

## **GROWTH FUND CRITERIA**

### **Growth in Pupil Numbers**

#### **(i) 7/12th AWPU Funding**

This element provides additional funding to schools in the following circumstances:

- Where there is an increased Published Admission Number (PAN) determined at the request of the local authority through the annual admissions process.
- Where there is a local agreement between a school and the authority for the school to take an increased number of pupils (which is outside the annual admissions process).

Additional funding is provided in these situations because the additional cohort of pupils starting in September is not recorded on the schools census in time to generate additional funding in the normal way. The funding provides a resource for the period September to March and assists schools to fund the consequential staff and resource implications of the additional pupils. It is allocated as a one off payment to schools agreeing to a temporary expansion, and allocated to schools expanding permanently for the number of years required for the expansion to work its way through all the year groups in the school (e.g. 7 years for a primary school). The additional funding is calculated as follows:

Planned increase in the size of the annual cohort at the school  
(e.g increase in the published Admission Number)

X AWPU (plus London fringe where applicable)

X 7/12

Additional arrangements apply in respect of small expansions and academies.

#### **Small Expansions**

Most school expansions are by a form of entry in which case the Growth Fund allocates per pupil funding for 30 additional pupils for the period September to March. However, the situation may arise where the number of additional places required to meet demand in the locality is considerably less than 30, for example 10. A Growth Fund allocation based on this level of increase in pupil numbers will not generate enough funding to provide for a new class at the school.

Therefore there is a minimum threshold for allocations from the Growth Fund, where the size of the new expanded cohort requires the school to run another class in the cohort. In such cases the Growth Fund would allocate funding by reference to the number of classes required multiplied by 24 pupils.

(For example, if a cohort at a school was increased in size from 30 to 40 pupils this would require two classes and the September to March allocation from the Growth Fund would be for 18 pupils (i.e. the difference between 30 and 48).

## **Academies**

Academies are funded on an academic year basis, with allocations based on the previous October's pupil count. Therefore the time lag between an academy taking extra pupils and receiving the funding for them through its budget share is not 7 months as with a maintained school but 12 months. Therefore academies qualifying for expansion funding from the Growth Fund receive an additional allocation to cover the period April to August. This is calculated as 5/7 of the allocation for the previous September to March. (As the extra cost of this is a product of academy funding arrangements, it will be reimbursed to the authority by the DfE and will not be a charge to the Hertfordshire Schools Budget.)

## **(ii) Revenue Protection Factor**

In addition there is a protection factor which guarantees pupil funding for expanding primary schools up to 24 or multiples thereof. This means, for example, that a school expanding from 1 to 2 f.e. would be guaranteed funding for a minimum of 48 pupils if the actual number of pupils fell below this level. At a time of rapidly rising rolls this protection factor is only likely to be activated in exceptional situations but schools consider it an important element when agreeing to expand or not.

In the case of temporary expansions, the classes with the "bulge" cohort will be protected at the target number throughout the cohort's time in the school. For permanent expansions the target number formula will also be applied to subsequent cohorts until the new PAN has worked its way through the school (i.e. for 7 years in the case of a primary school).

It is not intended that this factor should provide a greater degree of protection to expanding schools than they would have received if they had not expanded. Therefore, if the actual pupil numbers of the school fall to (or below) its original, pre expansion size, this protection would not apply.

## **Infant Class Size (ICS) Protection**

The School Admissions Regulations require that (with certain exceptions) reception/key stage 1 classes should not be larger than 30 pupils. The Growth Fund provides allocations to support schools in delivering the infant class size requirement, covering the following groups of schools:

- Primary Schools except 1.5 and 0.5 Form Entry Schools and Small Schools
- 0.5 Form Entry Schools
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### **(a) Primary schools except 0.5 and 1.5 form entry schools and small schools**

This element of the infant class size factor focuses on schools with non-standard PANs or large numbers of vacancies, which may face particular challenges in complying with the infant class size requirement.

Eligible schools are:

- i) Schools with high levels of vacancies - defined as where the total reception and KS1 number (i.e. three year groups) on roll at the October census prior to the start of the financial year is less than 80% of the PAN multiplied by 3.
- ii) Schools with non-standard PANs - defined as those with a PAN of 21 to 22 or 51 to 52.

Schools eligible for the separate 1.5 fe or 0.5 fe elements of ICS funding are not also eligible for this element. Schools with fewer than 90 pupils on roll do not qualify for ICS funding as it would be assumed their class size issues are the product of being small schools.

The allocation formula is as follows:

Calculate the difference between the number of classes required (Reception & KS1 pupil numbers/30 and rounded up) and the number of classes notionally funded (Reception & KS1 pupil numbers/24).

Where the number of classes required exceeds the number of classes notionally funded, take the difference between the two and multiply by £40,000; which is the approximate cost of a teacher on the pay grade MPS6.

Example

	<b>R/KS1 pupil number</b>	<b>Classes required</b>	<b>Classes funded (Pupil Numbers divided by 24)</b>	<b>Additional class required</b>	<b>Additional funding at £40,000 per Additional Class</b>
<b>School A</b>	91	4	3.79	0.21	£8,333
<b>School B</b>	151	6	6.29	0	£0

### **(b) Small Schools**

Schools with 90 or fewer pupils are not eligible for ICS funding. Small schools will not have more than 30 pupils in a year group and there is a general expectation (for example, by parents) that they will vertically group classes, depending on numbers, which gives small schools more flexibility in this area.

### **(c) 0.5 Form Entry Schools**

The definition of a 0.5 form entry school is a school with Reception pupil numbers between 10 and 17 (inclusive) and Key Stage 1 numbers of between 20 and 34 (inclusive). The position of a 0.5 form entry (FE) school is similar to that of a 1.5 form entry (FE) school, in that each is 15 pupils short of full reception class. The funding formula for 1.5 FE schools is also applied to 0.5 FE schools. Funding is allocated using a ghost pupil approach based on Reception pupil numbers only. Under this formula the school attracts funding based on the number of ghost pupils, which is the difference between the number of reception pupils and 30. Funding is

allocated at £576 per ghost pupil, based on the number of ghosts implied by the pupil numbers from the October 2013 census.

Example

<b>Reception Pupil Number</b>	<b>30 less reception pupil number (ghost pupils)</b>	<b>Funding at £576 per ghost pupil School C</b>
15	15	£8,638

#### **(d)1.5 Form Entry Schools**

These schools face the practical difficulty that while it is possible to identify 3 mixed age classes in Key Stage 1, it is difficult to provide a sustainable class structure for the Reception year group.

Funding is allocated using a ghost pupil approach based on Reception pupil numbers only. The number of ghosts is the difference between the number of Reception pupils and the next multiple of 30 (i.e. 45 Reception pupils = 15 ghosts). Funding is allocated at £576 per ghost pupil, based on the number of ghosts implied by the pupil numbers from the October 2013 census.

The definition of a 1.5 FE entry school for Infant Class Size funding purposes is a school with between 30 and 50 (exclusive) reception pupils and between 72 and 92 (inclusive) KS1 pupils.

October 2013 pupil numbers will be used to calculate the ICS funding in 2014-15.

#### **Interaction of Infant Class Size Protection and Expansion Funding**

It is not intended that a school should separately attract both Growth in Pupil Numbers funding and ICS protection funding. Therefore schools eligible for funding through the Growth in Pupil Numbers element of the Growth Fund will not also receive ICS funding.