School Funding Consultation 2024

This report was generated on 21/10/24. Overall 70 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

This report excludes data for the following questions: Q1a (role), Q1c (organisation/school postcode)

Please provide the following details: (Name of organisation / school:)

The Hall Primary School
The Cedars Academy
HALLAM FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Kirby Muxloe Primary School
Martin High School
ellistown primary school
The Merton Primary
Townlands Primary Academy
Newbold Verdon Primary School
Swallowdale Primary
Woodland Grange Primary, LE2 4TY
Wigstaon Academies Trust
Redmoor Academy
Red Hill Field Primary School
Brockington College
Highcliffe Primary School
Broom Leys Primary School
St Mary's Catholic Primary School Loughborough
Success Academy Trust
Thomas Estley Community College
Thrussington Church of England Primary School
Ashby School
John Ferneley College
Woodbrook Vale School
Discovery Schools Academy Trust
Asfordby Captains Close Primary School
Welland Park Academy
Parkland Primary School
Bradgate Education Partnership
St Thomas Aquins Catholic Multi Academy Trust
Gaddesby Primary School
Broomfield Primary School
Heath Lane Academy
Kibworth Mead Academy

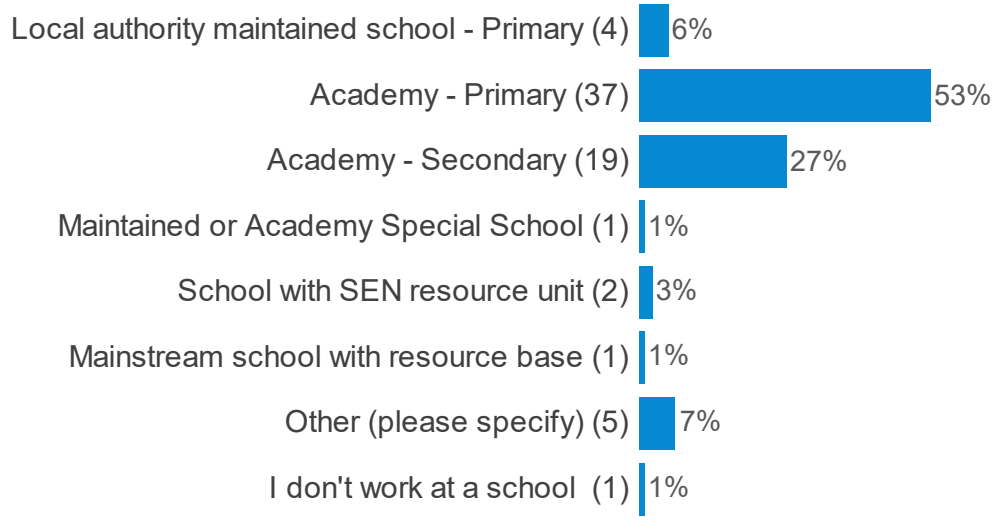
School Funding Consultation 2024

Please provide the following details: (Name of organisation / school:)

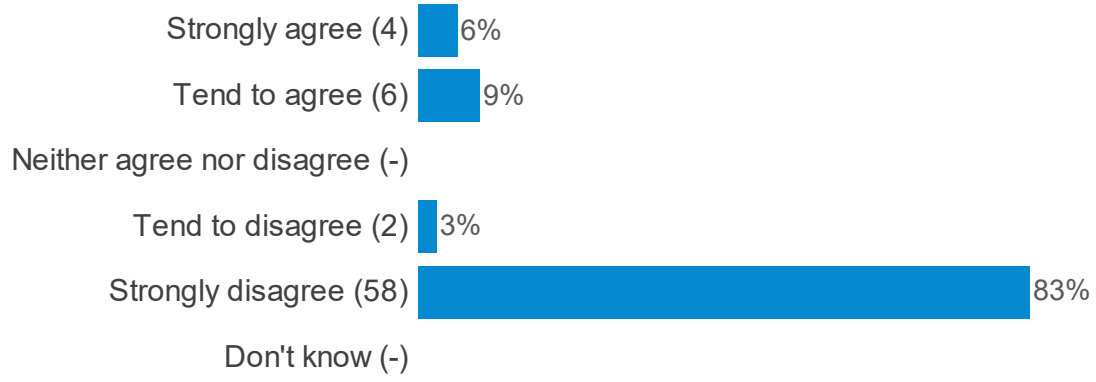
Church Hill Infant School
Limehurst Academy
Ivanhoe School
Thurlaston CE (Aided) Primary School
Hallbrook Primary School
Lutterworth College
Brocks Hill Primary School
Farndon Fields Primary School
ST BOTOLPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
Townlands C of E Primary Academy
Gartree High School
Stafford Leys Primary School
Bosworth Academy
Swinford CE Primary School
Huncote Community Primary School
Badgerbrook Primary
Manorfield C of E Primary School
Parkland Primary School (Discovery Trust)
Mercenfeld Primary School
Croft Church of England Primary School
St Peter's C of E Primary School
Badgerbrook Primary Academy
Foxton Primary School
Little Bowden Primary School
OAK Multi Academy Trust
Croft Primary School
Roundhill Academy
Sherard Primary School Mowbray Education Trust
The Grove Primary School
Ab Kettleby Primary School and Somerby Primary School
Hastings High School
Iveshead School
Enderby Danemill Primary School
Brownlow Primary School
Embrace Multi Academy Trust
OAK Multi Academy Trust

Are you providing your organisation's official response to the consultation?

What type of school do you work at?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to create a SEND Investment Fund to enable investment in targeted actions to improve pupil outcomes?



Why do you say this?

There is a huge need for support for pupils in school who are currently supported by [redacted] but need more intervention before that point.
Schools do not have the financial capability to support such a fund.
We struggle with the limited funding as it currently stands. We do not have enough funding to support the children in school who do have moderate to severe SEND needs. we cannot afford the resources that they need or provide the 1-1 adults that should be supporting them. It would cause a further crisis in school if any of our limited funding was reduced even further. Staff are stretched to maximum capacity and this has a negative impact on their wellbeing.

Why do you say this?

Schools budgets are stretched already and we are already being underfunded nationally and for SEND costs from the LA. To ask schools to pay for this development (however needed) is not appropriate or justified as schools have already absorbed multiple costs from the LA already such as attendance management).
Schools do NOT have the financial capability to support the fund but we do appreciate that something needs to be done.
In principle this is a good idea. However, it would all depend where the money is coming from. Taking it from already cash strapped schools with high numbers of children with SEND needs is not the answer
Schools are already massively underfunded, especially in regards to SEN and money given directly to schools is much more effective.
For most children with SEMH their is an underlying need of Autism - this causes anxieties and therefore behaviours. I would suggest the investment would be in Autism rather than SEMH. We also feel that, as shown in the diagrams provided in the consultation, there is a huge amount of funding wasted on Independent schools rather than the development of places in the Local Authority. This is not sustainable and pulls provision away from areas such as SEMH and Autism. This needs addressing first.
We get so little for our SEND children as it is, the amount paid to support EHCP children compared with any other county that I have spoken to is ridiculous so we already have to use so much of our budget to prop up and staff services that aren't able to be covered for and this looks to take more of that money away from us which will make this even harder. If I have the money, at least I can see what I am doing with it.
I have no faith in the LA being able to organise itself to do anything sensible eith the money they levy.
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
I agree that their needs to be investment in this area however i am concerned that it will take away from other areas of SEND support that are equally underfunded.
You are creating a fund without any significant extra spend even though SEN has risen at an alarming rate.
The whole reason for this consultation is that things have been mismanaged for years (as recognised by the LA itself, not a personal view or comment). Schools' budgets are already extremely tight and top slicing any school to create a SEND investment fund will be punitive and will put a number of schools in a deficit position, or an even greater deficit position.
Increased pupils with special needs in mainstream schools, needing speciailist support and resources to enable all pupils to make high expectations and succeed.
I have not yet been convinced that the funding available within the high needs block is well managed and promptly accessed according to need.
This involves taking £50,000 from our [redacted] which will mean restructuring our provision for children with SEND particularly SEMH as we won't be able to continue to employ the staff who deliver this or create the provision around it. I believe this will adversely impact on the outcomes and provision for our children with SEND. The proposal is to take 0.9% of our income and that seems particularly unfair given the large % of children with SEND needs we host - therefore transferring money away from our SEND provision not towards it.
SEMH needs are becoming more prevalent in mainstream and can have an impact on other pupils' learning
I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this fund effectively based on current evidence
We do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% block transfer.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively. It also disproportionately affects school with the highest number of disadvantaged school. It also affects the schools who currently CANNOT balance budgets due to falling pupil numbers

Why do you say this?

This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
Many of our schools will be significantly and negatively impacted by the proposal. It will, in reality, feel like another budget cut. In particular, [redacted] and [redacted] would be badly hit and this would result in redundancies. This will not support our pupils-especially those with SEMH.
At a time when schools are desperately underfunded, especially in terms of SEND resources, it is unfathomable to consider a significant reduction in funding. The only way we have been able to ensure that provision is where it needs to be is to work on school-based innovation in this area. Such approaches have been successful and represent the only viable way forward; the y need more resource rather than less. Regrettably, there is no evidence to suggest that the pooling of more school resource at authority level will lead to an increase in the efficiency and/or efficacy of provision.
Impact on where the money is coming from— just bother budget cut to schools?
Budgets are so tight in the first place that any further loss would significantly impact the provision we are already trying to provide to our SEND pupils.
We do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
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This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
It is predicted to leave my school with a variance of over £9000 in a school where we are already struggling to run financially.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
Whilst in principle a SEND Investment Fund could be used to support targeted actions we have seen no evidence that the LA can deliver this aim. We do not believe that the LA has the capacity, expertise or knowledge to utilise this fund effectively. We strongly believe that this money remains with schools who do have the track record to deliver pupil improvement.
I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
School have requested support from the LA regarding SEND pupils multiple over recent years and it has regularly not been provided - often not responded to at all. This proposal will cut the funding to schools further and when the LA are failing our children with SEND currently, taking more money from schools will only make it harder for them to provide the necessary support that they currently do. We do not feel that the proposal will improve things for our SEND children, or children across the county. We strongly oppose the proposal.
Uncertain that the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer.
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This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
This is because I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer. Whilst it isn't set to have an impact on our school budget this academic year, future impact is likely and the impact is huge for other schools and their budgets. It is an unreasonable and unfair request.
We do not have faith that the LA will administer this effectively.
Schools do not have sufficient funds to do this, additional funding is needed to meet the needs of our pupils, simply moving money around within our heavily restricted budgets will not work.

