



# SCHOOLS' FORUM

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

## LEARNING AND SKILLS:

### FEES AND CHARGES 2023-2024

Report from Gill Curtis, Head of Learning and Skills

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#### SCHOOLS

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 a full review, it is proposed that an increase be made for the academic year 2023-24.**

#### Co-ordination of Admissions

##### Proposal

An increase in charges is being recommended in line with the Consumer Prices Index for the financial year.

##### Context

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 2021.

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.

All schools have the option of choosing from one of three support packages for normal round admissions. The tables below detail each support package along with the cost of each for the 2022-2023 admissions round and the increased cost for the 2023-2024 admissions round based on a 10% increase:

Support Package	Charge 2022-23	Charge 2023-24
<u>Service Level 1</u> Support, Ranking and Distance Measurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice and support throughout the admissions round fixed charge:</li> <li>Ranking – based on number of applications received for the school at a cost per hour based on processing time of 5 minutes per application:</li> </ul>	£55.00  £41.00 p/h	£60.00  £45.00 p/h

Below are examples of the cost increases to schools for Service Level 1 in 2023-2024:

- Large primary school purchasing Service Level 1:
  - o 2022-2023 – total cost £321.00
  - o 2023-2024 – total cost £352.50
  - o A cost increase of £31.50
- Secondary school purchasing Service Level 1:
  - o 2022-2023 – total cost £1346.50
  - o 2023-2024 – total cost £1417.50
  - o A cost increase of £71.00

Support Package	Charge 2022-23	Charge 2023-24
<u>Service Level 2</u> Support and Distance Measurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice and support throughout the admissions round –fixed charge:</li> <li>Distance measurement fixed charge for primary and secondary schools:</li> </ul>	£55.00  £66.00 – primary £93.00 - secondary	£60.00  £73.00 – primary £102.00 -secondary

Below are examples of the cost increases to schools for Service Level 2 in 2023-2024:

- Primary school purchasing Service Level 2:
  - o 2022-2023 – total cost £121.00
  - o 2023-2024 – total cost £133.00
  - o A cost increase of £12.00
- Secondary school purchasing Service Level 2:
  - o 2022-2023 – total cost £148.00
  - o 2023-2024 – total cost £162.00
  - o A cost increase of £14.00

Support Package	Charge 2022-23	Charge 2023-24
<u>Service Level 3</u> Support Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice and support throughout the admissions round –fixed charge:</li> </ul>	£82.00	£90.00

## **Moderation and Monitoring of Key Stage One and Two Statutory Assessments**

### Proposal

We are proposing to keep the charges the same for the academic year 2023-2024 and will complete an extensive review into charges for the 2024-25 academic year, to ensure schools are receiving value for money.

### Context

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 are charged a fixed annual fee to cover both moderation and monitoring activities and attendance at workshops for teachers new to Year 2 and Year 6. However, due to the relatively small numbers of teachers in Rutland, this has historically opened this up to all Y2 and Y6 teachers who wish to attend. Maintained schools do not have to pay for this service for which an annual grant is received.

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 have until early December each year to confirm this arrangement for the following summer term.