

Please ask for: Cllr Elly Cutkelvin
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Direct Fax No:
Our Ref: EC/JC/CN
Date: 30th September 2020



Dear

Re: Special Schools Funding Formula Review Consultation

I am writing to inform you of the Council's plans to undertake a funding review for maintained Special Schools within the City. The aim of the proposals is to ensure fair and equitable funding to meet pupil needs.

The schools under review include, Ellesmere, Keyham Lodge, Millgate, Nether Hall Oaklands and West Gate. A separate review will take place for Ash Field Academy in the coming months.

Nationally, I'm sure you will be aware of the increase in children and young people with EHCPs and increased demand on the Designated Schools Grant. Additionally, the government launched a consultation in 2019 regarding changes to the conditions and regulations, resulting in confirmation the local authorities could not fund any part of the overspend from its general reserves.

Locally, the Council have not reviewed funding of these schools since 2014. Last year we had an overspend of the High Needs Block of £6.6m, from which the Special Schools are funded. Whilst we will receive an additional £6.2m from 2020/21, at current rates we are still forecasting a £5.1m deficit.

The proposals include:

- A revised unit funding rates based on two elements:
 - a standardised level of per pupil funding for non-teaching costs.
 - a teaching rate and based on a 6-band system.
- The distribution of the funding across schools will change under these proposals.
- Funding rates for teaching and non-teaching have been combined to provide a new revised single weighted average funding rate based on current pupil cohort. Please see additional information below.

Details of the consultation will be accessible via our consultation portal from 2 October 2020, following a presentation made to your Head Teachers and run until 13 November. We would be looking to implement changes to funding from April 2021/22 and work with schools individually on the transition arrangements and timelines.

I would like to propose a virtual teams meeting with you all together, as Chair of Governors for each of the schools on 8 October at 4.30pm, to discuss further and answer queries you may have regarding the consultation. Clare Nagle (clare.nagle@leicester.gov.uk) will be sending an invitee shortly, if you can't make please let her know.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Elly Cutkevin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elly Cutkevin', written in a cursive style.

**Assistant City Mayor with responsibility
For Housing & Education
Councillor for Saffron**