Report to: SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date: 14 January 2021

Reporting Officer: Tim Bowman – Assistant Director, Education

Tom Wilkinson - Assistant Director, Finance

Subject: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FORMULA

2021-22

Report Summary: A report on the arrangements concerning the DSG funding for 2020-

21.

Recommendations: 1. Members of the Schools' Forum are requested to note and

support the contents of the report.

2. Members of the Schools' Forum approve the funding formula for mainstream schools as set out in Section 3.

3. Members of the Schools' Forum approve the growth fund.

4. Members are requested to support schools' continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

5. Members of the Schools' Forum approve the allocation of the Central Services Schools Block.

Education finances significantly support the Starting Well agenda to provide the very best start in life where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop, and supports Aspiration and Hope through learning and moving with confidence from childhood

to adulthood.

Policy Implications: In line with financial and policy framework.

Financial Implications: The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure.

This report sets out the allocation basis for all Tameside schools for

2021-22

Legal Implications:

Officer)

Officer & Chief Finance

Corporate Plan:

(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

The legal framework for school budgets is based on legislative provisions contained in sections 45-53 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and accompanying regulations. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 provide the framework for the funding of maintained schools including how the local authority may allocate their schools budget.

The School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 gave effect to the decision to reform school funding through a simplified local formula with greater delegation to schools and new arrangements for funding pupils with high needs. In addition the School and Early Years Finance (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 set out the requirements for determining the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Department for Education and Skills Funding Agency has also issued Operational Guidance for local authorities relating to school and early years budget setting for the 2021/22 financial year to support Council's compliance with the Regulations.

Risk Management: The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is

a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These

will be subject to regular review.

Access to Information: NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the

public.

Background Information: The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by

contacting Christine Mullins - Finance Business Partner, Financial

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out information on the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2021-22.
- 1.2 **Section 2** is a summary of the DSG settlement from the DfE/ESFA.
- 1.3 **Section 3** provides details of the Schools Block and the proposed funding formula for Mainstream Schools in Tameside in 2021-22.
- 1.4 **Section 4** provides details of the High Needs Block.
- 1.5 **Section 5** provides details of the Early Years Block.
- 1.6 **Section 6** provides details of the Central School Services Block (CSSB).

2. PROVISIONAL DSG SETTLEMENT FOR 2021-22

- 2.1 The provisional DSG settlement for 2021-22 of £229.965m was received on 17 December 2020. All DSG funding must be deployed to schools and / or pupils in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020.
- 2.2 Table 1 provides the breakdown of the provisional settlement for the four blocks within the DSG announced in December 2020, compared with the 2020-21 latest settlement figures.

TABLE 1 - DSG Settlements as at December 2020

DSG Blocks	2020-21 £000	2021-22 £000	Increase £000
Schools Block (includes Academies)*	169,918	183,081	13,163
High Needs Block	24,425	28,277	3,852
Early Years Block	17,261	17,494	232
Central Schools Services Block	953	1,114	161
Total	212,557	229,965	17,408

Note: the table above includes roundings

- 2.3 The Schools Block increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers, the roll in of the Teachers Pay and Pensions Grants, uplift for RPIX on PFI and an increase in DfE funding rates.
- 2.4 The High Needs block increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers and the per head gain Tameside is seeing as a result of the National Funding Formula. The gains cap is set at 12% for 2021-22, allowing Local Authority's (LAs) to see an increase up to this amount compared to the 2020-21 actual high needs allocation. Tameside are seeing an increase of 16% including growth in pupil numbers.
- 2.5 The Early Years Block increase relates to an increase in the DfE funding rates.
- 2.6 The CSSB increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers and an increase in the DfE funding rate, which includes an element of funding for the roll in of the Central Teachers Pension grant. Further information is provided in **Section 6.**

^{*} It should be noted Academy funding is recouped by the ESFA. The amount recouped by the ESFA is calculated using the formula set out in Section 3.

3. SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 3.1 The Schools Block is the largest element of DSG funding which provides the majority of funding for Mainstream Schools and Academies, with additional elements potentially being allocated through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The schools block settlement from the DfE is made up of the following funding:
 - A primary unit of funding (PUF) of £4,601.57;
 - A secondary unit of funding (SUF) of £5,902.47;

These units of funding are based on 2020-21 pupil numbers and characteristics and make up the vast majority of the schools block. This core school funding covers funding for all pupil and school led factors in the funding formula. The PUF and SUF are multiplied by the pupil numbers in reception to year group 6 plus pupils aged 4 to 10 not assigned to a year group for primary and pupils in year group 7 to 11, plus pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group for secondary.

