

Review of Full Time Places

Introduction

The national Free Early Education Entitlement is for children to receive 15 hours of free nursery education from the term after they turn three years of age. In school settings this is typically provided as either a morning or afternoon place, five days a week. In Westminster, along with some other London boroughs, it has long been the practice for Maintained Primary and Nursery Schools to be able to offer some full time nursery education places – in effect 27.5 hours of free early education per week. There is no Westminster-wide policy for determining how many full time places should be offered, or who should benefit from them.

The number of pupils that are used to calculate the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for Westminster has up to now included a top-up for 3 year olds to 90% of the 3 year old population. This has brought in an additional £1.1m to Westminster. The DfE have confirmed this funding will end in the 2014/15 financial year, with a 50% reduction in the current 2013/14 financial year.

The Dedicated Schools Grant is only funded for 15 hours provision; therefore the 27.5 hours offer is subsidised by a top-slice of total school funding.)

Current Model and Places

Westminster currently has 722 funded FT pupils across nursery and primary schools being taken up. These cost £1.5m more than if only 15 hours per week was offered.

The School Forum in December 2012, a presentation was made to Headteachers on the proposed review of Early Years funding block and to explore the criteria for the future allocation of places and funding principals.

A working group has now been established of Headteachers from Primary and Nursery Schools and also representatives from the PVI sector to review the current financial arrangements, and to generate and develop models.

The Local Authority is committed to a full academic year transition period for the introduction of any proposed changes. This is to ensure effective communication with parents and for schools to make any required changes.

The table below outlines the proposed timescale for the review of full time places

Actions	Date
Report to schools forum January 2014	January 2014
Update Financial Information for the 204/15 financial year	February - March 2014
Consultation	May 2014– June 2014
Report back to Schools Forum on final model	June 2014
Communication to Schools	July 2014
Transition Period	Sept 2014 – August 2015
Implementation of New Model	September 2015

In order to develop the models to propose to the schools forum, of consultation questions have been developed

**RESPONSE FORM IN RESPECT OF EARLY YEARS FUNDING REFORM
2015/16.**

PRO-FORMA FOR COMPLETION

Please indicate your views on the proposals by ticking the appropriate boxes, adding any further comments in the spaces provided.

Respondent

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Position

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School

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Please indicate whose views this response represents.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governing Body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Teacher & Senior Managers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Teacher & Governing Body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chair of Governing Body	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Specify)

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- 1) In light of the change of funding regulation following the introduction of the funding reform from September 2015. Should schools continue to offer full time places

Yes	
NO	

Additional Comments:

- 2) Schools currently offer 722 full time places, will the reduction of these full time places have an effect on the viability of individual settings.

Comments:

- 3) In order to target places, what factors and criteria should be considered. A review of other Authorities models has shown some common factors.

- Statement of Educational Need
- Children in Local Authority Care
- Deprivation – Free School Meals, IDACCI of combination of both
- Children with a Child Protection Plan
- Other Factors; (please detail in comments box)

(Please rank each factor in order of Priority)

Factor	Rank
SEN	
Looked After Children	
Children with a Care Plan	
Deprivation	

Additional Comments

- 4) Question 3 proposes the targeting of places on a factor basis. Are there any other models that you feel should be considered

Additional Comments

- 5) How many hours should constitute a full time place. The current model for a full time place is 27.5 hours (The higher the number of hours the lower the number of places than can be offered)

Full Time Place Hours	Preference (Please Tick)
25	
27.5	
30	
32.5	

Additional Comments

- 6) If you have any additional information of Comments

Thank you for your comments a summary of all responses will be used in the final report to the Schools Forum.