

Report Details

Date: 2 October 2025	Item 11 Type of report: Decision
Report title:	DSG - Schools Block Transfer
Author name and contact details:	Aron Brown aron.brown@southwark.gov.uk
Officer to present the report and title:	Aron Brown Senior Finance Manager, Education

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report sets out the intention to continue with the Schools Block transfer in 2026-27.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

That the Schools Forum

- Agree the Schools Block transfer of £1.2m to the High Needs Block for the financial year 2026-27.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Department for Education (DfE) provides local authorities with funding for education via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is the accumulation of separately calculated blocks; Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Support Services Block.
3. The Schools Block is distributed to schools, primarily through a formula administered by the LA, covered by statutory regulations and agreed with the Schools Forum. (Other distribution methods are the Growth Fund and the Falling Rolls Fund.)
4. As part of the Safety Valve agreement the council has entered into with the DfE, which provides additional funding to the council upon meeting financial targets within the High Needs Block, it was proposed that for the duration of the agreement, the Schools Block transfer would remain at £1.2m to support the High Needs Block. Financial year 2026-27 is the final year of the Safety Valve agreement.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Schools Block transfer supports two spend areas. The first is the EHCP Inclusion fund (£0.9m) which is funding passed directly back to schools via an agreed formula. The second area is the SEND Consultants team (£0.3m) who work to support schools with inclusion.
6. Early confirmation of the Schools Block transfer will allow the council to plan effectively for the coming financial year.