



2nd February 2022

Dear John

I write on behalf of the Slough Primary Head's Association (SPHA) as their Chair, to ask that at your next Schools Forum meeting the group revisits the decision to set the primary to secondary funding ratio for Slough at 1:13598 (primary/secondary).

I take my data from the following data set; [Schools block funding formulae 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-block-funding-formulae-2021-to-2022) but accept it might need updating as this refers to funding for 2021/22.

Within it, you will note that by averaging the 151 LAs, Slough ranks 136th. To clarify, that means there are only 15 authorities across the whole country where primary schools receive less.

I have only been a Headteacher in Slough for a few years so am unaware when this ratio was last discussed and by which criteria the decision was judged. As a previous Chair of Bucks School Forum, I know we revisited the formula regularly to listen to the various phases views and needs.

If Slough were to decide to change simply to the national average within the data set, this would create a ratio of 1:12974. However, in light of covid and the particular needs of the youngest pupils, as well documented by government research, there is a strong case to follow the example of three of our local neighbours (one of which is a selective authority, in case that was seen to make a difference):

Buckinghamshire: 1:112683
RBWM: 1:12916
Wokingham: 1:12946

I am fully aware that this can be seen as robbing Peter to pay Paul – we are all schools and the overall pot of money remains too small. However, early intervention is accepted as the most effective and for many years it would seem the balance has leaned the other way.

If I have missed something or there is a significant counter argument, I would be very happy to engage in discussions. If not, I would hope that the Schools Forum unanimously agree to review and revise the ratios with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

Pete Rowe
Chair of SPHA
Executive Headteacher
Ryvers School