

Schools Forum – 4th July 2019

Growth Fund - Allocation of Funding 2019/20

Recommendations

- 1) That the Schools Forum notes the allocations of Growth Fund and, where appropriate, the schools' financial self-declarations as requested by Forum:
 - a. funding for infant class size legislation:
5 primary schools
 - b. funding for exceptional basic need growth:
1 primary school; 2 middle schools; 2 secondary schools
 - c. funding for new schools:
2 new free schools opening in 2019/20

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Families and Communities:

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

- 1) In accordance with the DfE's [schools revenue funding operational guidance](#), growth fund can be used to:
 - “support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet **basic need**”
 - “support additional classes needed to meet the **infant class size regulation**”
 - “meet the costs of **new schools**”
- 2) On 11 February 2013, Schools Forum agreed to establish Growth Fund criteria and members asked to be advised of funding allocations.
- 3) On 23 March 2016, Forum requested that schools receiving funding should complete a short financial self-declaration (see Appendix A and B).
- 4) On 16 January 2018, Forum revised the policy for new free schools opened by Staffordshire County Council through its free school presumption process (separate from with the “wave” process followed by DfE to open free schools).
- 5) On 18 October 2018, Forum approved the 2019/20 Growth Fund budget of:
 - £95,000 to support compliance with infant class size legislation
 - £500,000 to support basic need growth and costs of new schools
 - with any underspend being returned to the ISB 2020/21.

Reasons for recommendations:

Funding for infant class size legislation

- 6) In accordance with the infant class size criteria, **£84,232 will be allocated to five schools** based on an agreed number of additional infant teachers (see Appendix A for the schools' self declarations).
- a) Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School (Tamworth)
£3,303 towards the cost of a 5th infant class teacher
 - b) Baldwin's Gate CE (VC) Primary School (Newcastle)
£21,471 towards the cost of a 3rd infant class teacher
 - c) Rushton CE (C) Primary School (Staffordshire Moorlands)
£13,213 towards the cost of 1 infant class teacher
 - d) St. Leonard's CE (VA) First School, Ipstones (Staffordshire Moorlands)
£21,471 towards the cost of 1 infant class teacher
 - e) The Meadows Primary School (Newcastle)
£24,774 towards the cost of a 2nd infant class teacher

Funding for basic need growth

- 7) In accordance with the basic need growth criteria, **£177,150 will be allocated to five schools** that worked with the LA to meet exceptional population growth locally by creating an additional class (in primary schools) or exceeding PAN by at least 5% (by middle and secondary schools): see Appendix B for the schools' self-declarations.
- a) Bishop Lonsdale CE (VC) Primary School (Stafford)
£35,430 for 1 additional infant class teacher (YR)
 - b) Penkridge Middle School (South Staffordshire)
£35,430 allocation
 - c) Walton Priory Middle School, Stone (Stafford)
£35,430 allocation
 - d) Sir Graham Balfour High School (Stafford)
£35,430 allocation
 - e) Weston Road High School (Stafford)
£35,430 allocation

Funding for the costs of new schools

- 8) In accordance with the new schools criteria, **£114,500 will be allocated to 2 new free schools** opening in 2019/20.
- a) Streethay Primary School Free School (Lichfield)
£57,250 towards post-opening costs
 - b) Poppyfield Primary Academy (Cannock Chase)
£57,250 towards post-opening costs
- 9) NB there are no free schools opening in 2020/21 that would require funding for *pre*-opening costs.

Total expenditure

- 10) The allocation of £84,232 for infant class size legislation represents an **underspend of £10,768, against the budget of £95,000.**
- 11) The total allocation of £291,650 for basic need growth and for new schools represents an **underspend of £208,350, against the budget of £500,000.**
- 12) Any underspends will be returned to the ISB 2020/21.
- 13) Expenditure against the basic need/new schools budget will increase in future years as the number of new free schools increases (see Appendix C for an estimate of the costs for new schools opening by 2023/2024).

