

FAQs about RGS Funding as an Academy

Funding at the RGS

- The school is an Academy school (2011 converter academy). It is funded through the Educational Funding Agency (EFA) by the Department for Education.
- Sitting alongside the Academy (which is a charitable company) is our charitable foundation, the Wycombe Royal Grammar School Foundation (registered charity 310627) which supports the academy in providing funding for projects such as this campaign.
- Buckinghamshire is the lowest funded local authority for education. The 19 lowest funded schools in the UK are in Buckinghamshire – and they are all grammar schools.
- County councils are not given the same amount for education by the EFA. The difference in funding is such that if the RGS moved to Oxfordshire, it would gain 6% in funding and if it moved to West Berkshire, it would gain 8%. If it moved to nearby urban areas, it would gain even more—in Reading, it would gain a 10% uplift and in Luton it would gain 18%.
- We have lost nearly £300,000 over the past 4 years due to government decision-making. We are also nearly £1m worse off compared to similar schools in different counties because of the disparity in per-pupil funding. We do receive a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which has been in place over several years and which dictates that for the vast majority of schools, funding per pupil cannot drop by more than 1.5% per year. But even a 1% drop at £4,000 per pupil leaves the RGS £50,000 down overall.
- 85% of our income from the government is spent on salaries. The rest on running costs. We are a state boarding school, but cannot make a profit from our fees. These are for boarding running costs only.

We are funded in two main slices – Sixth Form (16-19) and 11-16.

Sixth Form Funding

Changes introduced in 2013 mean that schools are now paid per pupil rather than by the number of qualifications they gain. The consequence of this is that at Sixth Form level, we are treated like a FE college rather than a school. Sixth Form pupils at the RGS are offered greater pastoral care, activities and staff liaison than they may expect from a FE college, but for the same price.

11-16 Funding

In 2014-15, 11-16 basic funding for Buckinghamshire was £4,040 per pupil.

Most funding for academies comes from the general annual grant (GAG). The majority of any school's revenue funding is calculated using pupil numbers, taken from either the autumn census return or an agreed estimate of pupil numbers, as outlined in the academy's funding agreement. Pupil numbers registered in the October census are used for the funding of the next academic year from September.

EFA calculates funding using the local authority (LA) formula for mainstream provision, and place-led funding for high needs institutions. Academies and free schools also receive funding through the education services grant (ESG), which covers the cost of services LAs provide directly to maintained schools.

Each LA agrees the funding factors and rates for their area in consultation with their Schools Forum, which is made up of leaders from many different types of school (primary, secondary maintained, secondary grammar, PRUs, academies etc). The funding formula for mainstream academies uses pupil-led factors such as basic entitlement, deprivation, prior attainment, mobility and English as an additional language (EAL), combined with factors based on the institution, such as a lump sum for premises costs, split site funding or a sparsity factor for small rural academies. EFA uses the local funding model to calculate allocations for academies and free schools.

Beyond the GAG, academies can have the following income streams dependent on the type of school an academy is: Academies receive funding outside their general annual grant (GAG) including:

- early years funding
- national non domestic rates (NNDR)
- pupil premium/Ever 6
- PE and sport premium for primary schools
- universal infant free school meals
- high needs top-up funding
- capital funding grants (annual application for H&S concerns)
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Why is the RGS fundraising?

Fundraising is a financial necessity in order to improve the school's excellent educational standards beyond the day-to-day use.

As an academy school we are entitled to government funding as shown above; however the funds we are entitled to do not cover the costs of maintaining and improving upon our facilities as well as running the day to day school activities, even more so today due to budget cuts in education.

The funding received in our GAG grant and any topup from the EFA covers the running of the school based on the number of pupils we have. The GAG grant follows LA funding guidelines as detailed by Buckinghamshire Schools Forum. At present time, there is no national formula for funding equality.

The RGS strives to deliver the highest teaching standards and provide top quality facilities, in order to continue to achieve this goal we rely on the generosity of the RGS community.

Does the RGS financially benefit from becoming an Academy?

Yes, though not through significant direct additional income from the Government. It opens opportunities for funding which would otherwise be prohibited or minimised. Because we are an academy, we have the ownership of our land and buildings. This is hugely significant.

We are not beholden to the whim of Local Authorities as a conglomerate of institutions having to share resources. We are able to apply for large grants as our own entity. For example, because we are not a LA school, we can apply for Sport England funding in our own right without the approval of the LA.

We receive our ESG directly in house without the LA 'top-slicing' funding before it is received by the school.

We are able to apply for grant funding from the EFA which LA schools cannot receive – such as CMF grants.