

## **Pupil Equity Fund**

### **Report by Maria Lloyd, Acting Head of Education**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the Pupil Equity Fund allocation for Midlothian schools from the Scottish Government. The total allocation for Midlothian schools is £2,253,240 which is slightly higher than last year's total of £2,244,000.

Pupil Equity Funding is additional funding from the Scottish Government's £750 million Attainment Scotland Fund, allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. This funding is to be spent at the discretion of Head Teachers working in partnership with each other and their local authority. In 2018/19, Scotland's schools received a share of over £122 million, which has been maintained this session.

The Pupil Equity Funding school level allocations for 2019/20 have been published and are attached as appendix 1 in this report.

Every council area is benefitting from Pupil Equity Funding and over 96% of schools in Scotland have been allocated funding. The 2019/20 funding allocation has been calculated using the most recently available Healthy Living Survey and Pupil Census data and is based on:

- The estimated number of P1-P3 pupils who would be registered for free school meals using the national eligibility criteria. This will be done by taking the proportion of pupils registered for free school meals in primary schools in 2014 and then applying those to the 2018 school rolls for P1 to P3.
- The estimated number of P4-P7 and S1-3 pupils who are registered for free school meals.
- The estimated number of special school pupils in the P1-S3 age range registered for free school meals.

Publicly funded primary, secondary and special schools will receive £1,200 in 2019/20 for each child in Primary 1 to S3, or equivalent, who is registered for free school meals under national eligibility criteria.

The approach to estimating free school meal registrations will be kept under review as the Government seeks to improve the quality of data for identifying children living in households affected by poverty.

Funding for 2019/20 will be paid by the Government to local authorities by means of a ring-fenced grant which will clearly indicate the amounts that

should be allocated directly to each school. Local authorities will confirm arrangements for draw down at school level.

Last year the Government used a “smoothing mechanism” to ensure that schools did not receive less than 90% of their allocation in 2017/18. If schools did receive less than 90% of their previous allocation then their new allocation was “topped up” to 90% of the previous year.

This year there will also be a “smoothing mechanism”. This year the mechanism will ensure the new allocation does not fall below 90% of last year’s allocation before it was topped up in 2018/19. This means the mechanism will “top up” the new allocation to 90% of the previous year’s before the smoothing mechanism. Smoothing this way ensures that the funding levels more accurately reflect existing school roll and deprivation levels, but may mean that a small number of schools see a more than 10% reduction.

5 Midlothian schools have been topped up this session using this mechanism. 15 schools are receiving a lower level of funding than last session – this could be a result of less pupils being entitled to free school meals, less pupils being registered by parents/carers for free school meals or due to an anomaly in P1-P3 figures.

Updated National Operational Guidance has been published to help schools plan how they will most effectively invest their Pupil Equity Funding allocation to improve the educational outcomes of children affected by poverty.

## **2. Background**

The school level allocations for the Pupil Equity Fund were announced by the Scottish Government In February 2019. A copy of the Scottish Government press release, along with this year’s allocations can be found at the following link:

[www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund).

As with last year, in some cases, due to potentially disclosive information, the allocations on the published spreadsheet are redacted with a ‘\*’. In addition, school level allocations in Scotland can be found at the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund/Schoolallocations>

In Midlothian we welcome the commitment to a relentless focus on closing the attainment gap. The Single Midlothian Plan is committed to reducing inequalities. In the Education service, we are using the 4 National Priorities from the National Improvement Framework as our key drivers for improvement. Priority 2 is ‘Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap between the Most and Least Disadvantaged Children’. We continue to build on our ambition to create a world-class education system through equity and excellence, and we are relentless in our focus to interrupt the cycle of poverty at the same time as improving attainment overall.

## **2.1 Effective Use of Pupil Equity Funding**

As per the National Guidance, Head Teachers are accountable to the local authority for the use of their allocated funding and will be expected to incorporate details of Pupil Equity Funding into their existing reporting processes in their annual SQIPs (Standards and Quality Improvement Plans) and to their Parent Councils. PEF Plans will be readily available on individual school websites.

Schools made very effective use of Pupil Equity Funding last session, planning appropriate and innovative targeted interventions, detailed in the Cabinet Report of October 2018. For those learners living in SIMD 1 and 2 in P1, P4, P7 and S3, all measures increased from the previous session with the exception of P7 Listening and Talking which decreased by 4%.

## **3. Report Implications**

### **3.1 Resource**

The Pupil Equity Fund allocation for Midlothian schools totals £2,253,240. A copy of the school level allocations is included in Appendix 1.

The Education Service has issued the detailed national guidance to schools in order to support schools to use their Pupil Equity Funding to best effect, identifying their 'gap' effectively and planning appropriate targeted interventions. This guidance continues to promote the following core principles:

- Head Teachers must have access to the full amount of the allocated Pupil Equity Funding.
- The Pupil Equity Funding must enable schools to deliver activities, interventions or resources which are clearly additional to those which were already planned.
- Head Teachers should work in partnership with each other, and their local authority, to agree the use of the funding. Schools must take account of the statutory responsibilities of the authority to deliver educational improvement, secure best value, and the authority's role as employer. Additional guidance from Finance and Procurement is available.
- The operation of Pupil Equity Funding should articulate as closely to existing planning and reporting procedures as possible – e.g. through School Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reports
- Parents and carers, children and young people and other key stakeholders should be involved in the planning process.
- Funding must provide targeted support for children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. Although Pupil Equity Funding is allocated on the basis of free school meal eligibility, Head Teachers can use their professional judgement to bring additional children in to the targeted interventions.
- Head Teachers must base their use of the funding on a clear contextual analysis which identifies the poverty related attainment gap in their schools and plans must be grounded in evidence of what is known to be effective at raising attainment for children affected by poverty.

- Schools must have plans in place at the outset to evaluate the impact of the funding.

A copy of the latest national guidance can be found in Appendix 2.

The Head of Education will also ensure that the Pupil Equity Fund is reported on quarterly as part of the Education Service quarterly reporting. In addition, the impact of the Pupil Equity Fund will also be reported in the attainment report which is presented to Council in April each year.

### **3.2 Risk**

We continue to welcome the relentless focus on closing the attainment gap in Education but we recognise that this requires a total Midlothian approach. Therefore we continue to recognise the critical role that other services, including the Community Planning Partnerships and the third sector, play in supporting education to interrupt the cycle of poverty. Schools will continue to plan *in school* and *out of school* interventions across the three themes of learning and teaching; communities and families and leadership. In addition schools must have plans in place at the outset to evaluate the impact of the funding. The following 5 key indicators will be used in order to evaluate impact: attendance, exclusions, literacy, numeracy, health and well-being, attainment measures across the broad general education, engagement and participation

### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

The ambition of the Pupil Equity Fund is already clearly embedded in the Single Midlothian Plan – reducing inequalities. Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

GIRFEC 5: Our people will be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

To close the gap by improving 'attainment versus deprivation' and 'attainment for all' outcomes for children and young people.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

This report aims to take preventative action in order to interrupt the cycle of poverty by closing the attainment versus deprivation gap and implementing key programmes and interventions which are designed to target support to children and young people from disadvantaged communities.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Schools, as part of their planning cycle, will involve communities and stakeholders.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

The recommendations in this report should continue to promote equity of attainment for disadvantaged children and support the steps being taken towards narrowing the attainment gap by imposing duties on education authorities and the Scottish Ministers in relation to reducing pupils' inequalities of educational outcome together with a duty to report on progress.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no impacts arising directly from this report.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

The national guidance contains further advice on IT stating that: Pupil Equity Funding can be used to procure digital technologies, including hardware and software, when its allocation and use is particularly focused on supporting children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. The Scottish Government provides access to a range of national procurement frameworks for the purchase of digital technology products and devices, including a range of desktops, laptops and tablets. The frameworks offer a direct route to market and significant savings against RRP.

To prevent issues arising with compatibility and connectivity, schools seeking to purchase digital technology should do so in close consultation with the IT Department at their local authority.

## **4 Recommendations**

Cabinet is requested:

- to note the Pupil Equity Fund allocation for Midlothian for Session 2019/20.
- to note that, as stated in the national guidance, the Head Teacher will be accountable to their local authority for the use of Pupil Equity Funding within their school. To ensure transparency, schools will be expected to incorporate details of their Pupil Equity Funding plans into existing reporting processes to their Parent Council and Forum, including in their School Improvement Plans and Standards and Quality Reports. These reports should be publicly available so that parents can understand what is happening in their school. These will form part of the schools standard and quality report
- to note that ongoing progress will be reported through the quarterly reporting cycle and the attainment report to Council in November each year
- to note that PEF underspend was reported to Scottish Government in September 2018 and this will form a yearly report while schools are in receipt of PEF.