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Appendix A: financial information for Infant Class Size applications 2019/20

Appendix A: Infant Class Size legislation - Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School (Tamworth)

Application for Infant Class Size Funding 2019/20 Self-Declaration Form	School Name: Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
18/19	£511,380.00	472,611.00	93%	School budget has continued to be low and increasing costs have had a huge impact on budget
17/18	659,390.00	627,428.00	95%	School budget has continued to be low as we are a small school with low levels of pupil premium. Staff illness has had an impact on reserves and the need to buy-in services has further stretched our already small budget. High need pupils continue to need full time support which is not funded.
16/17	683,670.00	638,306.58	94%	School budget has continued to be low as we are a small school with low levels of pupil premium pupils. We have seen a further increase in pupils with additional needs, maintaining a need for TA support.
<i>2016/17</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of infant class size funding for 2019/20
The headteacher and governors have made decisions to enable a budget to be set each year. We have made restrictions in classes, staffing and are currently making redundancies as part of a restructure due to a projected deficit budget. We continue to have increased high-needs pupils who do not receive any/enough additional funding for their needs. The funding application has been put forward to ensure we can meet the required staffing costs. Numbers on roll in September will be 127 with a further 30 pupils in Nursery. A total of 40 pupils have admitted to Reception meaning we will require two teachers for these classes. We will have a total of 82 pupils in KS1.

Appendix A: Infant Class Size legislation - Baldwin's Gate CE(VC) Primary School (Newcastle)

Application for Infant Class Size Funding 2019/20 Self-Declaration Form	School Name Baldwins Gate Primary School
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2019/2020	£546,715 + £34,650	£581,365	100%	If the school did not have reserves to use 106.3%
2018/2019	£643,944 + £39,210	£645,751	94.5%	If the school did not have reserves to use 102.8%
2017/2018	£600,321 + £36,470	£597,500	93.8%	If the school did not have reserves to use 99.5%
2016/2017	£553,160 + £39,000	£565,585	95.5%	If the school did not have reserves to use 102.2%

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of infant class size funding for 2019/20
<p>Baldwins Gate Primary is to expand as a result of a housing development (Baldwins Gate Farm) which will provide 109 dwellings within catchment. To date we have admitted 8 children from the new development.</p> <p>Work on the school's two classroom extension was due to start in June 2018 but has been delayed indefinitely as a result of an impasse between Lichfield Diocese and Staffordshire County Council.</p> <p>We have tried to be as flexible as possible during this period of uncertainty and predicted growth but there are budget implications. There are, and will be, difficulties during this period of transition as the school moves towards a one form entry establishment.</p> <p>There are 23 children on our admissions list for Reception in September 2019 who are either catchment or have a sibling attending (4 sibling non-catchment/19 catchment).</p>

In September 2019 our numbers will be as follows:

Class 1	Nursery	13	36
	Reception	23	
Class 2	Year 1	19	34
	Year 2	15	
Class 3	Year 3	25	43
	Year 4	18	
Class 4	Year 5	18	37
	Year 6	19	
Total	Total	150	150

Actions to address large numbers in September 2019:

Classes will be structured as follows:

1	Foundation Class	Nursery	13	36
		Reception	23	
2	Class Year 1	Year 1	19	19
3	Class Year 2	Year 2	15	15
4	Class Year 3	Year 3	25	25
5	Class Years 4 & 5	Years 4 & 5	18 + 18	36
6	Class Year 6	Year 6	19	19
	Total	Total	150	150

- The current Class 2 classroom is being divided with a partition to provide two teaching classrooms – one for Year 1 and the other for Year 2. A teacher will be required in each class. This will also support the individual learning needs of the children.
- We are splitting KS2 into three classes – Year 3, Years 4/5, Year 6. The Headteacher will teach .8 in KS2.

