

**Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**Next steps for school funding in England**

*with*

**Tony Foot**, Director, Education Funding Group, Department for Education  
*and*

**Barbara Ball**, *Asend*; **Chris Belfield**, *Institute for Fiscal Studies*; **Sean Coughlan**, *BBC News*; **Richard de Friend**, *Ark Evelyn Grace Academy, Brixton*; **Michelle Doyle Wildman**, *PTA UK*; **Julia Harnden**, *ASCL*; **Valentine Mulholland**, *NAHT*; **Richard Slade**, *Plumcroft Primary School, London* and **Maire Williams**, *National Foundation for Educational Research*

*Chaired by:*

**Lucy Powell MP**, Member, Education Select Committee

***Morning, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018***  
***Central London***

[Book Online](http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/school-funding-2018) | <http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/school-funding-2018>

This seminar will bring together key policymakers and stakeholders from across the education sector to consider the future funding of England's schools and priorities for improving financial efficiency.

It follows two major consultations and the recent announcement of the Government's final [National Funding Formula](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fairer-funding-system-to-end-postcode-lottery-for-schools) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fairer-funding-system-to-end-postcode-lottery-for-schools>) for schools, to be introduced from April 2018, which commits to increasing the basic amount of per pupil funding between 2018-2020.

The seminar also takes place in the context of the [announcement](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-statement-to-parliament-on-school-funding) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-statement-to-parliament-on-school-funding>) made by the Secretary of State in July of an additional £1.3 billion in core school funding over the next two years.

Delegates will consider the challenges for implementing the formula, including the key implications for different types of schools, disadvantaged pupils and those areas of England which will receive reduced funding. The interaction between schools and local authorities during the initial two year period, when local authorities will review and distribute funding based on their own factors, will also be considered.

Further sessions will discuss:

- Proposed reforms to High Needs Funding for SEND provision in mainstream education;
- Longer term financial planning, amid uncertainty over possible effects of inflation on school budgets, including resource and staff planning, prior to the next spending review;
- Opportunities for improving efficiency in the school system - along with examples of best practice in budget management and identifying areas for potential efficiency savings; and
- The knock-on effects of funding reform on other areas of education including the teaching workforce.

The seminar is organised on the basis of strict impartiality by the Westminster Education Forum.

## Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Next steps for school funding in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Venue: Central London

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.15 **School funding in England - the current landscape**  
**Chris Belfield**, Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- 9.15 - 10.05 **Key issues for implementing the new National Funding Formula: the ongoing role of local authorities and next steps after 2019-20**  
**Julia Harnden**, Funding Specialist, ASCL  
**Richard Slade**, Headteacher, Plumcroft Primary School, London  
**Michelle Doyle Wildman**, Acting Chief Executive, PTA UK  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Chris Belfield**, Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- 10.05 - 10.45 **Implementing a high needs funding formula and implications for SEND provision**  
**Barbara Ball**, Managing Director, Asend  
Senior representative, charity  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lucy Powell MP**, Member, Education Select Committee
- 11.25 - 12.00 **Beyond the National Funding Formula: other issues for school funding and key challenges for the teaching workforce**  
**Valentine Mulholland**, Head of Policy, NAHT  
**Maire Williams**, Economist, National Foundation for Educational Research  
**Sean Coughlan**, Education Correspondent, BBC News  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.25 **Financial efficiency in English schools and supporting frontline teaching**  
**Richard de Friend**, Chair of Governors, Ark Evelyn Grace Academy, Brixton  
Senior representative, consultancy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Moving towards a national funding formula for schools**  
**Tony Foot**, Director, Education Funding Group, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Lucy Powell MP**, Member, Education Select Committee  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum