M of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This is consistent with the change of funding in mainstream schools to accommodate the transfer of funding between blocks. The top up rates for 2016/17 will remain as 2015/16.

¹ Tanner Brook Primary School is now an academy therefore they will receive their place funding from the Department of Education (DfE) directly. The calculations for Top-up funding as shown in appendix 1 are indicative and may vary as per actual occupancy.

6. The indicative budget (as shown in Appendix 1) is set on the average numbers of places (April / Sept) multiplied by the number of places per band. The indicative numbers of pupils per band are based on the forecast received from individual schools in January 2016. In the indicative allocations, September 2016 starters are assumed to be a band 2. These will be assessed as part of the moderation process as detailed in paragraph 8.

It is important to note that the actual top-up funding that the schools receive may vary compared to the indicative allocations because actual payments will be made on the basis of actual number of Southampton pupils within each band. For other local authority pupils, schools will receive funding from those authorities directly.

7. It is acknowledged that the special schools funding review needs to take place however the timing of this review will need to coincide with the implementation of the New Funding Formula (NFF) in 2017/18 when the implications on all three funding blocks become clearer.

8. Moderation of Top-up Bandings

In the spring term of each academic year (the term with the highest movement between bands) the needs of all new pupils are to be moderated by special school head teachers and the SEND team to agree the ongoing band for top up funding. To enable this to happen, heads will be required to submit information regarding the proposed banding of individual pupils by the end of the first week of the Spring term to the SEND team.

After this first moderation, all pupil bandings would be subsequently reviewed and agreed as part of individual annual reviews. Any request for an increase in top up funding must be supported by documented evidence of need. Such requests would be considered by SEND Advisory group.

As the LA continues to pay the top up funding termly in arrears, the process of moderation must be timely to enable pupil funding to be transferred to each special school before the end of the first month of the term. This is vital to reduce the possibility of schools having a deficit budget at the end of the financial year.

9. Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)– Compass School

The PRU will be funded for 160 places. Each place will attract a base level of funding of £10,000 per annum from the High Needs Block.

Top-up funding per pupil will be paid by the commissioner of the place (either the local authority or a school) on the basis of three place types – Band 1, 2 and 3. It should be noted that for Higher Needs Pupils, that would otherwise require placement within a special school setting, top up funding will be paid on the basis of the Polygon top up rates.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 - 2016/17 Special Schools and Unit Provision – Top Up Rates

Further Information Available From:

Name:	Irfan Khan
Tel:	3785
E-mail:	irfan.khan@southampton.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - 2016-17 Special Schools and Unit Provision

						Indicative			Indicative				
		Apr	Sep	Total	Per Place Funding	Band 1 Places	Band 2 Places	Band 3 Places	Top up per Band 1	Top up per Band 2	Top up per Band 3	Top up funding assuming NOR	Total assuming NOR
Special Schools													
7035	Springwell School	128	144	137	£1,373,333	28	99	10	£7,544	£11,316	£15,088	£1,484,884	£2,858,218
7036	Great Oaks School	178	178	178	£1,780,000	46	114	18	£5,202	£7,803	£10,404	£1,316,106	£3,096,106
7037	The Cedar School	70	70	70	£700,000	5	47	17	£7,919	£11,878	£16,555	£891,418	£1,591,418
7039	The Polygon School	55	55	55	£550,000	7	33	15	£6,484	£9,726	£12,967	£563,057	£1,113,057
7040	Vermont School	32	32	32	£320,000	2	26	5	£7,713	£11,569	£15,425	£381,776	£701,776
Special Schools Total		463	479	472	£4,723,333	88	319	65	£34,862	£52,292	£70,439	£4,637,242	£9,360,575
Maintained with Special Units													
4270	Redbridge Community School	7	7	7	£70,000	7	0	0	£4,727	£0	£0	£33,089	£103,089
4278	Bitterne Park Secondary	8	8	8	£80,000	8	0	0	£100	£0	£0	£800	£80,800
		15	15	15	£150,000	15	0	0	£4,827	£0	£0	£33,889	£183,889
Maintained Total		478	494	487	£4,873,333	103	319	65	£39,689	£52,292	£70,439	£4,671,131	£9,544,464
Others													
2436	Tanners Brook Primary School (Special Unit) ¹	14	14	14	£140,000	14	0	0	£4,662	£0	£0	£65,268	£205,268
7050	Rosewood					32			£17,000			£544,000	£544,000
1100	The Compass School (PRU) ²	160	160	160	£1,600,000	15	105	40	£3,868	£4,746	£14,421	£1,133,190	£2,733,190

Notes:

¹ Tanners Brook converted to an Academy - place funding will be received directly from DFE

² Top up funding for higher needs pupils who would otherwise have required placement in a special school setting will be paid on the basis of the Polygon top up rates

Compass - Charges to Schools:

Band 1 - KS1/2 Dual Roll Placement (Cost per week)	£99
Pupil Premium	£34
Band 2 - KS3/4 Dual Roll Placement (Cost per week)	£122
Pupil Premium	£24
Band 3 - Alternative Pathway	£5,409
Pupil Premium - Yrs 7-11	£935
Pupil Premium - Yrs R-6	£1,320