

Schools Forum Update

Learning and Skills Service Fees and Charges to Schools 2020-2021

The Learning and Skills Service offers two services to state-funded schools for which there is an annual charge and has undertaken an annual review of fees and charges. Following discussion at DMT (Children's Leadership Team), it is recommended that an increase be made for the academic year 2020-2021 to take account of costs associated with the provision of these services.

Co-ordination of Admissions

All Local authorities are required by the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 to have a scheme in place each year for coordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools and academies (except special schools and nursery schools) within their area. The scheme must comply with the provisions of the School Admissions Code 2014.

Coordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Coordination establishes a mechanism that ensures as far as is reasonably practicable that every parent of a child living in a local authority (LA) who has applied to a maintained school is sent a single offer of a school place by their LA.

The Designated Schools Grant (DSG) identifies Admissions as an 'other ongoing duty' to be funded from the Central Schools Services Block. This covers the basic Admissions expenditure on the operation of the system of admissions of pupils to schools at normal admissions rounds.

The LA, using preference data and oversubscription criteria ranking outcomes (including those from own admission authority schools and academies), allocates places for the start of Reception Year (entry to primary school) and Year 7 (entry to secondary school) according to each parent's preference ranking. The LA does not co-ordinate in-year admissions for academies or Voluntary Aided Schools; they are their own admissions authorities.

Historically, all but two primary schools and all secondary schools purchase one of these options. Schools can purchase from other local authorities.

These costs have not been updated since the admissions round for September 2016; the increase is in line with inflation.

Schools have the option of choosing from one of three support packages for normal round admissions:

Service Level 1 – Support, Ranking and Distance Measurement

- Advice and support throughout the admissions round – fixed charge of £51.00 (up from £50)
- Ranking – based on number of applications received for the school @ £38.00

(up from £37.00) per hour based on a processing time of 5 minutes per application

- Distance Measurement – fixed charge of £62.00 (up from £60.00) for primary schools and £87.00 (up from £85.00) for secondary schools.

Service Level 2 – Support and Distance Measurement

- Advice and support throughout the admissions round – fixed charge of £51.00 (up from £50)
- Distance Measurement – fixed charge of £62.00 (up from £60.00) for primary schools and £87.00 (up from £85.00) for secondary schools.

Service Level 3 – Support only

- Advice and support throughout the admissions round – fixed charge of £77.00 (up from £75.00)

In the 2019/2020 admissions round four schools opted for Level 1 and thirteen for Level 2. Two schools did not purchase any of the options.

Moderation and Monitoring of Key Stage One and Two Statutory Assessments

All Local Authorities have statutory duties as outlined in the DfE Standards Testing Agency (STA) Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. The ARA contains provisions made in terms of Article 11 of The Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2003. This Order is made by the Secretary of State under powers provided for by section 87 of the Education Act 2002.

LA responsibilities include:

- ensuring training and advice is available to schools on all aspects of the KS2 tests
- viewing their schools' applications for early opening of the tests or additional time
- making unannounced KS2 monitoring visits to a sample of at least 10% of LA maintained schools and 10% of those academies that have elected to be monitored by Rutland, before, during and after the test period
- undertaking moderation of KS1 and KS2 teacher assessment in 25% of those academies that have elected to be moderated by Rutland and 25% of maintained schools
- informing STA of any irregularities in the test administration or assessment process and discussing next steps to take.

Academies have an agreement in place with a local authority; this is generally the geographical authority, although Academies may apply to STA if they wish to use an

alternative LA. Academies are charged a fixed annual fee of £433.50 (up from £425.00) to cover both moderation and monitoring activities and attendance at workshops for teachers new to Year 2 and Year 6. Maintained schools do not have to pay for this service for which an annual grant is received. This charge has been increased this year to run alongside the rate of inflation for 2020-2021.