
Meeting: Schools Forum

Date: 25 June 2012

Subject: Use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support activities aimed at closing the gap for Ethnic Minority (EM) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) pupils

Report of: Helen Redding, Head of learning and School Support

Summary: The report sets out the feedback received from the Headteachers and partners Reference Group in response to the request by Schools Forum for the Group to consider alternative models of distribution of the now discontinued Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant (EMAG) in 12-13.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Given that the recent DfE document 'Reformed Funding System: Operational implications guidance to Local Authorities' sets out that DSG cannot be topsliced in this way from 2013, the Reference Group:

- **recommend to the Schools Forum that the £118,104 be allocated as proposed (as per previous years) for this year only.**

Background

1. The EMAG grant was part of the Standards Fund until 2010/11. Standards Funding has now been discontinued and been subsumed within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
2. The purpose of the EMAG grant was to support schools to narrow achievement gaps for EM (ethnic minority) and EAL (English as an additional language) pupils.
3. In 2011 -12 the total top-sliced DSG of £118,104.00 was distributed to maintained schools on the basis of the number of EM (ethnic minority) units at a school (as identified through the School Census Feb 2011 data).
4. Allocations for each Unit have been:
 - (a) £30 per lower school unit;
 - (b) £21 per middle school unit;
 - (c) £28 per upper school unit.
5. The rationale for this was to focus on early years and the need to improve KS4 results.

6. All maintained schools, including special schools, were allocated a minimum of £200. Schools with less than 8 EM units were allocated the basic £200.
7. The remaining surplus was used in 2011/12 to support 2 small Travellers' projects at Stanbridge Lower School and Burgoyne Middle School.
8. Schools are expected to use the grant in the following ways to secure enhanced levels of achievement for targeted pupil groups and greater educational and social inclusion.
 - (a) fund specialist teaching and non-teaching posts;
 - (b) provide supply cover costs to release staff for relevant training;
 - (c) fund training courses;
 - (d) purchase suitable teaching resources and materials;
 - (e) fund the provision of translators.
9. The Council no longer has an Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service so there is now a greater emphasis on schools supporting EM/EAL pupils through their own resources.
10. The DfE Paper 'Reformed Schools Funding System: Operational implications guidance for Local Authorities' sets out that this cannot be retained centrally from April 2013 and will have to form part of the schools formula.
11. Any decision will therefore only have effect for one year (2012/13)

Actions taken since Schools Forum March 2012

12. In March the Schools Forum voted not to allocate the £118,104 of top-slice DSG until the Head of Learning and School Support had consulted with the Learning Transformation Board on possible alternative ways of allocating the funding, and to feed back their recommendations.
13. A paper was taken to the Head teachers and Partners Reference Group asking them to provide a steer as to what proposals should be put to the Schools Forum in June
14. The Reference Group agreed that given this is only in place for one more year, it would not be good use of time to develop other models of allocating this funding. It was recommended that the same formula of allocation be applied for 12-13 as the previous year.

Background Papers: Previously circulated