

SEND Funding Information 2023 – 2024

Mainstream schools: we receive funding in 2 key ways

1. Our budget or core funding

As a mainstream maintained school, we receive resources to support pupils with special educational needs (SEN) through our main budget, or core funding - this is known as our 'notional SEN budget'.

Our school's budget is calculated through the [national funding formula \(NFF\)](#). For 2022-23, our local authority (LA) will use its own local funding formula to determine the actual allocation for its schools. It will use factors such as 'deprivation' and 'low prior attainment' to account for pupils with high needs in our school.

However, in the move towards a more direct NFF, in 2023-24 the DfE will require:

- LAs to use only NFF factors (and all of them) in their local formulae
- All local formulae factors to move at least 10% closer to the NFF (unless a local formula is already mirroring the NFF)

This means LAs may need to review how they calculate notional SEN budgets.

See section 3 of [guidance for the notional SEN budget in mainstream schools](#).

Using the budget, we're expected to:

- Meet the needs of pupils with SEN
- Fund the first £6,000 of additional support costs for pupils with high needs

Where the cost of a pupil's additional support is higher than £6,000, the excess will be met with top-up funding (more on this below).

This is outlined on pages 109 to 110 of the [SEND code of practice](#), and the high needs funding guide (see paragraphs 209 to 213 for [2022-23](#) and section 14.2 for [2023-24](#)).

2. Top-up funding

Where a pupil needs additional support to meet their needs **above the £6,000 threshold**, we should receive per-pupil [top-up funding](#) from our LA.

The process of applying for top-up funding, and the amount of funding that the LA makes available, is determined locally as part of the [local offer](#). This is covered in

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the high needs funding guide (see paragraph 110 for [2022-23](#) and section 11 for [2023-24](#)).

Personal budgets for pupils with EHC plans

Pupils with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#) have the right to request personal budgets.

Personal budgets are an amount of money identified by the LA to deliver provision set out in the EHC plan, where the parent or young person has a role in securing that provision.

There are 4 mechanisms for delivering a personal budget. These are:

- Direct payments, where individuals receive the money to contract, purchase and manage services themselves
- An arrangement where the LA, school or college holds the funds and commissions the support identified in the plan
- Third party arrangements, where funds are paid to and managed by an individual or organisation on behalf of the parent or young person
- A combination of the above

Where a direct payment is proposed for special educational provision, the LA must secure our school's agreement if any of the provision is to be delivered on our school's premises (see paragraph 9.104 of the [SEND code of practice](#)).

Special educational provision specified in an EHC plan can include provision funded from our school's budget share, and more specialist provision funded wholly or partly from our LA's high needs funding. It is the high needs funding that is used for personal budgets (see paragraph 9.112 of the SEND code linked above).

Our school is encouraged to personalise the support we provide, and can choose to contribute our own funding to a personal budget.

This is all covered on pages 178 to 182 of the SEND code linked above.