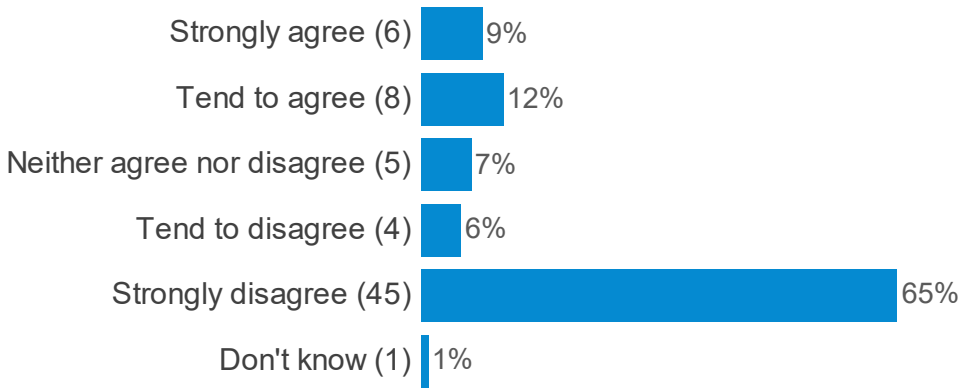
Why do you say this?

This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer. It will have a significant financial impact on the school I lead and the additional amount of over £3K shown for the school I lead is an unreasonable and unfair request.
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer. It will have a significant financial impact on the school I lead and the additional amount of £15879 shown for the school I lead is an unreasonable and unfair request. Due to our budget already showing deficit as we have a much higher than average level of children with funding and this funding not meeting need and being supplemented by our school budget.
This proposal is not in the best interests of schools . The provision for SENd in Leicestershire is inadequate , underfunded and not competently lead by the Local Authority . The schools selected to have their SENd funding cut is discriminate and unfair . The schools with the most SENd need , FSM take up and lower results have been targeted , those school within a more affluent area have not been part of this proposal. The schools with the highest needs for SENd cannot currently meet the needs of their pupils so this cut would further exacerbate this already difficult problem. Further to this the SENd provision in Leicestershire is badly run causing months of delays with applications for EHCPs and Higher Needs funding , this is further putting addition strain on school staff and budgets, as schools have an obligation to meet the needs of pupils with SENd. This proposal to top slice SENd budgets at source is not in my opinion going to solve the problem, the LA SENd department and restructure which has been in the pipe line for a considerable amount of time has had no impact on the SENd provision . So basically the money this new initiative has used has not been VFM . The LA have not been transparent in any aspect of this initiative , how would this money from this new proposal be used, how will it improve the service , what would be the benefits to schools? As the LA do not have a good track record regarding SENd provision this proposal is not in any way a good initiative, it would be detrimental to schools that have been targeted to have their funding cut. My next thought is , is this also part of a political agenda by the LA meaning schools in a Labour Ward are the ones who would have their funding cut while schools in a conservative ward are less likely to.o.
Absolutely cannot happen. It will disproportionally disadvantage our school and pupils. Other solutions must be found. We will challenge using all available options should this go ahead.
We agree that SEMH needs seem to be very prevalent at the moment. We have a number of children with anxiety and who need additional support to attend school, and also to learn to regulate their emotions. In some cases, early intervention could help prevent these difficulties worsening and becoming longer-term SEND needs.
No evidence that this approach will improve outcomes or help schools
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer or nearly 3% in our instance. It will have a significant financial impact on the school I am the SENCo of and the additional amount of £18549 shown for the school I lead is an unreasonable and unfair request.
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively nor consistently to schools.
This is because I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this more effectively or efficiently than our own provision.
This is because I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this more effectively or efficiently than our own provision.
I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this more effectively or efficiently than our own provision. There have been times where funding has not been granted for children who clearly are in need and we end up doing ourselves with our own resources anyway. We will never see this money again!
Because we do not have faith that the LA are able to administer this effectively.

Why do you say this?

This is because I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this more effectively or efficiently than our own provision.
This is because we do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively.
I do not have confidence in the LA being able to administer this more effectively or efficiently than our own provision.
This is because I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this effectively and it will prove detrimental to our schools whose budget will be significantly impacted by the additional 0.5% transfer. It will have a significant financial impact on schools across our trust and the additional amount of £113,000 for the trust schools I lead is an unreasonable and unfair request.
Unfortunately the local authority has not demonstrated success in projects or SEND and has significant areas that it should focus on without diverting it's attention to a matter which is most effectively devolved to the school level. Historic projects of this nature that I have seen have failed to being any real positive impact and schools are far more able to utilise the funds to ensure strong impact not least because of they are under a high level of scrutiny from Ofsted and for trust schools, expectations and support from their trust teams.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) should be the initial focus of a SEND Investment Fund?



Why do you say this?

It is increasingly challenging presentation in schools.
Agree there is a serious need for SEMH support but do not agree to there being an Investment Fund
There is a huge need for this however this should be funded from another budget- not top sliced from the meagre budgets schools receive. We work hard to support the children in school with the limited funding we have. We cannot be expected to, nor do we have the capacity, to work any harder. We ask so much of our staff as it is. The health and wellbeing of staff at all levels must be taken into account. A top slice of school funding would be devastating.
We do NOT agree that an investment fund is a suitable way forwards but we DO agree that the SEMH needs in Leicestershire are a priority .
This would certainly have the greatest impact, as a child with SEMH needs without the correct support can have far reaching consequences for not just the child but the other child in the school and staff - more so than for other needs
Schools have different priorities and whilst SEMH is of huge importance many schools are struggling to meet the needs of learners with other diffculties.
It should be around autism primary as this is paramount in every school.

Why do you say this?

SEMH is the biggest challenge facing our children at the moment and preventing them from accessing the curriculum and provision which they need.
I can't see all of the facts you deal with to know the needs in full. For us, this doesn't represent the wide ranging needs of my SEND children
I do not believe the LA should take the money in the first place.
I do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
With the increase in SEMH need in mainstream schools plus the impact this has on the pupil and the cohort/ whole school I understand why this is the initial area for investment however in our school we have [redacted] EHCPs and [redacted] SENIF in a mainstream school of [redacted] pupils which is financially unsustainable. Not all of these pupils have SEMH needs but obviously all have complex and enduring needs such as global delay, physical disability and ASD. Is the suggestion that these other areas of high need will receive less funding in order to focus on SEMH? All 4 broad areas of need are severely underfunded at EHCP level as well as at K level. It is not fair to take funding from one area to increase funding to another. All areas of need are equally valid and should be funded as so.
There should be extra money set aside for this for school counselors and chaplains and schools where children are not put under ridiculous amounts of pressure to attend and pass written.exams.
Improve SEMH provision when first apparent in a pupil to prevent further development of need
I don't agree with a SEND investment fund, therefore I cannot agree or disagree what its initial focus should be.
We are experiencing a high rate of referrals for pupils to the Mental Health and Support Team and nursing teams and completing ELSA referrals in school at a higher rate in the last 5 years.
I do not believe that this SEND investment fund should be created from the transfer of money which can better be used within our schools to meet these needs and I believe that there will be detriment to children with SEND SEMH if it is transferred from school funding into this LA administered fund
I do not believe there should be this fund: This involves taking £50,000 from our [redacted] which will mean restructuring our provision for children with SEND particularly SEMH as we won't be able to continue to employ the staff who deliver this or create the provision around it. I believe this will adversely impact on the outcomes and provision for our children with SEND. The proposal is to take 0.9% of our income and that seems particularly unfair given the large % of children with SEND needs we host - therefore transferring money away from our SEND SEMH provision not towards it.
See previous question
I do not believe the LA should take the 0.5% transfer. I do believe that SEMH is a huge and rising challenge for schools and requires a robust and integral response.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% block transfer.
[redacted] and [redacted] have said that places for SEMH are not required. We have a specialist provision that is changing to a CI base because of the lack of spaces. Therefore this makes no sense. We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
I fundamentally disagree with the investment fund.
Based on my previous response, I do not believe that the investment fund should be established.
Agree but disagree with the funding proposal.
We do not think the LA should take 0.5% from schools to fund this.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.

Why do you say this?

We do not believe that the LA should make the 0/5% transter
I do not believe the investment fund is the best way of tackling this issue.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
SEMH is a complex area requiring the joined up thinking of many agencies, not least CAMHS and community paediatrics. The LA alone does not have the expertise to meet need, as shown by the huge delay (beyond the legal requirement) in EHCPs and waiting lists for specialist education. To provide this money to meet this need is futile at this stage and the money is better remaining within schools.
I do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer as they have not demonstrated they capacity to appropriately manage existing funds.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
We believe that the focus should be individualised for each pupil. Currently the LA are not meeting their statutory duty for children with EHCPs and this should be a priority.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer and that a SEMH should be the initial focus
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
I disagree with the use of the 0.5% transfer so therefore unable to comment.
We do not believe that the LA should go ahead with the 0.5% transfer
We are seeing an increase in the need for mental health support in schools, however not all pupils with mental health needs are SEND pupils and so additional funding is needed to meet the needs of these pupils.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
SENd cobblers all areas of needs for a pupil SEMH is just one aspect of this, while yes it’s important so are all the other areas of SENd covered in the code of practice
See previous answer.
Any investment fund should support schools properly to support all SEND students
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
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We do not believe that the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
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I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer because there is no evidence it would have an impact and would remove focus from areas of SEND that the authority needs to focus on at this time.

