

Consultation on High Level Needs funding for pupils with Special Education Needs December 2021

SEN funding in Worcestershire is governed by a national framework introduced in April 2013.

If a mainstream school can show that the provision for a pupil with SEND costs more than £6,000 (or £10,000 for Special Schools and Alternative Provisions), the school can ask the Local Authority to provide Element 3 funding (also known as "top-up")

places. As each Local Authority receives a limited High Needs budget, it is critical that funds are distributed fairly and transparently and achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people. Worcestershire's spend on High Level Needs currently exceeds the budget available. In the 2020-

Top Up Funding bands are awarded based on assessed need and provision required. Each band has a series of descriptors for each of the four areas of Special Educational Need: Cognition and Learning, Speech Language and Communication Needs, Social Emotional and Mental Health and Physical and/or Sensory Needs. Details of the current descriptors can be found at the following link:

[Top Up Funding banding descriptors July 2021.pdf](#)

Our review of Top Up Funding is a key part of our High Level Needs Management Plan and SEND Strategy. The High Level Needs Management Plan aims to ensure value for money whilst achieving best outcomes for CYP with SEND. Our SEND strategy aims to ensure that all of our schools are encouraged and enabled to be inclusive so that CYP can access educational placements as close to home as possible. To review our current arrangements for Top Up Funding we have worked with

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