

## **Finance Information Group (October 2018) FAQ's**

### **Split site funding**

A local authority formula can include a factor to provide additional funding to schools which operate on and own more than one site.

Examples of clear trigger points are:

- the sites are at least x metres / kilometres / miles apart as the crow flies and the sites are separated by a public highway
- the provision on the additional site does not qualify for an individual school budget share through the DSG
- the school has remote playing fields, separated from the school by at least x kilometres / miles and there is no safe walking route for the pupils

Ian Hamilton has advised that the distance between sites for the split site funding has not been determined yet.

However, the distance may not be the most important consideration and whether or not the sites are separate entities and a significant proportion of pupils attend the site will have greater emphasis on funding.

### **Teachers Pay Updates**

The Budget Planning Software (BPS) was updated on 12 October 2018 as a result of the publication of the E-bulletin providing details of Kents Recommendations with regards to the Teacher Pay scales from 1 September 2018.

The Schools Personnel Service (SPS) model Pay Policy published on 16 October 2018 provided details of these pay scales which included different pay values for Mainscale point 6 and Upper Pay Scale 3 (not the maximum of these two ranges).

This was as a result of a recommendation that those individuals on the top of the pay scale whose performance does not result in an uplift should stay on the original value.

This information was not included in the E-Bulletin published on 12 October 2018 and therefore not until after the BPS pay scales were updated. As soon as we were aware of this additional consideration, the BPS was amended the same day.

## Teachers Pension Contributions

The current employer contribution rate for the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is 16.48 per cent which has been in place since 1 September 2015.

This is expected to change following the outcome of the next actuarial valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) which is expected to increase but at this time the new employer contribution rate has yet to be confirmed.

HM Treasury has agreed to **defer implementation of the new employer rate until September 2019** to help schools and other employers with financial planning and give sufficient time to make the practical changes needed.

Considering the unforeseen additional costs, **the Department for Education will be providing additional funding** to maintained schools and academies in 2019-20 to support the implementation. Further information will be available in due course.

## Funding beyond 2019-20

At present there is no further information regarding the 2019/20 funding other than what was provided at the recent Finance Information Groups.

Further details will be available in the new year and confirmation of budgets for 2019/20 as well as indications of what predictions to be made for future years will be provided at the end of February 2019.

## High Needs

What evidence is there that the funding received is closing the attainment gap as expected?

Additional high needs top up funding is provided by the Local Authority to schools when a child's provision to meet their special educational needs exceeds £6,000 as specified by the Department of Education.

Kent County Councils expectation is that the annual review of the child's progress towards their SEN outcomes, as identified within an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for many children, are being met.

KCC are always working towards narrowing the attainment gap but for many children their progress is only small steps and the SEN outcomes being addressed aren't always attainment based (i.e. Developing social skills, managing anger, developing personal care skills).

## **Corporate Account Bank Charges**

Are the quarterly charges different to the monthly ones we receive for Bankline?

Yes. Bankline charges are applied on a monthly basis. Any other charges accrued are charged on a quarterly basis.

## **Bank Interest apportionment**

NatWest are resolving the delays in the payment of interest to those with Corporate Bank Accounts.

Schools Financial Services have been in regular contact with NatWest who have advised us that, the issue appears to be IT related and a specialist team are working on this and our relationship manager is chasing them for an urgent resolution.

They understand schools are becoming impatient with this and are looking to find a resolution as soon as possible.

Further to Gill Pegrums presentation on cyber fraud, **NatWest will be hosting a webinar on 'How to Stay Cyber Safe' on 22 November 2018.**

Please contact [schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org) for further details on how to register.