

Briefing note

Grant Funding 2026/27.

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Purpose School grant funding available in 2026/27

PE & Sport Premium

The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed the details of the PE & Sports Grant for the academic year 2025/26 to give more children access to high quality PE lessons and sporting opportunities. No details have been confirmed for the 2026/27 academic year.

Allocations for the academic year 2025/26 were calculated using the number of pupils in years 1 to 6, as recorded in the January 2025 census, as follows:

- schools with 17 or more pupils receive £16,000 plus £10 per pupil
- schools with 16 or fewer pupils receive £1,000 per pupil

The allocations will be paid to schools in November 2025 and May 2026.

The grant is allocated per academic year with the current funding being agreed until August 2026. Further announcements on this grant funding are expected in the Spring. More information can be found [here](#).

Pupil Premium

The DfE has confirmed funding rates for 2026/27.

| Funding Element | Primary Pupils | Secondary Pupils | Funding is paid to |
|---|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Pupils eligible for FSM or have been eligible in the past 6 years | £1,550 | £1,100 | School |
| Pupils previously looked after by the LA | £2,690 | £2,690 | School |
| Pupils who are looked after by the LA | £2,690 | £2,690 | Local Authority |
| Pupils from service families | £360 | £360 | School |

Universal Infant Free School Meals

The government have confirmed that the universal infant free school meals grant will continue during the 2025/26 academic year and the rate will increase to £2.61 (£2.58 for the 2024/25 academic year) per meal. There are no details yet for the 2026/27 academic year.

Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)

The DfE announced in July 2023, £525 million in 2023 to 2024 to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award, with a further £900 million in 2024 to 2025. This grant is no longer paid as a separate grant.

| School Phase/Type | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Early Years | Will continue to be paid to school nursery classes as a Quality Supplement | Will continue to be paid to school nursery classes as a Quality Supplement |
| Mainstream Schools | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share |
| High Needs | Funding combined into a single Core School Budget Grant (CSBG), see CSBG table below | Rolled into the main high needs block baseline |
| Post-16 | Will continue to be paid to schools as an additional grant separate from core allocations | Rolled into core funding rates |

Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG)

The DfE published the outcome of the valuation of the teachers' pension scheme, this confirmed the employer contribution rate would be increased by 5% to 28.6% from 1 April 2024. Support for the increase was given through the TPECG. This grant is no longer paid as a separate grant.

| School Phase/Type | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Early Years | Will continue to be paid to school nursery classes as a Quality Supplement | Will continue to be paid to school nursery classes as a Quality Supplement |
| Mainstream Schools | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share |
| High Needs | Funding combined into a single Core School Budget Grant (CSBG), see CSBG table below | Rolled into the main high needs block baseline |
| Post-16 | Will continue to be paid to schools as an additional grant separate from core allocations | Rolled into core funding rates |

Core School Budget Grant (CSBG)

The CSBG provided support for schools for their overall costs in the 2024 to 2025 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award.

| School Phase/Type | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|--|---|---|
| Early Years (Early Years Budget grant) | Paid as part of the Early Years NIC and Teachers Pay grant. | Rolled into the early years block funding. |
| Mainstream Schools | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share | Rolled into the schools block funding and will be paid as part of the school budget share |
| High Needs | TPAG, TPECG & CSBG combined into a single CSBG and will continue to be paid to special schools as an individual grant. NIC grant funding and funding to support with the September 2025 teachers pay award will also be will also be delivered through the CSBG | Rolled into the main high needs block baseline. |
| Post-16 (Post-16 Budget Grant) | For academic year 2025/26 this has been included in the national funding formula rate | This has been included in the national funding formula rate. |

National Insurance Grant

The DfE have confirmed how they will provide details of support for schools with the increase in employer National Insurance contributions. This grant is no longer paid as a separate grant.

| School Phase/Type | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|--|--|--|
| Early Years (Early Years Budget grant) | Funding will be paid to LA's to distribute to eligible providers at a rate per part time equivalent child. Allocations will be published in May 2025 to be paid to schools in October 2025. This will be combined with the funding for staff pay and will become the EY NICs and Teachers Pay Grant. | Rolled into the early years block funding. |
| Mainstream Schools | Grant will be calculated on a per pupil basis, with a lump sum of £2,400 and additional funding for schools with special units and resourced provision, this will be paid to LA's for payment to schools in October 2025. A calculator | Rolled into the schools block funding. |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | tool is available for estimated allocations. To be incorporated into the national funding formula in 2026/27. | |
| High Needs | To be delivered through the CSBG, allocations will be published in May 2025 for payments to schools in June and October 2025, with updated allocations and final payments in March 2026. | Rolled into the main high needs block baseline. |
| Post-16 (Post-16 Budget Grant) | To be delivered through the Post-16 NIC grant 2025/26. Allocations will be published in May 2025 with payment as a single payment in September 2025. | This has been included in the national funding formula rate. |