Appendix A: Infant Class Size legislation - Rushton CE (C) Primary School (Staffordshire Moorlands)

Application for Infant Class Size Funding 2019/20 Self-Declaration Form	School Name: RUSHTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2018/19	£277,705.00	£268,672.00	96.75%	Everything minus DFC Budget.
2017/18	£255,261.00	255,217.85	99.98%	Everything minus DFC Budget, includes use of 21,641 revenue balances
2016/17	£257,180.00	£235,910.54	91.72%	Everything minus DFC Budget, includes use of 28,000 revenue balances
<i>2016/17</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of infant class size funding for 2019/20
The funding is needed to enabled class sizes to be in line with government guidelines. Our budget allocation is not sufficient without additional funding.

Appendix A: Infant Class Size legislation - St. Leonard's CE(VA) First School, Ipstones (Staffordshire Moorlands)

Application for Infant Class Size Funding 2019/20 Self-Declaration Form	School Name St Leonard's CE(A) First School - 3490
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2018/2019	£280,975	£284,403	101%	Includes revenue balance of £6486
2017/2018	£297,393	£297,326	99.98%	Includes use of revenue balance of £18,310
2016/2017	£258,140	£239,795	93.0%	Includes revenue balance of £10,630
<i>2016/17</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of infant class size funding for 2019/20
<p>We are currently in the "requires improvement" category from Ofsted. This is our second consecutive RI Ofsted rating.</p> <p>We have worked hard, employing new experienced staff, to raise standards in the school to achieve a "good" outcome.</p> <p>We have also employed a part time EYFS teacher to teach the Reception class which was part of the headteacher's role previously, in order that the Headteacher can concentrate on getting our school to "Good".</p> <p>We did have mixed age classes which Ofsted didn't score us well on, now we have separate classes which is working well, however we are very limited with our budget and concerned we cannot maintain the teaching staff we have in place who have already made a difference to our pupil progress. This we really need to sustain to get our school out of RI.</p>

Appendix A: Infant Class Size legislation - The Meadows Primary School (Newcastle)

Year	Budget (inc use of reserves & DFC)	Actual Spend	% Diff	Carry Forward	Salary Cost	% of Budget
2018-19	£ 498,560	£ 501,882	100.6%	£ -3,322	£ 404,048	81.0%
2017-18*	£ 461,241	£ 438,015	95.0%	£ 23,225	£ 357,847	77.6%
2016-17	£ 494,340	£ 501,393	101%	£ 18,515	£ 385,344	78%
2015-16	£ 496,488	£ 465,728	94%	£ 30,759	£ 356,444	72%

*is a 11 month year due to date of conversion to academy.

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of infant class size funding for 2019/20

Our PAN is 14. Our new intake for 2018 as listed on PRIME is 14, however I am aware that 1 of these are 2nd choices and are appealing at their first choice school.

It is not possible to organise Years R, Y1 and Y2 into a mixed class as this would total 35. The school has no alternative but to employ two full time teachers. If the class size legislation did not limit the class size to 30, then there would be flexibility in organisation. For example, in the afternoons, the classes could be combined, we would only require 1.5 FTE teachers with one TA. This would save a considerable amount of money.

Due to the unique physical restraints of the teaching space in the Reception class, a full-time teacher and part time TA will be employed for just 12 pupils. The space is divided into 3 small areas by a chimney breast and dividing wall. Visibility is very poor, and the toilets are not within this area. Children have to leave the classroom and walk down the corridor. For these reasons 2 members of staff are needed for the majority of the teaching time. As you will appreciate this is extremely costly and a disproportionate use of financial resources. We have consulted with the LA in the past and more recently the Trust Board regarding the suitability of the interior layout, but unfortunately, they have been unable to suggest an alternative or indeed support and adjustments to the building. We have also been informed that it is not possible to offer any nursery provision on site due to the building limitations.

I have included budget information which evidences the school's difficulties in setting a balanced budget. Currently our budget is being reduced by a reduction in pupil numbers. The Meadows is very unique as it is housed in a privately-owned building. We have a full repair lease and are charged £12,000 for rent and insurance per year. This is paid in full from the school's budget. Furthermore, the school does not have a hall so we have to hire the high school for PE and hire a coach each week to transport the children. This costs £5000 and is paid for directly from the school's budget. These various factors put additional financial pressures on the school, making our circumstances quite exceptional.

