

Appendix 1: Scheme Consultation Responses

DfE changes to be locally adopted.

Q 1		
Addition to the scheme	2.3.6 Submission of Financial Forecasts	Comment
<p>Replace: Schools MUST shall provide the authority with a financial forecast covering each year of a 3 year budget plan annually by 31 May</p>		<p>In principal yes but in a small school environment things can change greatly from one year to the next and by the third year it could look very different from the previous two years</p> <p>Good practice so we agree.</p> <p>Until the outcome of the spending review, Maintained Nursery Schools are not able to provide an accurate 3yr forecast. Supplementary funding for Nursery schools is only in place until end of the school year 2021.</p> <p>Some understanding/flexibility here as we wait confirmation for the long term solution for funding of maintained nursery schools (MNS). Currently MNS receive supplementary funding which has been extended to end of summer term 2021. Nothing has been confirmed beyond that date. Without a continuation of supplementary funding or a permanent solution to MNS funding then financial pressures to maintain a balanced budget remain high In this context any MNS would welcome support to provide accurate three year budget plan.</p> <p>We agree in principle to this however we have difficulty doing this accurately as the long term picture for supplementary funding for Nursery schools is currently unclear and we are awaiting the outcome of the spending review. Until we know the outcome of this review it is impossible to produce an accurate budget plan for longer than a year.</p>

Q 2		
Removal from the scheme	4.6 Planning for deficit budgets	Comment
<p>Deleted: The governing body cannot plan for a deficit budget</p>		<p>Good practice especially in current financial climate. Agreed</p>

Q 3		
Addition to the scheme	4.6 Planning for deficit budgets	Comment
<p>Added: Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. Local authorities may set a lower threshold than 5% for the submission of a recovery plan if they wish. The 5% deficit threshold will apply when deficits are measured as at 31 March 2021.</p>		<p>The LA should work with any Nursery School in need, to produce a balanced budget.</p> <p>MNS would welcome support from the local authority to provide assistance and work with the school to produce a recovery plan</p>

Q 4	10: INSURANCE	
Addition to the scheme	10.1 Insurance cover	Comment
<p>Added: As from 1st April 2020, schools may join the Secretary of State's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). They may do this individually when any insurance contract of which they are a part expires. Primary and/or secondary maintained schools may join the RPA collectively by agreeing through Schools Forum to de-delegate funding</p>		<p>The school will be interested in joining the RPA collectively if this is available through the LA.</p> <p>Joined May 2020</p> <p>Noted. Provides alternative option.</p>

Additional Comment

Every year Maintained Nursery Schools face the unknown with actual numbers of children and claw back. The percentages of 30hr and 15hr children changes yearly and sometimes within the year.