

Who decides how much funding each school receives?

Schools receive funding for a number of purposes. The largest source of income for maintained schools is delegated by the local authority following its fair funding formula. After conversion the Education and Skills Funding Agency replicates that formula allocation and pays it as General Annual Grant (GAG) to academies. Maintained schools and academies also receive:

- funding for pupils with high levels of special educational need;
- the pupil premium;
- the PE and sports premium;
- funding to provide free meals to all infant age children.

All DEALT schools will receive funding calculated in the same way as it is for all other schools. The Education and Skills Funding Agency provides details of how funding has been calculated so it will be clear how much each school is entitled to receive.

Multi Academy Trusts are entitled to pool a proportion of the GAG to form a central fund and DEALT has chosen to top slice 3% of each school's GAG to pay for central services. We are continuing our work on school and academy budgets to demonstrate that schools will continue to be able to spend at least at the same level on their pupils as a DEALT academy as they will be able to as a KCC maintained school.

If the headteacher of any school in DEALT felt that their school had been unfairly treated in the allocation of funds they have the right to appeal to the Trust. If that grievance was not resolved by the Trust the headteacher can appeal to the Secretary of State.

Who decides how the money should be spent?

Each school will continue to decide how to spend its budget just as it does now to meet the priorities that it has identified. The DEALT trustees will decide how the central fund should be spent – in consultation with schools through the headteacher and chairs groups.

Who holds the Trust accountable for spending?

The Education and Skills Funding Agency oversees academy spending and ensures that Trusts comply with the rules set out in the Academies Financial Handbook.

Since the Trust's object is to promote education, OfSTED judgements on the effectiveness of schools within the Trust in part measure the effectiveness of decisions on spending.

The CEO is formally appointed as the Accounting Officer for the Trust – and in that role has a personal responsibility to ensure regularity, propriety and value for money. To support the accounting officer the Trust will secure independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks.

How can parents see what has been spent?

The Trust will publish an annual report and accounts each year. These will be placed on the Trust's website and be available on the Companies House website. All academy accounts are required to be audited against the rules set for auditing charity accounts.

The flowchart below seeks to show how funds flow to schools and to the Trust.

DEALT – funding flows, decision making and support

