

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member children and young people

Title	Schools Budget 2026/27
Decision maker	Cabinet member children and young people Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	13 February 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To approve school forum's recommended budget proposals for school budgets, central school services and early years within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2026/27
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>Herefordshire's school funding proposals for 2026/27 adopt the National Funding Formula (NFF) values and be approved by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, as recommended by School's Forum and set out in the report and as summarised in Appendix A.</p>

Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50053591
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Herefordshire Council has fully implemented the National Funding Formula (NFF) methodology, so alternative options are limited. Given the growing national issue of High Needs Block (HNB) deficits, the NFF allows for the top slice of the funding blocks to redirect to the HNB. The Schools Block top slice for SEN Protection Scheme has ceased for 2026/27 as reported at the Schools Forum meeting on 11 July 2025, following recommendation from Budget Working Group (BWG) on the 27 June 2025. 2. In considering the proposals set out in the report, the Council has consulted with Budget Working Group (BWG), schools and early years providers.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	19 February 2026

Councillor: Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)	Date 13 February 2026
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.