

Schools Forum
11 October 2010
Item 3 – Appendix A

| Indicator | Description | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Free Meals | Individual pupils known to be eligible to receive free school meals. Pupils are counted once a year on the January School Census. Eligibility is based on parental income. Parents have to apply for free school meals at the school or LA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets funding at the individual pupil. • Based on the specific characteristics of the pupil rather than the area they live in. • Data is already collected • Recognised and understood • Updated each year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on parents claiming FSM • There is proportionally fewer free meals in secondary, probably due to less parents registering. |
| Free School Meals ever (3 or 6 year) | As above, but counts a pupil if they have been eligible for Free School Meal in the last three or six years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Includes those children in families where eligibility fluctuates as parents are in or out of work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilutes the funding, as some pupils receive funding when they only receive free meal for a short period |
| Tax Credit Indicator | An indicator developed to identify those families where Child Tax Credits are being claimed where both parents are not working and claiming the out of work tax credit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included families just above the Free school meals threshold. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data not collected on an annual basis, so out of date. • Data only at area levels so reflects the characteristics of the area the pupil lives in |
| MOSAIC / ACORN | Categorises postcodes based on census and other consumer information. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to build in different levels of deprivation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data only at area levels so reflects the characteristics of the area the pupil lives in. |