

## Growth Fund Policy

### Background:

2015-16 Revenue Funding Arrangements published by the DfE/EFA: 'Operational Information for local authorities' outlines the principle for a growth fund. Local authorities may centrally retain funding within the schools block in order to create a growth fund for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need, to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation and to meet the costs of new schools.

The growth fund may **not** be used to support schools in financial difficulty or for general growth due to popularity.

All central budgets within the schools block must be made available to recoupment academies on the same basis as maintained schools – The only exception is that DfE will continue to pay start-up and post opening costs for 'Free Schools'.

Growth funding will apply where a school/academy:

- has increased its PAN, at the request of the authority, to provide an extra form of entry or greater to meet basic need in the area (caused by general population growth or housing development) as an on-going commitment
- has agreed with the authority to provide a number of places above PAN as a bulge class as a consequence of school reorganisation or to meet short term additional needs.

Growth funding will **not** apply where a school/academy:

- increases its PAN by choice but not agreed with the local authority as part of the process to meet basic need in the area
- admits over PAN by choice (not to meet agreed basic need)
- where pupils are admitted above a schools PAN as a consequence of appeal or error in the school admissions process.

Bristol's growth fund consists of 5 elements:

1. Planned basic need growth
2. Brand new schools start up
3. Brand new schools post opening
4. Infant class size funding
5. Application for exceptional circumstance

## **1. Planned Basic Need Growth**

Funding to schools is provided where the Local authority has requested to increase the schools PAN in order to meet basic need. Funding is calculated as follows:

In the first year of increased intake the formula is:

30 pupils (for an extra form entry) multiplied by the entire pupil led elements of the formula (basic entitlement, deprivation, EAL, prior attainment) multiplied by 7/12ths (for the September – March).

On average this is approximately £60,000. The school will also receive £4,000 for a new reception class and £3,000 for any other new key stage class.

The period April-August will be covered by the schools formula funding allocation in the following local authority financial year based on numbers from the October census however, for academies we are required to fund the increase for the whole academic year and the April –August element will be recouped from the EFA.

In subsequent years as the increased admission moves through the year groups, the school will be funded as above but on actual pupils rather than a full class of 30 i.e. year 1 on October 2015 census less year 1 on October 2014 census . If these extra pupils increase the number of classes needed in that year group, the school will also receive the £3,000 towards extra resources.

If the growth requires an **additional site**, the school would receive the split site element of the formula, (£31k in 2015/16).

In the first year of increased intake funds can be released for the start of September, for subsequent years information will be required from the October census therefore funds will be released by end of December.

**Please note, there is no need to apply for this growth funding. If it is planned and authorised by the LA, the LA will track and pay each year.**

## **2. Brand new schools - start up**

Where a school or a new academy is established for basic need purposes, the responsibility for start-up funding and diseconomies lies within the Local Authority. Start-up costs apply to the period between the capital work being completed and the school opening.

A one- off payment will be made as follows:

£50,000 1 form entry school

£70,000 2 form entry school (or larger)

**Please note, there is no need to apply for this growth.**

### **3. Brand new Schools – Post opening funds**

Where a school or a new academy is established for basic need purposes, the responsibility for start-up funding and diseconomies lies with the Local Authority. Post opening funds relate to the need to incur some fixed management and premises costs as new schools build up their numbers.

In the financial year after opening (i.e. school opened September 2014, post opening funds commence 2015/16 local authority financial year) the school will be eligible for post-opening funds as per the details below:

- An allocation for non staffing resources is paid whilst the school is building up to capacity, an amount of £250 is multiplied by the number of **new** pupils expected to be on roll at September. For example, if 30 pupils are on October 2014 census and 60 are expected on the October 2015 census, the non staffing element would be:

$$30 \times £250 = £7,500.$$

- An allocation for leadership is based on the number of year groups that the school will ultimately have but do not yet have pupils. For example, a primary school would have 7 year groups but in the first year of opening, 6 would be empty. A lump sum allocation would be given as per below:

Empty Cohorts	6	5	4	3	2	1
Primary allocation	£80,500	£67,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£13,500

Overall, if the primary school opened in September 2014 with 30 pupils in Reception there would be 6 empty year groups which would initiate an allocation of £80,500 and if the school expects to have 60 pupils in total by September 2015 (30 in reception and 30 in year 1 ) then they would also receive £7,500 in respect of non staffing resources. Hence their total post opening allocation would be £88,000.

This funding would need to be applied for on an annual basis. **The deadline for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

A form is available from the DSG finance team [BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk).

### **4. Infant Class size Regulation**

Support for infant classes where pupil numbers exceed a multiple of 30 while an ordinary teaching session is conducted by a single teacher (or, where the session is conducted by more than one school teacher, a maximum of 30 pupils for every teacher).

Schools should not have class sizes of more than 30 in KS1 (from reception to Y2) in the infant phase.

This is governed by the Infant Class Size Regulations and is monitored externally by the DfE through the pupil census. A link to the regulation can be found here : [The School Admissions \(Infant Class Sizes\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

There are exceptions to this, the Infant class size legislation makes allowance for the entry of an additional child in very limited circumstances where it would be prejudicial to his or her interests not to admit them ('excepted pupils').

The circumstances where a child can be admitted as an 'excepted pupil' are:

- a) Children admitted outside the normal admissions round with statements of special educational needs specifying a school
- b) Looked after children and previously looked after children admitted outside the normal admissions round
- c) Children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process
- d) Children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal
- e) Children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance (the local authority has to confirm that the child qualifies under this category)
- f) Children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round
- g) Children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil
- h) Children with special educational needs who are normally taught in a special educational needs unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school

These children will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit. Excepted pupils will not attract additional funding from the Growth Fund.

Where there would be no alternative to having a class size of more than 30, and in order to comply with the Regulations, funding will be paid to reflect the costs of an additional teacher. This funding would be used to either enable the formation of another class or simply teach the bigger class with 2 teachers.

Examples:

Total KS1 pupils on the October census are 154.  
154 divided into 30 = 5.133 classes, so 6 classes are needed.  
The difference between 6 and 5.133 = 0.867.  
Therefore would be funded 86.7% of an average teacher.  
 $£35,000 \times 0.867 = £30,345$ .

Total KS1 pupils on the October census are 175.  
175 divided into 30 = 5.833, so 6 classes are needed.  
The difference between 6 and 5.833 = 0.167.  
Therefore would be funded 16.7% of an average teacher.  
 $£35,000 \times 0.167 = £5,845$ .

Schools with fewer than 30 KS1 pupils will not be eligible as the lump sum on the funding formula is deemed to provide sufficient resources for an infant class.

Schools with more than 6 classes  $30 \times 6 = 180$  pupils in KS1 would also not be eligible as they would be deemed to have sufficient resources in their funding formula.

Infant class size funding would need to be applied for on an annual basis. A form is available from the DSG finance team [BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk).

**The deadline for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

#### **5. Application for exceptional circumstance**

Schools can submit an application into the LA for extra funding from the growth fund **due to basic need growth**, the case for the exceptional circumstance (that requires funding over and above the funding formula and the planned basic need growth) should be clearly stated with evidence supporting the claim for which the outcome will be decided by the Service Director for Education and Skills and the Chair of the Schools Forum.

A form is available from the DSG finance team [BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk).

**The deadline for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

#### **Unspent Funds**

Any unspent growth funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> March will be used to support the overall DSG fund as directed by the Service Director of Education and Skills in consultation with the Head of Finance (People).