

Professional Learning Grant Allocations 2020-21

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the funding?

The primary purpose of the funding is to create capacity in schools to enable practitioners to make the required changes in advance of the new curriculum.

2. How was the funding allocated?

During 2019/20, the grant was awarded to schools via the local authorities. During this financial year, the grant has been awarded to schools via the regional consortia.

The terms and conditions of the grant state that the funding should be 100% delegated to schools based on the number of FTE Teachers at the latest verified census point.

The Data Source used to calculate the allocations was taken from published January PLASC 2020 FTE teachers = headcount of fulltime teachers plus FTE of part-time teachers (part-time hours divided by 32.5).

For clarity, the following teacher categories are included in the analysis:-

- Head Teachers
- Acting Head Teachers
- Deputy Head Teachers
- Assistant Head Teachers
- Other Qualified Teachers

3. How do we know how much funding our school has been allocated?

The individual school allocations have been calculated and have been shared by your local authorities. They are also available on G6 & in the Grants Planning Dashboard.

4. Can the spend be incorporated into our School Improvement Plan instead of a separate plan?

The terms and conditions of the grant state that schools must compile a Professional Learning Plan to outline how they plan to support the professional learning needs of all practitioners within their schools and report annually against those plans. This plan must be published on the school's website, however if the funding can be easily identified within the school improvement plan and is published, this will meet the conditions of the grant. This could be an appendix to your existing SDP.

To support schools with this requirement, a section has been created in the Grants Planning Dashboard for completion.

5. How can the funding be utilised?

The funding can be utilised to support engagement with the regional professional learning offer or to support professional learning collaboration within and across schools.

In line with this, the funding should be used to support areas such as:

- The general release of teachers and TAs to engage in professional learning activities;
- The remuneration of individuals, creating roles and posts, to support the co-ordination of PL activities across a school or group of schools. These roles would support colleagues, departments or whole school approaches to critical enquiry, change management and SLO activities;
- The release costs for practitioners to engage in research activities and critical enquiry, funding release time to investigate the implications of the new curriculum for their own teaching and assessment practice;
- The release costs to enable practitioners to collaborate both within school and across clusters and networks of schools – engaging with collaborative professional learning and collaborative planning;
- Supporting the development of the roles such as school (or cluster level) Professional Learning Coach

6. What is the timescale?

The plan must ensure the grant is fully allocated and spent by 31 March 2021.

To support schools with this requirement, a section has been created in the Grants Planning Dashboard for completion.

The plan must be completed on the Grants Planning Dashboard, shared with your Supporting Improvement Adviser & published on your website.

7. Can the grant support all practitioners i.e. teachers and TAs/LSAs?

The funding is not exclusively reserved to support teachers and leaders but is also to be used to support all practitioners who support teaching and learning in classrooms including TAs/LSAs.

8. Who to contact?

If you have any queries about this funding, please contact the following in the first instance:

- For any queries regarding the allocation of funding and how you should access it, please contact the finance team in your local authority;
- For any queries relating to eligible spend activities, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the spend, please contact your school's allocated Supporting Improvement Adviser.