

National Funding Formula (NFF) Consultation FAQ

When will my school's budget share for 2020-21 be updated for the October 2019 census?

The final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) used to calculate the 2020-21 budget share is published in December 2019 and this will include the October 2019 census data. The deadline for the Local Authority (LA) to submit the APT to the DfE is the 21st January 2020. The DfE must approve the APT before the LA can publish budget shares to schools and academies on or before the 29th February 2020.

Why are the 2019-20 baseline figures included in the consultation different to the indicative published figures provided by the ESFA?

The 2019-20 baseline figures included in the consultation documentation agree to the APT submitted to the DfE in January 2019 for the 2019-20 published budget shares. Whereas the indicative published figures provided by the ESFA are not based on the January 2019 APT but are based on the ESFA Indicative 2019-20 published figures in November 2018.

What's happening with Teachers' Pay and Teachers' Pension Grant?

The teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contributions grant will both continue to be paid separately from the NFF in 2020-21. The 2020-21 rates will be published by the ESFA in due course.

Will all of the formula factors increase by c4%?

All formula factors will increase by 4% with the following exceptions:

- Free School Meals factor to increase by inflation as this will broadly reflect actual costs
- Premise factors will continue to be allocated at LA level on the basis of actual spend in 2019-20.

What are the minimum per-pupil levels for 2020-21?

The DfE have consulted LA's on the minimum per-pupil levels for 2020-21 and a decision on the consultation will be published after the General Election.

To ensure consistency the proposal is to have a simplified calculation for all school's individual minimum per-pupil levels within the NFF. For all schools the following calculation will be applied:

$(\text{number of primary year groups} \times \text{£}3,750) + (\text{number of KS3 year groups} \times \text{£}4,800) + (\text{number of KS4 year groups} \times \text{£}5,300)$ divided by the total number of year groups

Currently the NFF proposed minimum per-pupil levels are:

- Primary £3,750
- Secondary £5,000

The primary level will rise to £4,000 in 2021-22.

What level is the funding floor set for 2020-21?

The 2020-21 NFF funding floor is set at 1.84% which means that every school will attract an increase in pupil-led funding of at least 1.84% per pupil, compared to their 2019-20 funding floor baseline. The funding floor of 1.84% is applied through the minimum funding guarantee (MFG).

Will there be a gains cap in 2020-21?

The NFF will not include a gains cap or alternative gains cap in 2020-21. But LA's and schools forums as part of the consultation can determine as to whether to implement a gains cap and at what level as this remains a local decision. The consultation document does not include a gains cap.