



SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION 2021/22

Where does the school's money come from?

Kent County Council receives an annual grant from central government which is delegated to the schools that it maintains. This is known as the "Delegated Budget". The remaining funding comes from Pupil Premium Grant, Covid Catch Up Funding, Other Grants and Payments, Additional Grants for School, such as Primary Sports Grant and Universal Income Free School Meals. The school can also adopt a number of income generating activities, including lettings and fundraising. In conjunction with other Senior Leaders and the Senior Management Team, the Principal decides how to allocate the funds in a way that best meets the school's needs. The final approval of the school's budget to the Local Authority lies with the Governing Body.

How much is the budget?

Kent County Council purchases a set number of places from each special school each year. The number of places that it purchases from Meadowfield is currently 351. Funding for pupils is comprised of 3 elements:

- Element 1 - known as "core education funding"
- Element 2 - known "additional support funding" **for high needs pupils**
- Element 3 – known as "top-up funding" which is funding in addition to Elements 1 and 2 to meet the total cost of the education provision required by an individual high needs pupil based on the pupil's assessed needs.

How much funding do we get for each element per pupil?

- Element 1 is funded at £4,000 per pupil.
- Element 2 is funded at £6,000 per pupil.
- Element 3 is based upon the primary special educational need of each pupil at Meadowfield and ranges from £1,745.22 per annum for a pupil with Mild Learning

Difficulties to £12,793.11 per annum for a pupil with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities.

Elements 1 and 2 are fixed for the year but the funding for Element 3 is “tracked” which means that if a pupil leaves our school, the funding follows the pupil to their next school. Conversely, if a pupil joins our school, the funding is received by us and is not retained by their previous school. Whilst this is an equitable approach, it means that in practice income can fluctuate significantly during the year if there is a lot of pupil movement.

How does the school allocate its money?

The budget runs from 1 April to 31 March each year. The majority of the school’s budget is spent on staff salaries and associated employment costs (87%), curriculum resources (5%), premises expenditure (6%) and other expenditure (2%).

How is the budget monitored?

The budget is prepared, benchmarked and approved by the Governing Body and then submitted to Schools Financial Services at Kent County Council in May each year. Feedback on the budget is received in June for reporting to the next Governing Body meeting. The Chair of the Governing Body receives finance updates from the Director of Finance and Business Services each month and the Governing Body each term. In addition, the Governing Body receives and approves the Six Month and Nine Month Budget monitoring reports and the End of Year Reports. These 3 monitoring reports are also submitted to Schools Financial Services and any feedback is reported to the next Governing Body meeting. Further benchmarking information can be found here:

<https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk>