



Briefing note

To: Schools Forum **Author:** Mark Longstaff
Date: August 2019 **Purpose of the Paper:**

Information	√
Consultation	
Decision	

Title of Briefing: FSM Supplementary Grant 2018/19

Background

Following the Schools Forum meeting on 10th July 2019 a request was made for some further information in relation to the above Grant.

Reason for the Grant

The FSM Supplementary Grant provides funding for schools to help them meet the costs of providing extra free school meals, due to the roll out of universal credit. North Tyneside received notification from the DfE of the respective increase in FSM numbers at each school and the associated grant allocation for each school.

Receipt of the Grant

The funding was received only 4 weeks before the end of the financial year 2018/19 and was credited against individual schools’ budgets. The schools budget then shows a corresponding debit for the same amount which was credited to catering services by journal transfer. Schools are able to see this on their transaction reports.

The Authority wrote to each school informing them of the Grant and the proposed treatment on 27th February.

Permitted Use of the Grant

Local Authorities were asked to ensure that their maintained schools only spend the FSM supplementary grant in the following ways:

- For the purposes of the School
- For the benefit of the pupils registered

Variations, Overpayments

The basis for the grant allocation may be varied by the Secretary of State; any overpayment of the FSM Supplementary Grant by the ESFA to a Local Authority shall be repaid by the Local Authority.

Summary

Local Authorities were required to pay each School their respective amount. Whilst an invoice could have been raised to each School for the extra costs incurred a decision was made to avoid these transactions at the year end.

However for similar grant notifications in the future each School will be asked to agree or otherwise if they require a separation of such transactions.

Should you require any further information or clarification on this issue please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

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