

Our Ref: CM/EJC  
Date: 28 January 2015  
Enquiries to: Schools' Accountancy Team  
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To: All Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Maintained Schools

**LMS Document  
No. 2015/01**

Dear Colleague

## **ANNUAL REVIEW OF SUFFOLK'S SCHEME FOR THE FINANCING OF SCHOOLS**

I am writing to you today to inform you that the Authority's annual review of the Scheme for the Financing of Schools has recently been completed, and to update you on the outcomes.

### Scheme for the Financing of Schools (Scheme)

The Scheme is the formal document describing the relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) which it funds. The Scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues, and is binding on both the Authority and on maintained schools/PRUs.

The current Scheme came into force on 01 January 2014 following a comprehensive consultation with all Suffolk schools and PRUs during autumn 2013; the annual review took place last term. Schools' Forum was informed of the outcomes of the annual review, including the proposed changes, at its meeting on 13 January 2015; full details are included in [Schools Forum 13/01/2015 Paper F](#). Formal consultation with all schools was not required.

### Changes that will take effect from 01 February 2015

1. The DfE made minor amendments to its guidance during 2014 and as a result the following underlined text will be added to Section 2.13 of the current Scheme:

In the 2002 Education Act (section 27) the Secretary of State widened the criteria for *'the purposes of the school'* to include:

- Spending on community facilities and services
- Spending on pupils who are on the roll of other maintained schools or academies

2. Annex A of the current Scheme contains a list of all maintained schools and PRUs as at 01 October 2013. There have been several changes in school status since and so the Annex will be updated to reflect the position as at 01 November 2014.

3. The next Authority review of the Scheme will take place during summer 2015 and the outcomes presented to Schools' Forum in July 2015. Although this will result in two reviews occurring at close interval it will reduce delays in implementing any DfE directed changes announced in late spring/early summer 2015. Future reviews will take place in the summer term each year.

### Accessing the Scheme

The DfE requires a copy of the Scheme to be held on a website which is accessible to the general public. Suffolk's Scheme is currently held on SchoolSurf within the unrestricted section of Governance and clearly states the date it came into effect:

[SchoolSurf | Governance | LMS | Scheme for the Financing of Schools](#)

### **The updated Scheme will come into effect from 01 February 2015.**

Schools will be able to access the updated Scheme from 01 February 2015 using the above link; the current Scheme will no longer be available from that date.

Any queries relating to the annual review of the Scheme or the contents of this letter should be directed to the Schools Accountancy Team ([sat@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sat@suffolk.gov.uk) 01473 265626).

Yours sincerely

**Carole Murton**  
Service Accountant