Do you have any comments on how a SEND Investment Fund should be delivered, monitored and governed?

It should be a swiftly accessible intervention with personalised support directed at individuals and groups of children.
Again, schools cannot afford to support this fund. The deficit is not the 'fault' of schools so they haven't benefited from it to be able to support it.
By experts who have worked in schools and understand the challenges that schools face.
We fundamentally disagree with the proposal. Government funding needs to support and the LCC needs to better manage its resource to effectively support schools.
Money needs to be within schools to help them meet the needs of learners.
I believe it should be invested in the baseline services of SEN places rather than a fund. If it were to be as a fund, the amount provided seems minimal in comparison to the requirements in schools. We would need to fund experienced staff and teachers to manage the right support for SEN
There needs to be a very fair and clear process so that all children are having the support that they require.
I do not believe the LA should take the money form schools for these reasons: • Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
A working party of a diverse range of stakeholders needs to be established to ensure the delivery of the fund is fair and equitable. A panel of independent Governors should be established to ensure that delivery and monitoring are rigorous and the funds are giving impact. Impact monitored - school data - behaviour, referrals, pupil progress and attainment, staff voice, parent voice, pupil voice, Governor voice all taken in to account.
You shouldn't be INVESTING in SEND you should be SPENDING money on special schools which are designed for SEN pupils instead of shoving them in schools which are clearly the wrong setting and where they disrupt the learning of other pupils. You should be training special education teachers properly and staffing schools or units where their relevant training can be maximised.
I do not agree with a SEND investment fund therefore do not have any comment about how it should be delivered, monitored or governed.
Any support through resources greatly appreciated within schools to use as needed.
I do not believe this transfer should be made. It will badly impact on our [redacted] schools with high levels of SEND who have set up new complex staffing structures and inhouse provision to manage these needs inhouse and will require these to be dismantled and their green shoots of positive impact to be lost, impacting adversely on our students with SEND. We should instead look at best practice within local schools and mirror it across other schools without transferring the funding. We have already had to find solutions ourselves.
I do not believe it should be put into place: This involves taking £50,000 from our [redacted] which will mean restructuring our provision for children with SEND particularly SEMH as we won't be able to continue to employ the staff who deliver this or create the provision around it. I believe this will adversely impact on the outcomes and provision for our children with SEND. The proposal is to take 0.9% of our income and that seems particularly unfair given the large % of children with SEND needs we host - therefore transferring money away from our SEND provision not towards it.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer. Fundamentally opposed.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% block transfer. We do not have confidence in the LAs ability to administer such a fund.

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Do you have any comments on how a SEND Investment Fund should be delivered, monitored and governed?

We do not believe this is a sensible or practical way forward when it affects the most vulnerable schools disproportionately
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
Based on my previous response, I do not believe that the investment fund should be established.
With great consideration of those that are on the ground, supporting pupils and seeking advice.
The SEND fund simply should not come out of current budgets. We can't get dyslexia diagnosis, paediatrician appointments, CAHMS appts, school nurse visits - the list is endless. I do not agree with the proposal.
We do not believe the LA should take 0.5% from schools
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
No
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
Need more detail of what is being proposed to be able to comment
It would need to have a very clear explanation of how my reduction in school budget would be equally, or actually better, matched in terms of access to a service. I would have huge concerns about who was put in charge of the delivery of this when the funding can be so closely matched to my individual pupils currently whereas this would be tackling a much larger issue. My funding would be swallowed up. It would need monitoring and potentially governed by the key stakeholders which are the schools and parents.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We strongly believe that the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer. At this stage, before asking for the money, the LA should have a detailed plan to share as to how this money will make a difference. To ask how the fund should be delivered, monitored and governed shows a lack of forward thinking. If we look at the previous years the LA has invested significant funds into TSIL that outwardly appear to have made things worse not better we believe it is foolhardy to ask for more investment with no clear plans to share or risk assessed what effect losing the funding from schools will have.
I do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
We should not be loosing this money out of our school finances
We do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
We strongly oppose this proposal!
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer and the financial impact on my school's budget is unfair.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer.
I don't agree with the 0.5% transfer so unable to comment.
We do not support the LA making this transfer of 0.5%.
The SEND investment fund needs to be funding additional to the school's existing budget and not come from within it.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer and the financial impact on my school's budget is unfair

Do you have any comments on how a SEND Investment Fund should be delivered, monitored and governed?

