

## Appendix A

### Nottingham City School Funding Consultation 2023/24

#### Overall Summary

A total of 23 responses were received. This included responses from the following schools/setting types:

- 1 Maintained Nursery School
- 2 Secondary Academies
- 11 Maintained Primary Schools
- 5 Primary Academies
- Nottingham Schools Trust

It needs to be noted that one maintained primary school submitted 4 separate responses from the Head, Deputy/SENCO, Chair of Governors and Business Manager. For the purposes of statistical analysis of responses to Q4, only one response has been counted for this school so that their view is not over represented compared to other maintained schools.

Responses show near unanimous support for the proposal to distribute up to an extra £85 per pupil to mainstream schools in 2023/24 and for allocating this via the basic per pupil rate.

The maintained nursery school response indicated their support but only if they were included in the funding distribution. They pointed out that they face the same pay increases for teachers and support staff and energy costs. Whilst this is the case, it is not possible to fund Nottingham Nursery through this proposal as they are funded separately through the Early Years funding formula.

A question by question analysis and summary of responses is provided below.

#### Consultation results by question

##### **Q1) Do you support the proposal to distribute up to an extra £85 per pupil to mainstream schools in 2023/24?**

Response	Number	%
Yes	23	100
No	-	-
Not Sure	-	-
Total	23	100

The following sample of comments reflect the reasons given by schools for their support:

- Individual need to support learning has increased considerably since Covid, schools are investing more and more in pastoral care and attendance.
- Nottingham City schools are facing multiple challenges and are struggling to meet those challenges.

- This would enable us to enrich the curriculum for the child more than we do already.
- Budgets are exceptionally tight and the SEN level of need has grown exponentially over the last two years.
- Considerable strain on school budgets currently is impacting directly on number/proportion of staff employed to support children. High needs pupils needing significantly more funding support than currently receiving.
- This is vital funding which will go some way to support the huge challenges for schools in balancing their budgets this year. It is desperately needed.
- Schools are experiencing significant financial restrictions and this additional money will help us to support the most vulnerable families.
- This will be some support towards additional rising costs but more money would assist further.

**Q2) Do you agree with the approach of distributing the additional funding via an uplift to the basic per pupil unit rates at each key stage?**

Response	Number	%
Yes	21	92
No	1	4
Not Sure	1	4
Total	23	100

Nottingham Nursery's response is shown as a no to Q2, given they are not included in the distribution.

The person responding "not sure" gave their reason as being down to not seeing a direct comparison.

Overall the comments received reflected the feeling that this was a sensible and fair approach that will allow individual needs to be met.

One respondent summed it up as "a clear, understandable and transparent approach for all schools which allows forward planning to happen sooner rather than later as it is clearer what schools may get. This may halt avoidable redundancy processes."

Only one respondent suggested an alternative approach to the suggested distribution. They suggested distributing by Pupil Premium/SEND figures although they nevertheless stated the existing proposal seemed fair.

**Q3) Do you support the LA making the application to the Secretary of State to vary the calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee, so that all City mainstream schools benefit including those receiving funding protection?**

Response	Number	%
Yes	23	100
No	-	-
Not Sure	-	-
Total	23	100

All comments were in support of this in order for all schools to benefit from the additional funding.

**Q4) (Maintained Primary Schools only) Do you think consideration should be given to setting up a Schools in Financial Difficulty budget based on maintained schools pooling a proportion of the additional funding to target at schools with the greatest financial challenges?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	7	58
No	3	25
Not Sure	2	17
Total	12	100

Responses demonstrate divided opinion on whether consideration should be given to setting up a Schools in Financial Difficulty budget for maintained primary schools.

Some respondents felt that all schools are in difficulty at the moment and so this is not feasible. There is also a view that this can penalise schools that have planned carefully in the past.

Other respondents felt that subject to clear criteria, having this available to support schools in difficulty would be a positive move.