- Premises this includes PFI and business rates which are based on historical spend;
- Mobility to support schools in which a high proportion of pupils first join on a nonstandard date.
- Growth this is calculated using the difference between the primary and secondary numbers on roll on the October 2019 and October 2020 school censuses.

TABLE 2 – Schools Block Settlement from DfE

Element of Funding	Schools Block £000
Primary Funding (20,697 Pupils)	95,239
Secondary Funding (14,059 Pupils)	82,983
Premises	3,923
Growth	936
Total	183,081
Protected Funding for the pay and pension grants	7,574
Total excluding protected funding	175,507

Proposed funding Formula for Mainstream Schools

- 3.2 Schools' Forum agreed to support a disapplication request to the Secretary of State to move 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs block. At the time of writing this report, the outcome of the disapplication is unknown. A 1% transfer is not affordable within the funding settlement whilst adhering to the NFF rates (as agreed with Schools' Forum). Therefore, should the disapplication be approved, a transfer of 0.575% will be made resulting in £1.009m being transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
- 3.3 Schools' Forum agreed to support a 0.5% transfer in the event the Secretary of State rejected the application. Should this be the case, it would result in a transfer of £0.877m of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block and the £0.132m remaining would be added to the growth fund as unallocated growth to support any additional unknown growth requirements. It is proposed that any surplus in growth be used to support the deficit on the DSG.
- 3.4 The rates used for each sector to allocate the funding to each individual school are included at **Appendix A.**
- 3.5 The PFI funding continues to be delegated to the relevant schools. The delegated figures have been uplifted by RPIX of 1.56% which reflects the increase in the unitary charge paid

for the delivery of PFI services. This element of funding will be recovered by the LA in 2021-22 as in previous years.

- 3.6 Business Rates are funded to the equivalent value of the Business Rates charge for 2021-22. An estimate of Business Rates has been calculated as the actual charges will not be available until late March / early April 2021. Adjustments will be made accordingly once the charges are known.
- 3.7 In 2021-22 LAs are able to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0.5% and +2% per pupil. In the Schools' Forum paper in November 2020 the proposals were to include a 0.5% MFG which is the rate at which MFG has been set.

The MFG is calculated as follows.

'Total Schools Block' plus 'the protected teachers' pay and pension funding' minus 'Business Rates' minus 'Lump Sum' = MFG Value. It should be noted that MFG does not protect a reduction in funding due to a reduction in pupil numbers.

3.8 The Gains Cap is a limiting factor which limits the gain in pupil led funding per pupil that a School receives. This is a necessary factor to enable the LA to meet is statutory duty to set a balanced DSG budget. For 2021-22 the gains cap required is 3.64% as opposed to the 3.21% cap consulted upon in November 2020. This means that a gaining school will receive up to a 3.64% gain (0.5% as MFG plus 3.14% cap) on pupil led funding. Any gain above this is used to partly offset the MFG and allow a balanced DSG budget to be set.

Growth

- 3.9 The policy for the growth fund was agreed by Schools' Forum in June 2019 and is included at Appendix B.
- 3.10 There are 2 types of growth that are funded from the growth fund. Explicit Growth and Implicit Growth.
 - (a) Explicit growth relates to the specific growth fund and is allocated based on the growth criteria agreed by Schools Forum.
 - (b) Implicit growth relates to adjustments to pupil numbers when calculating the funding; in this case for new and growing schools.
- 3.11 The estimated Growth Fund required in 2021-22 is £0.544m and detail of this growth is included in table 3. This relates to the explicit growth only. As stated in the growth policy, the final growth allocation will be based on actual numbers which will be taken from the October 2021 census.

TABLE 3 – Explicit Growth

School	£000
Milton St John's CofE Primary School	33
Alder Community High School	64
Mossley Hollins High School	62
Hyde Community College	77
Denton Community College	77
St. Thomas More RC College	39
All Saints Catholic College	77
Audenshaw High	77
Droylsden Academy	39
Total	544

Note: the table above includes roundings

3.12 There are currently three new and growing schools in Tameside. Growth is required for these schools as the intake increases each year. The growth for these schools is allocated by adjusting pupil numbers to reflect the estimated intake in September. This is implicit growth and the breakdown of allocations is included in table 4.

TABLE 4 – Implicit Growth

School	£000
Inspire Academy	147
Discovery Academy	74
Laurus Ryecroft	645
Total	866

3.13 As in previous financial years Schools are asked to support safeguarding in the borough, by agreeing to make a contribution of £2.90 per pupil towards the cost of the TSCP (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership). All schools are asked support the continuation of this arrangement in 2021-22. This equates to approximately £0.103m.

4. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 4.1 In December 2020 the government released the provisional 2021-22 High Needs Block Allocation of £28,277m (before academy recoupment). This is an increase in funding of £3.852m compared to 2020-21 budget settlement.
- 4.2 Table 5a shows the increase in funding before any academy recoupment and Table 5b provides a more detailed breakdown of the change in Basic Entitlement. The allocation includes the following adjustments:
 - Basic Entitlement updated with pupil number data from the October 2020 census
 - Basic Entitlement includes approx. £0.456m teachers' pay & pension and £0.391m growth in pupil numbers
 - Import and Export adjustments to reflect cross border movement of pupils living in one borough and accessing provision in another (a further update to this data will follow in June 2021 when January 2021 school census for Pre 16 and February 2021 R06 individualised Learner Record (ILR data) for Post 16 is available)
 - The new AP Funding Factor which includes hospital education funding and teacher pay and pension grant for AP providers.

TABLE 5a - Changes in settlement compared to 2020-21

	2020-21 Allocation £000	2021-22 Allocation £000	Difference
Total high needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	22,571	25,468	2,897
Basic Entitlement (see table 5b)	2,426	3,282	856
Total Formula Allocation	24,997	28,751	3,754
Plus AP Funding Factor	82	180	98
Less Import/export	(654)	(654)	0
Total Allocation (before Recoupment)	24,425	28,277	3,852
Less Recoupment	(1,630)	(1,630)	0
Total Allocation (after Recoupment)	22,795	26,647	3,852
Further Recoupment Adjust (place Change Sept 21)		(68)	(68)

Funding Available	22,795 26,579	3,784
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TABLE 5b - Changes in Basic Entitlement

Basic Entitlement	2020-21	2021-22	Difference
Increase in Numbers	602	699	97
Cash Value £	4,033	4,699	666
Total Allocation £	2,426,114	3,282,224	856,109

High Needs Funding Allocations to Schools

4.3 The number of commissioned places have been agreed with special schools and resourced units for September 2021. These are included below in table 6a, 6b and 6c.

TABLE 6a: Special School Places Commissioned September 2021

	Current No's	Commissioned No's	
Special Schools	Sep-20	Sep-21	
Hawthorns	137	140	
Thomas Ashton	88	90	
Oakdale	137	130	
Cromwell High	96	116	
Samuel Laycock	176	170	
Total	634	646	

TABLE 6b: AP Places Commissioned Sept 2021

	Current No's	Commissioned No's	
Pupil Referral Service	Sep-20	Sep-21	
Tameside PRS	130	130	

TABLE 6c: Resourced Base Places Commissioned September 2021

	Current No's	Commissioned No's	
Resourced Units	Sep-20	Sep-21	
Oakfield	13	8	
Russel Scott	5	6	
Linden Road	4	4	
St John Fisher	15	15	
Hyde	2	2	
St Thomas Moore	18	19	
Total	57	54	

- 4.4 As part of the High Needs Review the LA has identified a review of Top Up rates will take place. This is an extensive piece of work of which the first stage was the launch of the Matching Need to Provision (MNPT) document. Future stages will include mapping current pupils onto the new document and costing these placements. Data is currently be collected from special schools to start this process. It expected any change to funding will not happen until April 2022, therefore the current rates will remain in place for the financial year 2021-22 and can be found at **Appendix C and Appendix D**.
- 4.5 In September 2019, the DfE published its intentions to carry out a SEND review. There have been delays due to Covid but it is expected a consultation process will commence early in

the New Year with the intention any outcome will inform 2022-23 funding. Following the SEND reforms introduced in 2014 the review will look at:

- How the system has evolved
- How the system can provide high quality support for SEND pupils as they prepare for adulthood including employment
- Support parents in making decisions on their pupils support
- Making sure support is joined up across health, care and education services
- Striking the balance between mainstream and specialist places
- Understanding what is behind the rise in Educations, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's)

5. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

5.1 Table 7 provides the current funding settlement for Early Years for 2020-21 and 2021-22. The settlement is based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2020 and will be updated based on January 2021 and January 2022 census data.

