

Lewisham's Schools Forum Growth Fund 2015/16

Overview of Fund

The Schools Forum operates this mutual fund on behalf of schools. The fund supports schools that are expanding. The expansions supported are typically through provision of a bulge class, increase in the numbers of forms of entries or the extension of the age range. The object of the fund is to ensure that the school has sufficient funding to deliver the curriculum.

Entry into the funding

The Schools Forum holds the funding centrally on behalf of all primary and secondary schools. All schools are automatically enrolled. Academies can contribute their share of the funding to enrol.

Request and Consideration of allocations

a) Bulge classes.

All bulge classes will need to be agreed with the Local Authority before they are set up. The funding will be based on a standard tariff of funding rates reviewed annually by the Schools Forum. There will be no need for a school to make an application for funds as funding will be triggered automatically.

b) Other expansions.

Other schools expansions can come in a variety of forms. Generally they are through increases in the number of forms of entry or an extension to the age range of the school. This variety coupled with the different circumstances that each school may find themselves in, particularly being located on different sites means, it is not possible to define a tariff of funding support to cover all eventualities. The process to obtain funding is therefore through a bidding process. Advice and guidance will be available through the Local Authority in preparing the bid.

The administration of the fund is undertaken by the Local Authority on behalf of the Forum. All bids need to be sent to the Lewisham's Schools Funding Team who will collate and comment on the bids before presenting it to the Schools Forum for consideration. Schools will need to ensure that any applications for funding support are provided to the Local Authority at least three weeks before the next Schools Forum meeting in order for them to be considered. The application will otherwise be heard at the following meeting of the Forum.

The decision of the Schools Forum will be final.

An annual review of the mutual fund will take place. Consideration will be given to returning any surplus to schools or carrying it forward to the next financial year. Any deficits on the fund will be carry forward and set against next year's budget.

Agreements made by the local authority prior to April 2013 that cover future years will be honoured by the fund.

The funding does not cover Capital or Post 16 funding where expansion of provision is met by the Education Funding Agency.

A monitoring statement will be presented to the Forum at each meeting.

The tariff for bulge classes is as follows

Allocation	Basis	£
1 ST year set up cost	Lump Sum	55,000
On-going resources	Lump Sum for each year	2,000