



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

**SCHOOL FUNDING**

**FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND  
DISABILITIES**

**November 2023**

## Introduction

***This leaflet relates to schools pupils; an early years leaflet will be provided in due course.***

*Schools receive funding for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in 3 parts:*

*Core funding for universal provision*

*Funding for targeted provision*

*Top-up funding for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans*

## Core funding for universal provision

*This is also known as:*

- *Age weighted pupil unit or AWPU and other pupil led funding*

Every school receives this funding for all pupils. It is the school's decision how they use this funding.

The funding can be used to pay for:

- Employing teaching staff, including the SENCO, administration and support staff
- Utilities e.g. electricity and other running costs
- Books and resources
- General staff training
- Anything else required to run the school.

The amount of funding each school receives is based on the number of pupils attending on a specific day; this day is known as the Census Day. It is allocated through a nationally agreed formula; this is known as the National Funding Formula or NFF.

In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, we expect schools to use 7.5% of this money for specific support for pupils with special educational needs. This forms part of the Notional SEN Budget – see below.

## Funding for targeted provision

*This is also known as:*

- *Notional SEN budget*
- *Additional Needs funding*

Every school receives funding which is calculated through the local funding formula for pupils who have special educational needs. This is also based on the pupils in attendance on the Census Day. A number of different factors are used in this formula including low prior attainment. This means pupils whose attainments were lower than an expected threshold attract additional funding which is part of the school's budget allocation.

In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea we expect schools to use 100% of the funding they receive for pupils with low prior attainment to provide specific support for pupils with special educational needs.

Although the local authority has expectations about how the funding is used in schools, it is up to the school (Headteacher and Governors) to decide how to use this funding. Every school has a responsibility to manage and use their funding appropriately and it is expected that it will be used to support pupils to improve their outcomes but also provide good value for money.

This funding can be used to provide support that is seen as additional to or different from the provision that is available to all pupils. For example, (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Specific training such as whole school training on autism, or training teaching assistants to deliver specific programmes.
- Support and advice from external practitioners such as speech and language therapy or behaviour support.
- Specialist equipment such as a chair as recommended by an Occupational Therapist. If the equipment costs more than a locally agreed threshold, the local authority may be able to assist.
- Staffing and resources such as small group interventions, literacy groups, social skills groups, individual programmes.

This funding should be used to support pupils with low and high level needs.

If the school or college has a pupil with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) they must provide the first £6k each year of additional support for that pupil. This doesn't mean the support has to be provided on a one to one basis; small group support often brings about better outcomes. It is also important to note that schools do not receive a specific £6k budget for each pupil with an EHCP; this funding has to come from the school budget (generally from the targeted funding).

## **Notional SEN budget**

This is part of the school's overall budget and is made up of:

- 100% of the allocation for low prior attainment; and
- 7.5% of the age weighted pupil allocation in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

However, it is for the school to decide how much to spend on provision and support for pupils with special educational needs and how to use the funding.

## **Funding for specialist provision in mainstream schools/colleges**

*This is also known as:*

- *Element 3*
- *Top up funding*

This is additional funding for pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and is allocated by the local authority where the pupil lives even if they

attend a school in a different area. This funding is based on the pupil's needs and the level of provision they need in order to achieve the outcomes which are set out in their EHCP.

This funding is allocated for specific pupils and follows them if they move to a new school or college. However, this doesn't mean it should always be used to provide one to one support.

The allocation made will not provide sufficient funding to deliver all the provision specified in the EHCP as the school has to provide the first £6k from within its own resources.

### **Funding for resource bases which are part of a mainstream school**

Resource bases are within mainstream schools which can be maintained by the local authority or state funded e.g. free schools/academies. Resource bases may also be known as units in mainstream schools.

Pupils are placed in resource bases by the local authority and they usually have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The mainstream school receives:

- The universal provision funding as described above.
- The targeted provision funding as described above.
- £6,000 per year for each place at the Resource Base. The number of places is agreed with the local authority each year.
- Top up funding for all the pupils who are placed in the Resource Base. This is from the local authority where the pupil lives.
- An additional £4,000 per year for any places which remain vacant.

### **Funding for maintained and state funded special schools**

This means special schools which are maintained by the local authority or special free schools or academies.

Pupils are placed in the special school by the local authority and they usually have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The special school receives:

- £10,000 per year for each place. The number of places is agreed with the local authority each year and this includes places used by pupils from other areas.
- Top up funding for all the pupils who are placed in the special school. This is from the local authority where the pupil lives.

### **Funding for independent and non-maintained special schools**

Pupils are placed in the special school by the local authority and they will have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The non-maintained special schools receive:

- £10,000 per year for each place as agreed with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (a part of the national government). Place funding does not operate in independent schools.
- Top up funding or fees charged for all the pupils who are placed at the special school. This is from the local authority where the pupil lives.

Independent special schools charge fees which cover all the costs associated with running the school and making the specific provision for each individual child or young person placed there.

## **The High Needs Block**

The High Needs Block (HNB) is a Government grant given to each local authority for pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities, for alternative provision and for hospital education. It is managed by the local authority but is education funding.

The HNB funds:

- Places in special schools and resource bases
- Top up funding for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans no matter where they are placed
- Fees for independent school and college places
- Contracts for support services such as speech and language therapy
- Alternative provision such as TBAP
- Education for pupils who are in hospital including those with mental health difficulties
- A contribution to some central services e.g. the Educational Psychology Service.