Appendix B: financial information for exceptional basic need growth funding applications 2019/20

Appendix B: Basic need growth - Bishop Lonsdale C of E (VC) Academy (Stafford)

Growth Fund Policy – 2019/20 Allocation Self-Declaration Form	School Name
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2017/18	£1,104,665	£1,118,595	112%	Due to higher payroll costs in year.
2016/17	£934,392	£841,009	90%	£93,383 agreement of balances- premature retirement cost of £68,323.67 for JB (five payments remaining, subject to 0.5% interest above BOE Base rate). Replacement of 3G pitch provision required of £50,000 by 2027
2015/16	£927,430	£872,478	94%	£54,952 Balance
<i>2014/15</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.
 ** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of Growth Fund for 2019/20
We have influx of pupils due to the three housing developments in close proximity to the school. We have had 41 admissions for our reception in September 2019 which is an increase from 29 September 2018. We are expecting this figure to increase coinciding with a potential increase in other classes.

Appendix B: Basic need growth - Penkridge Middle School (South Staffordshire)

Growth Fund Policy – 2019/20 Allocation Self-Declaration Form	School Name – Penkridge Middle School
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2017-2018	1,998,035 + use of 39,056 reserves = 2,037,092	2,037,092	100%	Revenue balances were historically accrued to assist with the known future issue of large year groups moving through the school and the allocated budget funding needing to be supported.
2016-2017	1,795,303 + use of 192,636 reserves = 1,987,939	1,987,939	100%	Revenue balances were historically accrued to assist with the known future issue of large year groups moving through the school and the allocated budget funding needing to be supported.
2015-2016	1,745,185 + use of 3,305 reserves = 1,748,490	1,748,490	100%	Revenue balances were historically accrued to assist with the known future issue of large year groups moving through the school and the allocated budget funding needing to be supported.
<i>2014/15</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of Growth Fund for 2019/20

Despite having a PAN of 100 we have agreed to take 125 students into Y5 (our entry point) and have five form entry rather than four form entry. If we hadn't made this decision, then several children at the local first schools would not have a place at the school. As we are due to grow in the very near future due to S106 funding we felt that this was the right decision. Due to the decision however, we need extra staffing to teach and support the extra group from September 2019.

Appendix B: Basic need growth - Walton Priory Middle School, Stone (Stafford)

Growth Fund Policy – 2019/20 Allocation Self-Declaration Form	School Name Walton Priory Middle School
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2018/19	£1,948,830 (budget) + £156,368 (rev deposit & current at 31/03/18) £2,105,198	£1,959,250	93.06%	£65,285 used to set 18/19 budget. 6 classes in year 5 and 6 KS2. Some staffing savings made due to UPS replacement with NQT. Significant investment required in premises and site security
2017-18	£1,661,730 (budget) + £238,080 (rev deposit & current at 31/03/17) £1,899,810	£1,825,360	96.58%	£208,230 used to set 17/18 budget. Moving towards smaller class sizes at KS2 as part of RI strategy (6 classes in Yr 5 and 6).
2016/17	£1,521,330 (budget) + £330,352 (rev deposit & current at 31/3/16) £1,851,682	£1,700,182	91.82%	£223,660 of reserves were required to set 16/17 budget. An ICT investment plan is in place for implementation during the academic year 17/18 (summer 2017). Balances also required to address a staffing restructure following a RI Ofsted inspection. The School has also requested an advance under the deferred capital loan scheme
2014/15	1,234,567	1,111,111	90%	Example

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of Growth Fund for 2019/20
As well as requiring additional teaching to support the increased pupil numbers the school has invested in the appointment of two new teachers-one for science and one for girls' PE. There has been required spend from revenue budget to equip a new classroom with furniture and materials and to ensure that ICT facilities are available. The School has also had to change the times of the school day in order to accommodate lunches and PE.

