

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The LA has undertaken a review of the Scheme for Financing Schools. This report highlights the changes to the Scheme and in line with School Finance regulations seeks Schools' Funding Forum approval for the updated Scheme as set out in Appendix 1.

FOR:	Approval (by maintained school and PRU members only)
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Background

1. The Scheme for Financing Schools is the statutory document that governs the relationship on "all matters financial" between the Local Authority (LA) and maintained schools (including PRU's) in Kent. It does not apply to Academies. It is the umbrella document that contains the rules and regulations which all other finance guidance feeds from.
2. The Scheme was last approved by this Forum in June 2011 and has subsequently been updated in August 2012 for minor directed revisions by the Secretary of State for Education.
3. We have now received further directed changes and at the same time have made some minor cosmetic amendments to reflect the latest terminology. It is therefore an appropriate time to ask the Forum to formally approve the amended Scheme.
4. Attached at appendix 1 is a copy of the amended Scheme for information.

Summary of Scheme Changes

5. The significant changes are highlighted below:

Section	Description of change
1.2.1	Confirmation that legislation has already been amended to

	include maintained Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).
1.4	Only schools forum members representing maintained schools (inc. PRU's) should now approve scheme changes.
2.4	Remove requirement for schools to submit a Best Value Statement to the Local Authority
2.13	New paragraph clarifying financial responsibility for pupils who are educated other than at school (EOTAS).
2.16	Remove requirement for Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) and replace with School's Financial Value Standard (SFVS).
2.17	New section included regarding Fraud
Section 3	Clarification that place-led funding is included in arrangements for payments by instalment.
3.1	Clarification that High Needs top up payments should be made monthly unless otherwise agreed.
Section 9	Improved the wording for PFI affordability gap funding to comply with School Finance regulations and also to reflect current practice in Kent
11.8	Removal of Optional Delegation section as no longer applicable.

Recommendation

6. Maintained School and PRU members of the Forum are asked to approve the amended version of the Scheme for Financing Schools as attached at appendix 1.