TABLE 7 – Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding Streams	2020-21 Early Years Allocation at Nov 2020 £000	2021-22 Provisional Early Years Allocation £000	Increase / (Decrease) in Funding £000
3 & 4 Year Old Universal Entitlement	9,693	9,819	127
3 & 4 Year Old Extended Entitlement	4,501	4,560	59
2 Year Old Entitlement	2,863	2,906	43
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	136	136	0
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	69	73	4
Total	17,261	17,494	232

- 5.2 The increased funding for 3 and 4 Year Olds and 2 Year Olds is as a result of an increase in the rates. The rate the LA is funded on for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by £0.06 from 4.59 to 4.65 and by £0.08 for 2 year olds from £5.38 to £5.46.
- 5.3 Consultation will need to be held with Early Years providers regarding the increase and therefore an additional Schools Forum meeting will be required to agree the rates of allocation for this element of funding. A report will be completed for this additional meeting with further information on the funding arrangements for the LA and for providers.

6. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)

- 6.1 This block was introduced in 2018-19 to fund statutory duties the LA undertakes for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:
 - Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
 - Funding for ongoing central function such as admissions which were previously top sliced from the schools block
 - Residual funding for historic commitments of which there are none for Tameside MBC

- 6.2 The total allocation to the LA for 2021-22 is £1.114m. This is based on a per pupil element of £29.28 for ongoing duties (i.e. Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licenses, former ESG duties) totalling £1.018m. An additional unit of funding for centrally employed teachers of £2.77 has been included to fund the pension increase (formally funded through the Teacher's Pension Grant) for central teachers providing £0.096m of funding.
- 6.3 National Copyright School Licenses are also funded from this block and the amount for 2021-22 is £0.180m.
- 6.4 The DSG operational guidance for 2021-22 requires the LA to formally request Schools Forum approval for the central retention of funding for the following:
 - School Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - Contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (formally the retained duties element of the ESG)
- 6.5 The budgets for the above are still being worked on but the costs overall are currently in excess of £1.069m. There is £0.838m available to support these costs, which Schools' Forum is requested to approve.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 As set out at the front of the report.

APPENDIX A

Rates for the Mainstream Funding Formula	Rates for Primary Sector 2021-21 £	Rates for Secondary Sector 2021-22 £
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)		
Primary	3,123.00	
Secondary - KS3		4,404.00
Secondary - KS4		4,963.00
Deprivation		
FSM	460.00	460.00
FSM6	575.00	840.00
IDACI band F	215.00	310.00
IDACI band E	260.00	415.00
IDACI band D	410.00	580.00
IDACI band C	445.00	630.00
IDACI band B	475.00	680.00
IDACI band A	620.00	865.00
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	550.00	1,485.00
Low Prior Attainment	1,095.00	1,660.00
Mobility	900.00	1,290.00
Minimum Funding Level	4,180.00	5,415.00
Lump Sum	117,800.00	117,800.00

TAMESIDE MBC SCHOOLS AND ACADEMY PUPIL GROWTH CRITERIA

Growth funding at Tameside is provided to support mainstream Schools and Academies schools with significant in year pupil growth. In order for a school to receive growth funding there must be prior approval with the Local Authority (LA), funding will be provided to Schools that agreed the additional intake with the Local Authority in advance. If schools choose to admit additional pupils without agreement with the Local Authority they will not be eligible to access this funding, the rationale for this is that the Schools concerned are helping to address a Borough wide demand for places coordinated through the LA

The growth fund can only be used to:

- Support planned growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need whether this is a continued growth in numbers or a one off bulge class.
- Support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation:
- Meet the cost of new schools This includes growing schools that have opened in the last 7 years and don't yet have pupils in every year group; and diseconomies funding for new schools that will incur additional start up and diseconomy of scale costs.

Explicit Growth

Growth will be funded on AWPU rates for mainstream Maintained and Academy schools in line with the Tameside rates agreed at Schools Forum. This will be a different rate in primary schools and secondary schools. Both one off bulge classes and planned continued growth classes will be funded using the same principles. The allocation to schools will be based on the increase in capacity adjusted for actual September intake numbers multiplied by 7/12th of the Basic Amount per Pupil (to cover September to March). Actual numbers will be taken from the October census.

Where a school has agreed planned growth there should be a minimum of 5 or more pupils before growth funding is allocated, but a minimum level of funding of 15 pupils will funded to ensure that the school does not face financial difficulty. Funding will be capped at 30 pupils.

There are two schools in receipt of historic growth funding for a one off bulge class where, as agreed at Schools Forum in June 2019, these two schools will continue to receive £32,640 as per the historic criteria until the class affected passes through the school, the historic arrangement is as follows:

Historic Arrangement – Explicit Growth

Schools that agreed to take a one year only Bulge class of 30 children within the last 7 years, where the Bulge class concerned has less than 20 children on roll. This would only apply to Schools that agreed to take the bulge class with the Council in advance and where there is only one Bulge class in the School meaning it was not possible to combine classes across year groups. This would not apply where Schools have chosen to admit additional children without agreement with the Council. The rationale for this is that the Schools concerned are helping to address an area wide demand for places coordinated through the Council.