Appendix B: Basic need growth - Sir Graham Balfour High School (Stafford)

Growth Fund Policy – 2019/20 Allocation Self-Declaration Form	School Name: Sir Graham Balfour High School
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2017-18	5,183,251	4,430,254	86%	Reserves are budgeted to fall over next 2-3 years due to the impact of a low year group on funding (current Yr 11). Trustees have determined that Reserves are to be maintained at a level equivalent to 1 month's salary.
2016-17	5,099,554	4,481,537	88%	Revenue reserves transferred from LA = £486,225 (included in (a)). First year as Academy.
Add financial year				
<i>2014/15</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of Growth Fund for 2019/20

By agreeing to accept an additional 30 students over PAN in Sept 2019, the school will move from a 6 form intake to a 7 form intake. The Growth Fund will contribute to additional staff costs, but the school will incur further costs to make physical adaptations required to accommodate the additional 30 students.

Appendix B: Basic need growth - Weston Road High School (Stafford)

Growth Fund Policy – 2019/20 Allocation Self-Declaration Form	School Name The Weston Road Academy
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Previous three financial years	* (a) Total revenue budget £ (incl. reserves)	* (b) Total expenditure/ actual spend £	%age between expenditure and budget (b/a)*100	Commentary on the size and use of balances in each year NB this is intended to allow schools to explain to Forum where balances are high
2017/18	£4,321,000	£4,283,000	99.12%	The academy maintains reserves in line with its reserves policy. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2018 were £186,000.
2016/17	£4,276,000	£4,196,000	98.13%	
2015/16	£4,151,000	£4,032,000	97.16%	
<i>2014/15</i>	<i>1,234,567</i>	<i>1,111,111</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>Example</i>

* As the year end for academies is 31 August the most recent year end for an academy will be 2017/18.

** Where possible show the individual school budget and expenditure figures (but where necessary show pooled budget figures).

Commentary on the school's need for an allocation of Growth Fund for 2019/20

The Weston Road Academy is growing in pupil numbers due to the number of additional houses being built in its catchment area. Each year the funding the academy receives is lagged by 12 months for growth in pupil numbers. The academy has employed additional teaching and support staff due to the increase in pupil numbers, which is also compounded by smaller year groups leaving the academy. No additional funding is available to Academies through the ESFA.

Appendix C: Estimated pre- and post-opening revenue start-up costs for new free schools 2019/20 to 2023/24

*Earliest Opening date	School/development name	School size/type	District/Borough	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
2019	Streethay Primary School	1FE primary	Lichfield	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500
2019	Poppyfield Primary Academy	1FE primary	Cannock	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500
2021	Stafford North SDL	1FE primary	Stafford		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2021	Land West of Uttoxeter	1FE first	East Staffs		£65,500	£39,000	£32,250	£24,500
2021	Anker Valley Primary	1FE primary	Tamworth		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2021	** Branston Locks (DfE "wave" school)	2-3FE primary	East Staffs		£0	£0	£0	£0
2022	Deanslade Farm	1FE primary	Lichfield			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2022	Fradley Park (John Taylor MAT)	1FE primary	Lichfield			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2022	** South of Shortbutts Lane (DfE "wave" school)	2FE primary	Lichfield			£0	£0	£0
2023	Beamhill Road, Burton	1FE primary	East Staffs				£65,500	£57,250
2023	Watery Lane	1FE primary	Lichfield				£65,500	£57,250
2023	Dunstall Lane	1FE primary	Tamworth				£65,500	£57,250
Total costs for new free schools (2019/20-2023/24)				£114,500	£296,000	£370,500	£483,250	£408,750

* NB The opening dates (and estimated funding) are subject to change as they are based on estimated housing trajectories provided by the Local Planning Authorities in each district and borough council.

**These are schools of at least 2FE that would be opened under the DfE's free school "wave" programme, where the DfE funds the pre- and post-opening start-up costs.