Schools Budget Support Grant

Alongside the announcement of the 4% teachers pay award, the DfE confirmed funding for September 2025 to March 2026 for schools, to support them with their costs including staff pay. This funding takes account of both the local government employers pay offer in respect of support staff (for the full year), and the teacher pay award (for 7/12 of the full award). Further details can be found here with a calculator for mainstream schools [Schools budget support grant \(SBSG\) - GOV.UK](#)

| School Phase/Type | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|--|--|--|
| Early Years (Early Years Budget grant) | Funding will be combined with the early years national insurance funding to become the EY NICs and teachers pay grant. | Rolled into the early years block funding. |
| Mainstream Schools | Funding will be paid as an amount per pupil, with an additional amount for children eligible for free school meals and a lump sum. Payments will be made in November 2025. | Rolled into the schools block funding. |
| High Needs | Funding to be paid through the core school budget grant. | Rolled into the main high needs block baseline. |
| Post-16 (Post-16 Budget Grant) | To be paid through the core 16-19 funding allocations for the 2025/26 academic year. | This has been included in the national funding formula rate. |

Grant Funding for Additional FSM Eligibility

In June 2025, the government announced that, starting from September 2026, free school meals (FSM) will be extended to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. For 2026/27 the DfE are not proposing any changes to the schools NFF to allocate funding for this expansion of FSM. Instead, the funding needed for the FSM expansion will be provided through a separate grant. Further details on how the grant will be calculated will be published separately in due course.

Inclusive Mainstream Fund for Schools

On 25 March 2026 the DfE published the 2026/27 methodology for this grant. The announcement of the inclusive mainstream fund is worth over £500 million per year. Of this, £400 million per year is for schools. The funding is for the duration of the three-year spending period. It will support schools to move towards practices that are inclusive by design, providing early support directly to children without the need for diagnosis or statutory process.

| School Phase/Type | 2026/27 | Paying the Grant |
|--|---|---|
| Mainstream Schools for 5 to 16 year olds | A lump sum of £3,000 per school A per pupil amount as follows: Primary £16 for all pupils and £79 for low prior attainment eligible pupils. Secondary £14 for all pupils up to the age of 16, and £88 for low prior attainment eligible pupils | 1 annual payment in July 2026 for each school |
| Inclusive Early Years Funding | Funding will be allocated to the local authority based on the number of PTE universal hours 3-4 olds recorded in January 2026 schools, early years and alternative provision censuses. | 1 annual payment to the LA in July 2026 to allocate to EY providers |
| Inclusive Mainstream Fund for 16 to 19 Providers | Allocations will be based on student low prior attainment. | 1 annual payment in August 2026 |

Further information can be found here:

Mainstream schools 5-16 year olds

[Inclusive mainstream fund for schools: methodology 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

16 – 19 Providers

[Inclusive mainstream fund for 16 to 19 providers: methodology 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years

[Inclusive early years fund for 2026 to 2027: conditions of grant and operational guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK](#)

A calculator tool has been provided so that schools can see an estimate of their total funding allocation for planning purposes and can be found here [Inclusive mainstream fund: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#) School level allocations will be confirmed and published in May 2026.

| Version | Updated by | Date Updated | Updates |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| School Grant Funding | Michelle Hibbert | 13/03/2025 | Original document |
| School Grant Funding v2 | Michelle Hibbert | 18/03/2025 | Updated with details of new NIC grant funding and pupil premium funding rates for 2025/26 |
| School Grant Funding v3 | Michelle Hibbert | 30/05/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated with details of UIFSM for 2025/26 academic year. • Updated with schools budget support grant. • Early years national insurance grant now combined with the funding for teachers pay to become the EY NICs and teachers pay grant. • High needs element of the additional funding for teachers pay to be added to the HN core school budget grant. |
| School Grant Funding v4 | Michelle Hibbert | 09/03/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated all grants for 2026/27 where information has been published. |
| School Grant Funding v4 | Michelle Hibbert | 31/03/2026 | Added Inclusive Mainstream Fund for Schools 2026/27 |