



Schools Forum – Schools Budget 2026/27 Report

Appendix A – Summary of Recommendations 2026/27

Schools Block

Herefordshire's School Block funding proposals for 2026/27 continue to adopt the National Funding Formula (NFF) values as per the Department of Education (DfE) and the following be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People as listed below:

- Minimum Funding Guarantee at 0% (maximum allowed for 2026/27).
- NFF values used for 2026/27 in line with DfE factor values but with an adjustment to Basic Entitlement values of 0.6% to enable the Schools Block 2026/27 to balance.
- No School Block transfer for 2026/27.
- PFI factor – increased to comply with PFI contract which uses the RPI(X) (annual increase specified by the DfE).
- An inflationary uplift of 2.47% be applied to the de-delegation of funding & education management function for 2026/27.

Central School Services Block

That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be advised for information, that Schools Forum approved central support services funding for 2026/27, as follows:

	2026/27 £	
Statutory retained duties	390,000	Education Service Management Team
Schools Forum administration costs	19,000	Democratic Services supporting the Forum
School Admissions	71,288	Admissions Service & Democratic Services (i.e. appeals process)
National licences for schools	192,736	Awaiting final confirmation from DfE so estimated at 25/26 charge plus 4% inflation
SACRE funding for statutory duties	4,000	Religious education curriculum costs
Transfer to the High Needs Block	286,441	
TOTAL	963,465	

Early Years Block

The Early Years Block budget for 2026/27 to be set as follows:

- a) Centrally Retained funding to be set at 2.7%, in line with previous years, and within the threshold of 3% in DfE Guidance. This includes additional posts included into the staffing structure for 2026/27, to support Early Years children with additional needs.
- b) SENIF budget to be set at £151,339 in line with previous years budgets.
- c) Deprivation supplement to be paid out to providers based on Early Years Pupil Premium data, total budget £194,797.
- d) Hourly rates to providers increased in line with inflation given by DfE.
- e) Contingency budget to be set for 3 & 4 Year Olds of £357,139. To support Local Authorities with the transition from annual to termly head counts, as per DfE guidance.