



DSG 2026/27 Final Allocation of Licence Fee

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Schools Forum – 17th June 2026

Report to: Schools Forum

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Councillor Michelle Fascione, Lead Member
Children & Families, Education & Skills

Report of: Director of Children's Services, Stuart Easingwood

Subject: DSG 2026/27 Final Allocation of Licence Fee

Date: 17th June 2026

Wards affected: All

Council ambitions: Connected to Jobs

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: n/a

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: n/a

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report).

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks approval from Schools Forum to fund the final allocation in relation to licence fees from Central Schools Services Block in 2026/27 as required by School Funding regulations

Background Information

2. In the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) includes funding for certain services that are delivered centrally by the local authority or on behalf of all schools. One of these historic items is the DfE licence arrangement.
3. This specifically relates to copyright licensing agreements that the Department for Education (DfE) has arranged nationally for all state-funded schools.
4. Instead of each school purchasing licences individually, the DfE procures and funds them centrally. The cost is then top sliced from DSG and distributed via the CSSB. The licences broadly cover the legal use of copyrighted materials in schools, for example:
 - Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) – photocopying and scanning from books, journals, and magazines
 - Educational Recording Agency (ERA) – recording and using TV and radio broadcasts
 - Music licences (e.g. PRS, PPL) – performing and playing music in schools
 - Filmbank / MPLC – showing films/videos in school settings
 - Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA) – copying from newspapers
5. Schools Forum on 21st January 2026 approved a report on the Central services school block initial allocation for 2026/27.
6. Included in this report was an estimate for the centrally funded licence fee of £154,768 based on the 2025/26 figure.
7. The actual fee for 2026/27 has since been released and is £156,679

Financial and Resources

8. There are no financial implications as any difference will be covered by the Local Authority.
9. The Director of Children's Services has been consulted on the proposal.

Legal and Governance

10. The Licence Fee arrangements organised by the DfE ensure that all schools have adequate copyright licensing agreements required to allow them to use copyrighted materials in delivery of education.

Risk

11. There are no risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

Equality and Diversity and Community

12. There are no equality, diversity, community and integration implications arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

13. There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

Council Ambitions, Policies, Strategies and Plans

14. The delivery of high quality education services in the borough supports the Council's ambitions for our residents to be Connected to Jobs through having access to the right education, skills and confidence to access good quality jobs

Consultation and Engagement

15. The Director of Children's Services has been consulted on the proposal.

Recommendations

16. Schools Forum is asked to approve the Licence Fee for 2026/27 of £156,679.

Reasons for Recommendations

17. To demonstrate Schools' Forum responsibility for monitoring DSG and school balances.

List of Appendices

None.

background papers background papers background papers

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2026/27 – Licence Fee

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
Info from DFE		