

Minute Item 7.(i)

From: ACCOUNT, Unmonitored <Unmonitored.ACCOUNT@education.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 May 2018 16:24
To: Damian Eaton <damian.eaton@stockport.gov.uk>
Subject: Department for Education: Policy Team 2018-0019079 CRM:0146011

Dear Mr Eaton,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25th April.

Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the local population. The department funds local authorities to create places where they are needed.

Where a local authority identifies the need to establish a whole new school, it is required it to seek proposals to establish a new free school. This is known as the free school presumption and is the main route for local authorities to set up new schools. Under the presumption route, the local authority is responsible for providing the site for the new school. We have recently published updated guidance on this process at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-new-school-free-school-presumption>.

As you know, groups can also apply to the department to open a free school. On 11 May 2018, we published the application criteria for the new free school application round (wave 13). Wave 13 is targeted in areas that have both low standards and a basic need for additional school places. The full assessment criteria can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-application-guide>. If we receive an application for a free school in Stockport, we will contact the relevant local authority to discuss the current basic need picture and any local school improvement strategies. Although ultimately the final decision on whether to approve an application is taken by the Secretary of State; representations from local authorities are taken into account in that decision.

Your correspondence has been allocated reference number 2018-0019079.

If you need to respond to us, please visit:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/contactus> and quote your reference number.

As part of our commitment to improving the service we provide to our customers, we are interested in hearing your views and would welcome your comments via our website at: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8IW1A/>

Yours sincerely,

Emilie Cummins

Web: <https://www.education.gov.uk>

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