

Schools Transitioning to Cheque Book Status

Following the Cabinet's decision to transition all schools to cheque book status by September 2025, with the exception of April 2025, we are planning to convert schools monthly, with the aim of completing all transitions by September 2025. Schools will be notified of their transition date by the School Funding Team.

Schools that have an existing Barclays account with online access will be transitioned on 1 December 2024. Schools that have an existing Barclays account with no online access will be transitioned from January 2025 onwards. If the school remains with Barclays, BCC staff will carry out all the admin functions and assist with the setting up of school staff for online access.

If school choose to open an account with another banking provider, this will delay the transition process, and the transfer will be arranged for a later date. Schools opting not to remain with Barclays will need to start contacting their chosen bank provider as it can take up to 12 weeks to open an account. Once the account has been opened, please complete the LA1 form and return to the FairFunding mailbox - FairFunding@birmingham.gov.uk

We have received a high number of requests from schools for an April 2025 transition. However, due to the closedown of BCC year end accounts this date has been withdrawn. We will be asking schools to transition in either March or May 2025 to reduce the pressure on year end. Deficit schools must have an agreed financial plan with the LA prior to transition. We are planning to transition schools with deficits from May 2025. An email will be sent directly to schools regarding their planned transition date.

We have attempted to answer the many questions received from schools within the step-by-step guide provided, however if there are still points not addressed, please email the above mailbox. In addition, we will be holding drop-in sessions for schools prior to the month of their transition; invites will be sent via Teams.