CalmBrain
Regulating Emotions & Behaviour

Making the DfE Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) Simple for Schools

How the CalmBrain Approach meets your December 2026 statutory publishing window while saving your budget, time, and staff capacity.

1. The Reality of the December 2026 Deadline

If your school receives the Department for Education's Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) grant, you already know the clock is ticking. The DfE requires every state-funded primary school and academy in England to publish a fully costed, evidence-backed Inclusion Strategy on their website by 31 December 2026.

We know exactly how crowded your leadership team's inbox is right now. Between updating SEND policies, managing daily classroom behaviors, and handling budget strains, building a brand-new, audit-ready strategy document from scratch is a massive administrative headache.

That is where the CalmBrain Approach steps in. We have designed this framework specifically to relieve that pressure. For a flat annual rate of just £550 for the entire school, CalmBrain ticks every single statutory box the DfE is looking for, gives you ready-to-use text for your website, and leaves over 95% of your IMF funding untouched so you can spend it where you need it most.

2. Why CalmBrain Perfectly Fits the IMF Criteria

The DfE's best-practice guidance is clear: they expect schools to prioritize their Tier 1 Universal Offer first. They want systemic, whole-school approaches that lift common classroom barriers *before* a child requires individual withdrawal, a formal assessment, or an external diagnosis.

CalmBrain is built specifically for this architecture:

- **Universal Tier 1 Routine:** Delivered right inside the mainstream classroom layout. Short, 2-to-4 minute rhythmic movement patterns are woven directly into the school day three times across your classes.
- **Non-Diagnostic & Early:** Zero waiting lists, zero clinical triage. Any child experiencing emerging sensory overload, anxiety, or trauma markers benefits on day one without needing an EHCP or formal diagnosis.
- **Teacher-Led Real-Time Adaptation:** Through the interactive digital Jukebox Dashboard, educators can dynamically scale physical and sensory breaks up or down based on the cohort's exact state that minute.
- **Sustainable Staff Capability:** Our platform includes certified professional development modules for your entire teaching and support staff, building an internal infrastructure that directly battles workplace stress and teacher burnout.

3. Mapping the Strategy: Barrier to Outcome Matrix

When local authority auditors or governors review your published strategy, they'll look for a tight, logical thread connecting your identified cohort barriers, your investment activity, and your intended outcomes. Here is how CalmBrain maps to that framework:

Common Cohort Barrier	The CalmBrain Approach Activity	Strategic School Outcome
Environmental & Sensory Overload Cognitive fatigue, sensory seekers and avoiders sharing overloaded classrooms.	Universal whole-class rhythmic movement breaks delivered three times a day directly inside the room.	Reduces lost learning time. Lowers the constant reliance on sensory room or crisis withdrawals.
Social, Emotional & Absence Anxiety, trauma backgrounds, and emerging Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).	Collective, somatic non-verbal routines delivered uniformly to the entire class to eliminate social stigma.	Remediates persistent absence. Protects vulnerable and anxious neurodivergent cohorts.

Behavior & Inclusion Pressures Classroom dysregulation leading to repeated, reactive internal or external removals.	Proactive nervous system settling at the physiological point of origin before behavior escalates.	Reduces internal isolation logs. Protects the classroom climate and minimizes suspensions.

4. Copy-and-Paste Strategic Clauses for Your Website Document

To make finishing your strategy paperwork completely frictionless, you can copy and paste the pre-written blocks below straight into your official school strategy document or DfE planning template. Just remember to replace the bracketed sections with your own school's details.

Text Block A: Early Intervention Strategy (Maps to DfE Principle 2)

> *"Our setting utilizes the CalmBrain Approach, a digital, neuroscience-backed platform specifically targeting lower brain regions where sensory processing, anxiety, and trauma responses originate. To address emerging needs without waiting for formal external diagnoses or statutory intervention pathways, we have embedded universal 2-to-4 minute rhythmic movement patterns delivered three times daily across [Insert Cohorts, e.g., All EYFS, KS1, and KS2 Classes]. This proactive physical regulation mitigates the escalation of emotional and behavioural distress at the point of origin, ensuring early intervention is built inherently into our universal offer."*

Text Block B: High-Quality Adaptive Environments (Maps to DfE Principle 3)

> *"To eliminate barriers to the curriculum and reduce reliance on exclusionary internal spaces, we integrate active physical regulation into the mainstream classroom landscape. Using the interactive CalmBrain Jukebox Dashboard, our educators dynamically adapt class-wide sensory and physical breaks to match the cohort's real-time state of regulation. By systematically de-escalating physiological triggers within the room, this movement-based baseline settles the nervous system, allowing neurodivergent learners to access adaptive teaching alongside their peers."*

Text Block C: Internal Infrastructure & CPD Spend (Maps to DfE Principles 1 & 7)

> *"A designated portion of our ring-fenced Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) allocation is dedicated to the ongoing delivery of the CalmBrain professional development framework. This structured programme provides our complete teaching and support staff with certified training in sensory modulation, neurodevelopmental states, and co-regulation principles. Upskilling our internal staff infrastructure ensures sustainable, whole-school inclusive capability, reducing*

> *reliance on overstretched external agencies while lowering workplace stress associated with managing complex socio-emotional profiles."*

5. The Financial Rationale & Audit Protections

The DfE expects to see clear financial transparency in your published documentation. You must state budgeted costs for the investments you make, proving that the money is enhancing inclusive baseline capacity rather than slipping back into standard core budgets.

Because CalmBrain operates on a flat, transparent annual subscription rate of just £550—which unlocks the complete digital platform, metrics dashboard, and certified training for every single staff member—it represents a highly defensible, high-value asset line for auditors.

For a school receiving an average IMF allocation of £14,000, deploying CalmBrain uses up less than 4% of your total grant. This completely covers your whole-school Tier 1 and Tier 2 evidence requirements while safely preserving over 96% of your remaining allocation for large physical adaptions, structural changes, or additional staffing hours.

Your Financial Strategy Text Block:

> *"The procurement of the CalmBrain platform, staff training modules, and implementation resources is sustained via a transparent, ring-fenced investment of £550, representing [Insert Percentage, e.g., 4%] of our annual Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) grant. This capital deployment directly aligns with our statutory duties to establish evidence-based, low-workload universal interventions that demonstrably build long-term, whole-school capacity for inclusive education."*

Let's tick this box together. For easy platform onboarding or immediate compliance support, reach out to our school onboarding team at calmbrainapproach.com.