



SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2019

Where does the school's money come from?

Kent County Council receives a grant annually 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, other grants and payments, and income generating activities. In conjunction with the Senior Management Team, the Principal decides how to allocate the funds in a way that best meets the school's needs. Final approval of the school's budget 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 320. 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 £1,343 per annum for a pupil with Mild Learning Difficulties to £11,520 per annum for a pupil with Physical 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 (88%), curriculum resources (4%), premises expenditure (5%) and other expenditure (3%).

How is the budget monitored?

The budget is approved by the Governing Body and then submitted to School's 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 Governing Body receives finance updates from the School Business Manager during the year, including 3 budget monitoring reports at the end of September (6 months into the financial year), December (9 months) and March (end of year figures). These 3 monitoring reports are also submitted to Schools' Financial Services and any feedback is reported to the next Governing Body meeting.

September 2019