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## **Supporting Papers for on-going reviews in Scottish Education:**

The school level allocations for the Pupil Equity fund were announced by the Scottish Government on 29 January 2018:

[www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund).

Operational Guidance from Scottish Government:

[www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund).

Education (Scotland) Act 2016:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/pdfs/asp\\_20160008\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/pdfs/asp_20160008_en.pdf)

**Appendix 1**  
Midlothian Pupil Equity Funding  
School Level Allocations 2019/20

<b>School</b>	<b>Allocation Based on estimated FSM pupils 1920</b>	<b>Top-up</b>	<b>Total Allocation including Top-up 19/20</b>	<b>Last Year's Allocation 18/19</b>
Bilston Primary School	£ 15,600	£ -	£ 15,600	£ 15,600
Bonnyrigg Primary School	£ 36,000	£ -	£ 36,000	£ 33,600
Burnbrae Primary School	£ 117,600	£ -	£ 117,600	£ 124,800
Cornbank St James Primary School	£ 10,800	£ -	£ 10,800	£ 9,600
Cuiken Primary School	£ 52,800	£ -	£ 52,800	£ 51,600
Danderhall Primary School	£ 55,200	£ -	£ 55,200	£ 54,000
Glencorse Primary School	£ 1,200	£ 6,360	£ 7,560	£ 8,400
Gore Glen Primary School	£ 14,400	£ 12,600	£ 27,000	£ 30,000
Gorebridge Primary School	£ 86,400	£ 4,320	£ 90,720	£ 100,800
Hawthornden Primary School	£ 96,000	£ -	£ 96,000	£ 100,800
King's Park Primary School	£ 67,200	£ -	£ 67,200	£ 67,200
Lasswade Primary School	£ 38,400	£ -	£ 38,400	£ 39,600
Lawfield Primary School	£ 127,200	£ -	£ 127,200	£ 139,200
Loanhead Primary School	£ 22,800	£ -	£ 22,800	£ 21,600
Mauricewood Primary School	£ 27,600	£ -	£ 27,600	£ 28,800
Mayfield Primary School	£ 109,200	£ -	£ 109,200	£ 98,400
Moorfoot Primary School	£ 12,000	£ 960	£ 12,960	£ 14,400
Newtongrange Primary School	£ 94,800	£ -	£ 94,800	£ 97,200
Paradykes Primary School	£ 64,800	£ -	£ 64,800	£ 69,600
Rosewell Primary School	£ 9,600	£ -	£ 9,600	£ 9,600
Roslin Primary School	£ 30,000	£ -	£ 30,000	£ 28,800
Sacred Heart Primary School	£ 14,400	£ -	£ 14,400	£ 15,600

St Andrew's Primary School	£ 42,000	£ -	£ 42,000	£ 42,000
St David's Primary School	£ 73,200	£ -	£ 73,200	£ 80,400
St Luke's Primary School	£ 58,800	£ 600	£ 59,400	£ 66,000
St Margaret's Primary School	£ 13,200	£ -	£ 13,200	£ 14,400
St Mary's Primary School	£ 31,200	£ -	£ 31,200	£ 31,200
St Matthew's Primary School	£ 16,800	£ -	£ 16,800	£ 14,400
Stobhill Primary School	£ 82,800	£ -	£ 82,800	£ 80,400
Strathesk Primary School	£ 114,000	£ -	£ 114,000	£ 114,000
Tynewater Primary School	£ 24,000	£ -	£ 24,000	£ 24,000
Woodburn Primary School	£ 163,200	£ -	£ 163,200	£ 144,000
Beeslack Community High School	£ 36,000	£ -	£ 36,000	£ 30,000
Dalkeith High School	£ 79,200	£ -	£ 79,200	£ 72,000
Lasswade High School	£ 106,800	£ -	£ 106,800	£ 116,400
Newbattle High School	£ 135,600	£ -	£ 135,600	£ 115,200
Penicuik High School	£ 38,400	£ -	£ 38,400	£ 42,000
St David's RC High School	£ 74,400	£ -	£ 74,400	£ 63,600
Saltersgate	£ 34,800	£ -	£ 34,800	£ 34,800