Implicit Growth

Implicit Growth is the funding method that is applied for new and growing schools. This requires the LA to adjust pupil numbers when calculating the funding for the expected September intake.

Diseconomies Funding (Maintained Schools Only)

This funding is specifically for newly established schools whose costs cannot be met through the normal schools block funding due to not having every year group open. The diseconomies funding provides funding in two elements as the school grows: Non-staffing Resources and a Leadership Grant. These titles reflect the basis on which the funding is calculated, but the grant can be spent on any legitimate purpose of the school.

Non-staffing Resources – This is paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll and is not revisited to reflect actual pupil numbers and is taken from the admissions data. It is paid at the following rates:

- £250 for each new mainstream pupil in the primary phase (year's R 6)
- £500 for each new mainstream pupil in the secondary & 16 to 19 phases (years 7 13)

Leadership Grant - is paid annually based on the number of year groups that the school will ultimately have that do not yet have pupils. The amount paid to mainstream schools with pupils aged 5 to 15 each year depends on how many year groups (cohorts) are empty, and is set out in the table below.

Empty Years	6+	5	4	3	2	1	Max
Primary	£80,500	£67,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£13,500	£283,000
Secondary			£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£31,000	£312,000
All through	£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£402,500

[#] Secondary and all through funding is regardless of whether the school plans to have a sixth form

APPENDIX C

Special School Top Up Rates

Banding	Description	Severity	Allocation £
PMLD-1	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Level 1	1	12,754
PMLD-2	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Level 2	2	19,131
PMLD-3	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Level 3	3	32,753
ASC-1	Autism Spectrum Condition Level 1	1	11,479
ASC-2	Autism Spectrum Condition Level 2	2	17,218
ASC-3	Autism Spectrum Condition Level 3	3	31,477
SLD-1	Severe Learning Difficulties Level 1	1	10,203
SLD-2	Severe Learning Difficulties Level 2	2	15,305
BESD-1	Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties Level 1	1	9,566
BESD-2	Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties Level 2	2	14,348
MLD-1	Moderate Learning Difficulties Level 1	1	5,102
MLD-2	Moderate Learning Difficulties Level 2	1	7,652

Summarised Banding Descriptions

PMLD- Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

Level 1

The pupil has PMLD and requires 1-1 support for their personal care and support for accessing learning. A multi-disciplinary plan is required to ensure all the pupils' needs are met.

Level 2

Due to complexity of needs e.g. blind, deaf, severe epilepsy, personal care needs the pupil may require 2-1 support for some of the day.

Level 3

Needs greater than Level 2

ASC- Autism Spectrum Condition

Level 1

The pupil has been diagnosed with ASC. The environment is resourced to meet need. A plan around the child is used to ensure strategies and approaches are consistent at school and at home. External agencies offer guidance on strategies to be implemented.

Level 2

The pupil has additional needs that may warrant individual support for some of the day e.g. challenging/high risk behaviour, medical needs.

Level 3

Needs greater than Level 2

SLD- Severe Learning Difficulties

Level 1

The pupil has been identified as having SLD. The environment is resourced to facilitate effective communication. There is also support to develop the pupils attention and concentration skills throughout the school day. External agencies offer advice and frequent input to the teacher, teaching assistance and parents.

Level 2

The pupil has additional needs that may warrant individual support for some of the day e.g. specific care needs- tube feeding, medical needs- epilepsy and challenging/ high risk behaviour.

BESD- Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties

Level 1:

The pupil has been identified as having BESD that are impacting on their ability to learn. They may also have an additional need e.g. MLD, speech and language needs.

Level 2:

The pupil has been identified as having BESD. There is evidence that the need is long term and that a multi-agency approach is required.

MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulties

Level 1:

The pupil has been identified as having MLD and may require support from an external agency e.g. speech and language therapist.

Level 2:

The pupil has been identified as having MLD, a secondary category has also been recognised e.g. Specific language difficulty, behavioural difficulties, hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical difficulties or motor impairment.

APPENDIX D

High Needs Top Rates - Mainstream

Band	Equivalent TA Hours from Assessment	Funding Allocation £	Equivalent TA Hours Being Funded @ £439.12
##	1-14	0	0.0
1	14.1-17	1,317	3.0
2	17.1-20	2,635	6.0
3	20.1-24	4,391	10.0
4	24 +	6,587	15.0

- Assessments of equivalent Teaching Assistant Hours of less than 14 hours do not attract top up funding as these should be funded from schools Notional SEN.