

Additional Financial Frequently Asked Questions – June 2025

I am a junior school, will the 75% protected payments for children on SEN Support and for children with an EHCP less than £6,000, continue to follow the child from year 2 to 3 if they are moving from an infant to junior school?

The principle is 75% protection payments do not follow children between schools. This is to recognise schools may support children with SEN in different ways and have different SEN support offers. However, we have listened to your feedback and in this instance, we have recognised your view on the position of equity in relation to all primary schools and so, in this instance only we will make an exception and 75% protection payments will follow children moving from an infant to junior school (Year 2 to 3) in September 2025. These payments will come from the relevant community budget.

How do I access funding for Year R children arriving in September 2025?

Our original intention was for all new funding requests to be considered by the community first however, listening to your feedback, we are putting in place an interim process for children with an EHCP when first joining a mainstream school in Kent (i.e. they have not previously attended a Kent mainstream school). This will apply to all year R children joining a mainstream school in September 2025 along with other children who may move to the county during the year or transition from another setting i.e. SRP or Special School.

For children with an EHCP who fit this criterion, the Council will undertake a process to determine whether a school should receive an automatic payment or whether the school should consider their whole school SEN offer and seek support from their community (if required). This is in line with the principles of the new SEN funding model. If an automatic payment is agreed, previous funding support (such as SENIF) along with details in the EHCP will be used to determine a payment value. The payment will come from the Council directly and will cover the period until August 2026, subject to the child remaining at your school (it will not be deducted from the community budget). At this stage, we are not anticipating schools will need to provide further information. Moderation will also take place. We expect the process to be completed, and schools notified of the outcome before the end of the Summer Term.

For children on SEN support (along with children with an EHCP who do not receive an automatic payment), schools are expected to consider their whole school offer and, if required, request further support from their community.

Will my protected payments be updated for new claims made between January and March 2025?

We have previously confirmed funding protection for existing claims (either as a protected or automatic payment) will be based on claims as at December 2024 (subject to the child still attending your school). Funding for new claims made between January and March are only guaranteed up to the August 2025 and there is no automatic funding protection for new claims between January and March from September 25 onwards. This decision was taken to allow schools more certainty to plan for the forthcoming academic year but also in recognition that we had seen a significant spike in the number of new HNF claims applications submitted during the Spring Term ahead of the scheme closing at the end of March.

From September, we expected schools to review their whole school SEN offer and if required, seek support from their community if ongoing funding is still required.

On review of the new claims, we recognise some of claims may relate to children who were new to a Kent mainstream school in this academic year. Therefore, in this instance only where the child has an EHCP, we will review and determine whether an automatic payment from September 2025 may be appropriate (or whether the school should review their whole school offer and seek further support from their community if required). We will complete the review and notify schools before the end of Summer Term. At this stage, we are not anticipating schools will need to provide further information.

Will my protected payments be updated for changes to my claims made between January and March 2025?

Protected payments will be based on claim as at December 2024.

My claim was not processed at the time the school level templates were issued, and has subsequently been back dated to December 2024, will I get a protected or automatic payment from September 2025?

Yes, automatic and protected payments will be based on claims agreed as at December 2024.

Will the school level templates be re-issued?

The school level templates were issued on 28th March 2025, these were produced with information available at the time. We are committed to re-issuing an updated template when the outstanding high needs funding claims from the old system are completed. We had originally anticipated this would be done by end of May but due to the number of new requests this has taken longer than anticipated. We are expecting to send updated templates by 25th June at the latest.

Our intention is these templates will reflect the anticipated transition of children from September 2025, along with updates/corrections highlighted by school over the past few months.

I am a school in another local authority how do I submit a claim for funding towards supporting a Kent child?

Following changes to the Kent mainstream top up funding process. Requests for financial support for Kent children with an EHCP should be sent to the schoolfunding@kent.gov.uk. The Council will undertake a process to determine whether a school should receive payment. Previous funding support (such as SENIF) along with details in the EHCP will be used to determine a payment value. At this stage, we are not anticipating schools will need to provide further information. Moderation will also take place. Individual funding requests for children with SEN Support will no longer be considered.