

2024-25 School Funding Consultation Autumn 2023 Responses

4.1

School:	Total no. of Responses	Total no. of Schools	% Response
Primary:	36	64	56.25%
Secondary	8	14	57.14%
Total:	44	78	56.41%

Question 1

Should the LA set the MFG at +0.5% change in pupil funding in 2024-25 compared to the revised 2023-24 baseline?

Question 1	Yes	No	Blank	Total:
Primary	36	0	0	36
Secondary	8	0	0	8
Total:	44	0	0	44
Percentage:	100%	0%	0%	

School:	Comments
Marksbury Primary	Yes - This is the maximum in the range quoted of 0-0.5%
Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust	Firstly, thank you for this open consultation and for the opportunity for us to contribute our thoughts. As a Trust, we are supportive of the MFG being increased by the maximum amount of 0.5%

Question 2

Should resources allocated by the DFE for the LA schools block not be sufficient to support the NFF in full, should the LA either A) introduce a cap on gains for 2024-25 to restrict schools with the largest gains to balance the schools block allocation or B) scale back the value of all eligible factors?

Question 2	A	B	Blank	Total:
Primary	1	35	0	36
Secondary	0	8	0	8
Total:	1	43	0	44
Percentage:	2%	98%	0%	

School:	Comments
Marksbury Primary	Restrict school with largest gains, on the premis that these are likely to have the biggest economies of scale in their organisation
Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust	As per the 2023-24 agreement, the Trust is supportive of scaling back the value of all eligible factors across all schools. This appears to be the fairer approach for all schools and is consistant with last year's approach.

Question 3

Do you agree with the schools forum that the LA should not create a Falling Rolls Fund in 2024-2025?

Question 3	Yes	No	Blank	Total:
Primary	35	1	0	36
Secondary	8	0	0	8
Total:	43	1	0	44
Percentage:	98%	2%	0%	

School:	Comments
Marksbury Primary	Smaller schools which are often the hub of the communities that they serve have huge fluctuations in intakes. Since the funding is based on the previous year's census this places a huge stress on these smaller schools. I agree that it should only be provided for one or two off blips, where numbers are expected to increase in future years.
Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust	As a Trust we agree with the proposal not to create a fund.

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Question 4				
Do you wish to reduce the B&NES equivalent value of £2,088 per annum for the year 1 lump sum allocation for LA Planned Growth to the DFE minimum requirement of £1,550 per annum from 1st April 2024?				
Question 4	Yes	No	Blank	Total:
Primary	2	15	19	36
Secondary	0	7	1	8
Total:	2	22	20	44
Percentage:	5%	50%	45%	
School:	Comments			
Marksbury Primary	I agree with the B&NES current formulae which includes provision for non teaching staff.			
Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust	Further information would be required on this matter to make an informed decision.			

Question 5				
Do you agree to extend the current arrangement of transferring 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block for 2024-25?				
Question 5	Yes	No	Blank	Total:
Primary	36	0	0	36
Secondary	8	0	0	8
Total:	44	0	0	44
Percentage:	100%	0%	0%	
School:	Comments			
Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust	The Trust is happy to support the continued arrangement of transferring 0.5% of the School's Block funding to the High Needs Block for 2024-25. Across our schools, the additional amounts are not material. Can we please however request confirmation of how this may affect the funding of the High Needs special unit at our St Nicholas Church School in Radstock?			
The Palladian Academy Trust	We are aware that supporting this area of high need is critical but unsustainable - we are aware there is a national review of SEND plus local area review to re-organise spending on high needs to bring best efficiency (including expansion of the resource base model for example). We look forward to the findings of the working party and onward strategy for this area. We are concerned about the increasing impact of poor funding for the nursery/early years sector and consider that potentially we need to be supporting this element of the schools sector with an element of the 0.5% rather than only considering High needs.			

Question 6				
Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the local National Funding formula for 2024-25?				
Question 6	Yes	No	Blank	Total:
Primary	1	35	0	36
Secondary	0	8	0	8
Total:	1	43	0	44
Percentage:	2%	98%	0%	
School:	Comments			
Marksbury Primary	Only that I vehemently believe that since funding given is meant to be spent on the pupils in the current year for which the funding that it is given, that it is and always has been nonsensical that the funding is provided on previous year's census date. For smaller schools this means that the 'current' year may be hugely disadvantaged or advantaged with this approach, and the ability to deliver a consistent education for all years is compromised. I acknowledge this only really affects smaller schools, but there are enough of them that should warrant a review.			