I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer and the financial impact on my school's budget is unfair.
The LA control of the SENd fund should be more transparent and school should have more say in how this fund is monitored and governed. School Headteacher are at the ‘chalk face’ along with SENdcos, these are the personnel that should be involved in delivering , monitoring and governing the SENd investment fund, they have the most uptodate knowledge and expertise.
We would welcome the suggestions in the consultation document e.g. practitioners coming in to school to provide support, model good practice, run small groups. We would hope that the governance, delivery and monitoring could be flexible - as different schools will have very different needs - with a simple referral / action / review process. We would also hope that the fund would not be too restrictive e.g. we would have a range of children who might need support, some of whom will already be on the SEND register, but some of whom will have a pastoral need and so won't have SEND status - and so we would not want the fund to be restricted to SEND children. Our SEMH and ELSA interventions would normally run for 6-8 weeks, and so we would hope to run any provisions from the fund in a similar way, with a short review at the end of the 6-8 weeks, and a decision on whether to continue or whether the need has been met.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer or indeed nearly 3%. The financial impact of the £18549 on our schools budget will be devastating and will result in poorer provision for our pupils.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer particularly given the disproportionate impact that it would have upon our school.
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer.
I object to the transfer because: • It appears that schools with the most SEND need will pay more and I think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have, on average, lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least which suggests that they already require additional resourcing. • We do not have confidence that the LA has the capacity or organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision in a way that is at least as good as the schools’ own arrangements. • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
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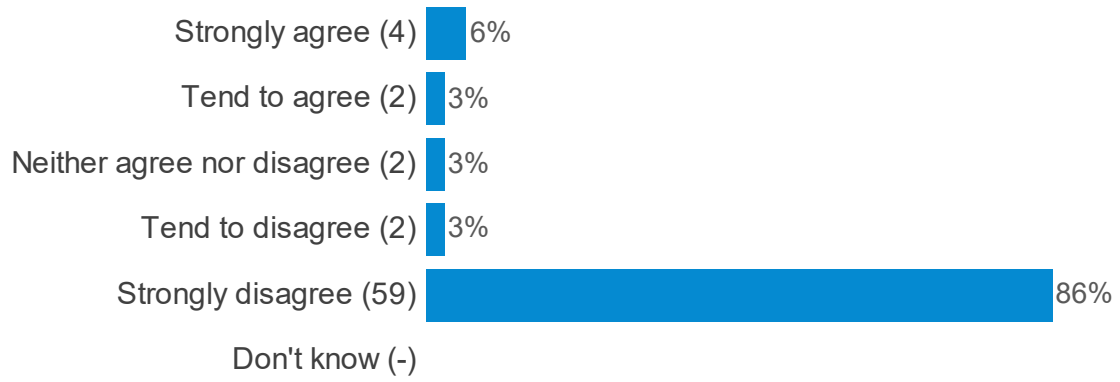
I do not believe the LA should make the 0.5% transfer and the financial impact on our budgets across the trust schools is unfair.
I do not believe this would be of any benefit nor have any real impact. Therefore is should not go ahead in the first place because the LA needs to focus on its core SEN obligations and schools are best placed to put appropriate context related interventions into place.

School Funding Consultation 2024

To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal for an annual funding transfer of 0.5% to establish a SEND Investment Fund?



Why do you say this?

This could save future costs such as EHCPs and placements at Short Stay Schools.
Schools are struggling with the poor budgets they currently receive. Any funds transferred away from the school would cause a crisis.
We are currently in a huge deficit budget de to our high numbers of SEND needs and underfunded EHCP's. We are predicted to lose an additional £5000 as part of this plan. This would very much be a step backwards for our school's SEN strategy and would be detrimental to the children in our care
I feel this is not the best allocation of funds and doesn't fulfill a long term strategic direction
• Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision
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In principle investment has to improve the current failing situation. However it will very much depend on how the funding is allocated and not at the expense to meeting other SEND needs.
Robbing Peter to pay Paul never works. Stop oving the furniture while the place burns down.
Schools are already underfunded, this money should come from elsewhere
Many schools are already facing financial constraints, some have been forced to set deficit budgets. This proposal will send more schools into deficit, others into a greater deficit position.
This will greatly support schools with groups in schools and activities to enhance pupils with SEND and their access to curriculum and quality first teaching.
I do not believe this transfer should be made. It will badly impact on our [redacted] schools with high levels of SEND who have set up new complex staffing structures and inhouse provision to manage these needs inhouse and will require these to be dismantled and their green shoots of positive impact to be lost, impacting adversely on our students with SEND. We should instead look at best practice within local schools and mirror it across other schools without transferring the funding. We have already had to find solutions ourselves.

Why do you say this?

I do not agree with this proposal: This involves taking £50,000 from our [redacted] which will mean restructuring our provision for children with SEND particularly SEMH as we won't be able to continue to employ the staff who deliver this or create the provision around it. I believe this will adversely impact on the outcomes and provision for our children with SEND. The proposal is to take 0.9% of our income and that seems particularly unfair given the large % of children with SEND needs we host - therefore transferring money away from our SEND provision not towards it.
I do not fully understand how funding is distributed currently
I do not have faith in the LA being able to administer this fund effectively
We object to the transfer because: • Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
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As stated previously, at a time when schools are desperately underfunded, especially in terms of SEND resources, it is unfathomable to consider a significant reduction in funding. The only way we have been able to ensure that provision is where it needs to be is to work on school-based innovation in this area. Such approaches have been successful and represent the only viable way forward; the y need more resource rather than less. Regrettably, there is no evidence to suggest that the pooling of more school resource at authority level will lead to an increase in the efficiency and/or efficacy of provision.
Reduced funding in schools
School budgets as previously stated are strapped and we are not able to fully provide what our children need now! Pulling funding will massively impact the school and my pupils. This is simply not an option.
We object to the transfer because: · Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair · Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all · We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties · The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least · The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least · We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision · The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
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Why do you say this?

