

# **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund: conditions of funding**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Secretary of State for Education is providing financial assistance to maintained schools, in the form of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

1.2 The eligibility criteria for claiming the funding are set out in [guidance](#).

1.3 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will pay the grant to local authorities on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education on 28 August 2020.

1.4 The following terms and conditions apply to this funding for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

## **2. Allocation and payment to mainstream schools**

2.1 Local authorities must pay to each:

- primary, secondary and all through maintained school
- 16 to 19 maintained school
- maintained special school
- pupil referral unit
- maintained hospital school

which they are responsible for maintaining the amounts shown in ‘school allocations’ tab for each school in the allocations table issued to local authorities alongside these conditions.

2.2. The payments on 28 August 2020 are only for maintained schools who submitted claims within their limit for the total of the three eligible categories of additional costs, and did not claim for other costs outside of those three categories.

2.3 Local authorities must comply with condition 2.1 irrespective of any deficit relating to the expenditure of the school’s budget share.

2.4 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund is not part of schools’ budget shares and is not part of the individual schools budget. It is not to be counted for the purpose of calculating the minimum funding guarantee.

## **3. Terms on which coronavirus (COVID-19) schools fund is allocated to schools**

3.1 The funding must be only be spent on the costs submitted by schools in their claim for the fund.

3.2. Schools must have complied with declarations they made when they [submitted the claim for the fund](#) as follows:

- that the claim was made by a person with the authority to submit a claim for the school on the understanding that as a recipient of grant funding the school is responsible for protecting public money
- that the school will retain records to substantiate this claim and make them available to the Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on request, and understand that any funding provided may be recovered in part or in full if any conditions are not met
- that the details the school entered in the claim were correct and accurate, relate only to exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in accordance with the guidance published by DfE and ESFA, and do/will not duplicate any financial support provided from other sources to cover the same costs.

3.2 Schools must be spend the funding in the 2020 to 2021 financial year and cannot carry it forward into the following financial year.

## **4. Certification**

4.1 Each local authority will be required to certify to ESFA that they have complied with these terms and conditions.

4.2 ESFA will set out the arrangements for certification in April 2021.

## **5. Variation**

5.1 The basis for allocation of this funding may be varied by the Secretary of State from those set out above.

## **6. Overpayments**

6.1 Any overpayment of the funding by ESFA to a local authority shall be repaid by the local authority upon on such terms and conditions as ESFA or the Secretary of State for Education shall determine.

## **7. Further information**

7.1 Books and other documents and records relating to the recipient's accounts shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of State and by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

7.2 The Comptroller and Auditor General may, under Section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983, carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the recipient has used its resources in discharging its grant-aided activities.

7.3 Schools and local authorities shall provide information as may be required by the Secretary of State to determine whether it has complied with these conditions.