

## **Falling Rolls Policy**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note that the Falling Rolls Funding for 2021-22 is £250k.
- Agree the Falling Rolls Policy to be published in September 2021 to become immediately active (Appendix 1).

### **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1. The policy was developed due to the number of births in Sheffield falling since 2012 which has resulted in a growing number of surplus places in primary schools and the expectation is that this trend will continue for the next few years.
- 1.2. The Falling Rolls Funding Policy for 2021-22 amounts to **£250,000**, as agreed at the December 2020 Schools Forum, which will be top-sliced from the current Growth Fund. Requests from schools for support will not necessarily result in any financial award.
- 1.3. Forecasts suggest that the primary school population will continue to decline until 2024/25, and only a minority of the 136 primary schools will be unaffected. This Policy is to support schools to remain viable during this challenging period until demand increases towards the end of the decade.
- 1.4. The aim of this Policy is NOT to result in a school closure programme, but to work collaboratively with schools to help them become sustainable Community Primary Schools, wherever practically possible.
- 1.5. The Policy will be subject to changes due to the full implementation of the National Funding Formula, and any progress made towards it.

### **2. Principles**

- 2.1 The Falling Rolls Funding Policy for 2021-22 can be found in full in the accompanying Appendix 1, providing details of other support that is available alongside financial, plus the criteria and methodology to be used.
- 2.2 The Policy has been written around the following main principles:
  - Support not limited to Good or Outstanding schools

- RAG Rated System used for information not qualification
- Schools not identified in RAG rating system can still apply
- Funding not based purely on a formulaic approach
- Support for falling rolls not limited to financial claims only
- Financial support is not an automatic right

### **3. Criteria and Methodology Used**

3.1 There are certain thresholds that schools will have to progress along in order to meet the full criteria to the point at which they can claim. These triggers are based on the level of surplus capacity of their operating PAN and the financial viability of the school due to falling rolls. Please refer to the Policy for the full details.

3.2 If a claim is approved for payment, then the payments will be calculated based on the proportion of the shortfall of a teacher, up to the maximum cost of one teacher. Please refer to the policy for the full details.

3.3 It is worth noting that after initial modelling of the policy had taken place, there were only two schools who would have qualified for any further financial support.

### **4. Recommendations**

Forum members are asked to:

- i. **Note** that the Falling Rolls Funding is £250k.
- ii. **Agree** the Falling Rolls Policy for 2021-22 (Appendix 1).