

Appendix A

10th July 2018 (v3)

Proposed arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Special Schools when additional places are required.

1. In paragraph 62 of High needs funding 2018 to 2019 Operational guide it states:-
2. “Where a local authority wants to commission further places at an institution which has filled all the places it has been funded for (irrespective of which local authority has filled them), agreement needs to be reached with the institution on the level of top-up funding required. Local authorities shouldn’t automatically be charged an extra £6,000 or £10,000 per head if it’s agreed that the institution can provide the support package for additional pupils and students at marginal additional cost. Local authorities and institutions will need to agree an acceptable approach that represents best value and the local authority will need to fund this from its high needs budget.”
3. All pupils placed at special schools are funded at the appropriate top-up for the agreed banding they are allocated to. For pupils placed at a school within the school year this will be on a pro-rata basis.
4. From April 2019 the school will received a Single Value Top-up (SVT) for each pupil placed at the school and this will be the basis for additional pro-rata top-ups when pupils are placed at the school in excess of the commissioned number.
5. The number of agreed commissioned places funded at £10,000 is designed to enable each school to maintain the central management and services essential for the school to operate. Therefore, as per P62 above, additional pupils do not necessarily indicate extra expenditure on the central functions of the school and any additional staffing and/or resources required will be met by the additional top-up funding.
6. However, it is recognised that there may need to be extra expenditure when a high number of additional places is requested. Therefore, from September it is proposed that a pro-rata payment based on a maximum of £5,000 will be paid for every pupil placed at the school above the commissioned number.
7. Where a school has received additional top-up and place funding and a pupil leaves lowering overall pupil numbers there will be no claw back of the additional funding the school has received. However, the amount of over-funding will be off-set against any additional sums subsequently triggered.
8. Where schools receive requests for additional places from other local authorities it is for the school to negotiate on an individual basis with the placing local authority the funding per additional pupil payable, including both top-up and place funding.