

Glossary of Education Acronyms for Schools Forum Members

Core Education Governance

DfE: Department for Education

LA: Local Authority

LEA: Local Education Authority (older term, still used informally)

Schools Forum: A statutory body of headteachers, governors, and other stakeholders advising on schools funding

SACRE: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

LSP: Local Strategic Partnership

LGA: Local Government Association

ESFA: Education and Skills Funding Agency

School Funding & Finance

DSG: Dedicated Schools Grant

Schools Block: Funding for mainstream schools

High Needs Block: Supports SEND pupils and alternative provision

Early Years Block: Funds 2–4 year-old provision

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB): For centrally retained services

NFF: National Funding Formula

GAG: General Annual Grant

PP: Pupil Premium

LAC Premium: Premium for Looked After Children

FSM: Free School Meals

CIF: Condition Improvement Fund

PE and Sport Premium: Primary school sport-specific grant

SCF: Schools Capital Funding

RSG: Revenue Support Grant

BFR: Budget Forecast Return

AAR: Accounts Return (for academies)

SFVS: Schools Financial Value Standard

CFR: Consistent Financial Reporting

SRMSAT: School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool

I&E: Income and Expenditure

RB: Responsible Body (e.g., academy trust or LA for capital bids)

School Types & Structures

LA Maintained Schools: Schools overseen by the local authority

Academies: State-funded, independently run schools

SAT: Single Academy Trust

MAT: Multi-Academy Trust

PRU: Pupil Referral Unit

SEN: Special Educational Needs

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SENCO: Special Educational Needs Coordinator

EHCP: Education, Health and Care Plan

AP: Alternative Provision

Curriculum, Assessment, & Data

EYFS: Early Years Foundation Stage

KS1–KS5: Key Stages (1: ages 5–7 through 5: post-16)

SATs: Statutory Assessment Tests

GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education

A-Level: Advanced Level Qualifications

BTEC: Vocational qualification

T-Level: New post-16 technical qualification

IDSr: Inspection Data Summary Report

ASP: Analyse School Performance

ULN: Unique Learner Number

UPN: Unique Pupil Number

Accountability & Oversight

Ofsted: Office for Standards in Education

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

ESFA Audit: Compliance audit for academies

FOI: Freedom of Information

FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (mostly U.S.-based but referenced in international discussions)

Forum-Related Terms

De-delegation: Process where some budgets are retained centrally for maintained schools

Growth Fund: Budget to support expanding schools

Falling Rolls Fund: Supports schools with temporarily declining pupil numbers

Licenced Deficit: Agreement allowing a school to set a deficit budget under LA supervision

Contingency Funding: Budget set aside for unforeseen school pressures

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG): Ensures school budgets don't fall significantly year to year

Disapplication Request: LA application to DfE to change school funding rules locally

Central Retention: Where funds are held by the LA for collective services

Tools, Systems & Reports

MIS: Management Information System (e.g. SIMS, Arbor)

CIF Portal: Online system for academy capital funding bids

View My Financial Insights (VMFI): DfE tool comparing school finances

Benchmarking: Comparing financial data across schools

IDACI: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index