Schools are finding the current financial situation very difficult. The notional SEN budget and wider budget cannot meet the needs of an increasing number of pupils with SEN Needs at the moment. Taking money from the school will lead to staff being unable to move forward for the sake of the child.
We object to the transfer because: • Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
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Although if this happened, it should of course be ringfenced. I do not see how this is beneficial compared to the money being at a school level.
· Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair · Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all · We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties · The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least · The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least · We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision · The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
The plans for this fund are poorly defined. The LA has been dysfunctional for many years and most particularly in the area of high needs. This has been demonstrated through two Ofsted inspections and, in the last two years, the failure of the TSIL project to deliver any visible improvements for high needs pupils, their families or schools. EHCP timeframes are longer than ever (some taking three times the legal timeframe or more to be finalised) and Element 3 funding for high needs pupils is risible (nearly half that provided in Leicester City). The LA has spent years blaming 'middle class parents' and the 'unrealistic expectations of schools' for their own failings. While there is a national crisis in SEND, Leicestershire has been unable to co-ordinate efficient and effective delivery of even their most basic statutory responsibilities. The statement that the fund would 'only used for activities that will improve pupil outcomes' suggests the rather insulting view that this is not what schools are already desperately trying to do with the limited funding we receive in the face of colossal incompetance on the part of the LA.
BECAUSE IT DISPROPORTINALLY AFFECTS SCHOOLS AND SOME OF THESE SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY DOING A GREAT JOB WITH THEIR SEND AND IT APPEARS BEING FINANCIALLY PENALISED AS A RESULT.
Why is this being directly taken away from schools
School have requested support from the LA regarding SEND pupils multiple over recent years and it has regularly not been provided - often not responded to at all. This proposal will cut the funding to schools further and when the LA are failing our children with SEND currently, taking more money from schools will only make it harder for them to provide the necessary support that they currently do. We do not feel that the proposal will improve things for our SEND children, or children across the county. We strongly oppose the proposal.
We do not believe the LA should not make the 0.5% transfer

Why do you say this?

I object to the transfer because: Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and this is unfair. Some schools will pay a significant amount from their school budget and others nothing at all – this is unfair and has not been thought through with regard to key ideas, delivery, monitoring and governance of such a fund. The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least - this is detrimental both for those schools and the pupils who attend them. I do not believe that the LA has the capacity or organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision. The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children or those schools which would have a significant impact on their budget and financial position.

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School's budgets are so stretched as it is, they do not have the funds to do this. If this happens then other areas of education will suffer as a result.

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As previously stated this proposal is discriminatory and ill thought through , schools with inadequate budgets cannot meet the needs of the pupils on role currently with SEND . The LA provision of SENd is badly and incompetently managed. As most authorities do have problems with SENd funding Leicestershire Authority have the most issues caused through bad management.

Difficult to answer without knowing all of the context for SEND funding, but a ring-fenced 'pot' of £2.6m/0.5% initially seems an appropriate amount.

Funds will disproportionately reduce funding for schools with students with the most vulnerable children and there has been no evidence that the proposal will improve outcomes.

This will be catastrophic to our school.

Why do you say this?

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I do not believe that such an investment fund will benefit our schools across the trust in a productive and impactful way for children and young people.

This is a diversion from the need of the LA to improve the core areas of SEN focus. The money is unlucky to be well used given historic evidence and schools are much better placed to identify appropriate interventions for their students. Anything which removes money to support schools in this endeavour should be avoided. This proposed transfer should not go ahead.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

It is a ridiculous notion that school budgets are targeted to be reduced further. Please listen to the voice of staff on the ground. Any move of this kind would be hugely detrimental.

This is a national conversation and a sticking plaster approach will not solve it. LAs are underfunded and as such have been not meeting their school place funding obligations for years now (including not increasing high needs funding for years despite associated staffing costs increasing substantially). Schools cannot continue to carry this.

We are deeply disappointed by this proposal as it demonstrates how little schools are listened to by LCC. We simply cannot function if we lose any more money. We carefully manage all our sending are seem to be held to account for every penny we spend. It is a shame the the LCC has not been held to the same levels of accountability over the years.

Please don't rob Peter to pay Paul.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

None
I would suggest investing in long term programmes/provision that support children with a focus on Autism rather than SEMH. SEMH is frequently a result of Autism or social care needs/family support
Removing money from schools is not the way forward here when Leicestershire schools are already one of the worst funded per pupil head in the country. Sorry, I cannot support this at all.
How can it be fair for the schools with heaviest need to pay most and those with less SEND need to pay most?
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Funding formulas for SEND provision need to looked at on a national level as no one area of SEND funding should take priority over another.
Oh, I have so many more comments and suggestions but nobody wants to hear them. SENNA is not fit for purpose and everyone knows it.
Designated person to support schools or cluster of schools rather than a generic department email.
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Work with MATs to provide cheaper places. Better co construction of ideas need to be created

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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I wish to continue to work with the LA to look at how to best use the scarce resources available, and I continue to recognise the paucity of central government funding to authorities in this area. That said, it is widely recognised that out of county placements and the broader management of the High Needs Block have played their parts in bringing us to the present situation; it is not appropriate to disproportionately penalise some schools financially to try to rebalance this.
provide the full amount of funding to schools who have SEN in the first place. The LA is not meeting its current SEND duty as it is.
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Whilst I appreciated that the number of SEN pupils requiring significant support has escalated quickly the reality is that schools are doing their best to the meet the needs of some complex pupils with very little budget. The notional budget does not go far enough to support schools in meeting specific pupils needs and there are many pupils in mainstream education that are not suited to it and they need a specialist setting but there is a shortage of these places.
We object to the transfer because: • Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children
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no comment

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In addition to doubts about the LA's strategic and organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision (as evidenced over a number of years already and via Ofsted outcomes), this proposal is grossly unfair because: Schools with the most SEND need will pay more Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all It appears to be biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children Please just trigger the 'safety valve' option. It is clear that it is in the interests of the children and young people in Leicestershire would be best served by external involvement to ensure that Leicestershire organises itself effectively.
DIRECTLY TARGET THOSE SCHOOLS THAT CLEALRY DON'T HAVE THEIR FAIR SHARE OF COMPLEX SEND PUPILS OR WHO FAIL THEM BY NOT MAKING REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS
The funding needs increasing in schools not decreasing, this is not good news
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I will be writing to the Secretary of State to state to share our strong opposal on behalf of our school.
Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all. We notice that schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • Does the LA have the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision
I strongly disagree with the proposals and negative effect it will have on school budgets and provision for SEND pupils.
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Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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We reject this proposal on the grounds of: · Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and we think this is unfair. · Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all which is unfair, · We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties. · The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least. · The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least. · We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision. · The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children.

Schools need additional funding to meet the increasing SEND needs. Money is needed for additional staff to provide the support needed and investment is needed into staff professional development so that they are able to meet the increasing mental health needs of their pupils. We need to invest in schools in order to provide all pupils with the high quality education that they deserve. The NHS if often unable to provide mental health support for children not at crisis point and so the pressure on schools to meet mental health needs increases. Schools are largely unequipped to meet these needs. Training and resources are needed.

The most inclusive schools have always been the schools affected the most significantly financially. Our notional budget doesn't cover what it should, even with the top up. Hourly rates have not risen in line with pay rises, even though there are still hours on plans. Due to this our reserves have been depleted and we are in deficit, yet we would be asked to contribute nearly £16000. Nearly [redacted]% of our school has SENDIF funding or EHCP's and more than [redacted] come from out of our catchment area because we have the skills and desire to support the most challenging children. We are proud of our inclusivity and yet we will be crippled financially by this. It seems unfair and will not support those schools who go above and beyond to support our young people with SEND.

To ensure that SENd provision in Leicestershire is sorted a working party of professional Headteachers and SENdco should be formed. This working party could then completely overhaul the provision with knowledge , expertise and professionalism

We would certainly welcome any possible further support with meeting SEMH needs, and are supportive of any action that will help with early intervention, e.g. to prevent seemingly 'simple' cases of anxiety becoming more complex and hard-wired. The idea of support from practitioners to provide training / support for school staff is very appealing. We would welcome practical support in particular on how to support a child's SEMH needs, including working with the parents/carers to understand the root causes, and how home-life can also impact on a child's SEMH.

The County LA have not increased their SEN funding to schools for too long, other LA's have increased funding numerous times. SEND funding is late, incorrect and its impossible to get hold of anyone at the LA to sort out issues this has not improved.

I object to the transfer because: Schools with the most SEND need will pay more and this is unfair. Some schools will pay a significant amount from their school budget and others nothing at all – this is unfair and has not been thought through with regard to key ideas, delivery, monitoring and governance of such a fund. The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least - this is detrimental both for those schools and the pupils who attend them. I do not believe that the LA has the capacity or organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision. The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children or those schools which would have a significant impact on their budget and financial position.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

I strongly object to the transfer because: • Schools with the most SEND need such as [redacted] will pay more and we think this is unfair • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all • We believe it is biased to protect Conservative wards over other parties • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children

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We object to the transfer alongside many other schools because: • Schools with the most SEND need will often pay more when they need this funding the most. • Some schools will pay tens of thousands and others nothing at all - based on the underfunding of Leicestershire schools. • The schools that are scheduled to pay most have higher levels of FSM than those paying least • The schools that will pay most have on average lower attainment outcomes than those that pay least • We do not believe that the LA has the capacity of organisational ability to work with schools to improve SEND provision • The LA has not carried out an impact risk assessment to measure the impact on vulnerable children

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Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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This is against the evidence base of the school improvement and pupil outcomes. The schools know the most impactful interventions and are able to work with other schools where this brings benefits. The proposal has no evidential basis and would take away focus on the fundamental SEND work that the LA needs to focus on at this time. This proposal should not proceed.

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