

## Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2015-16

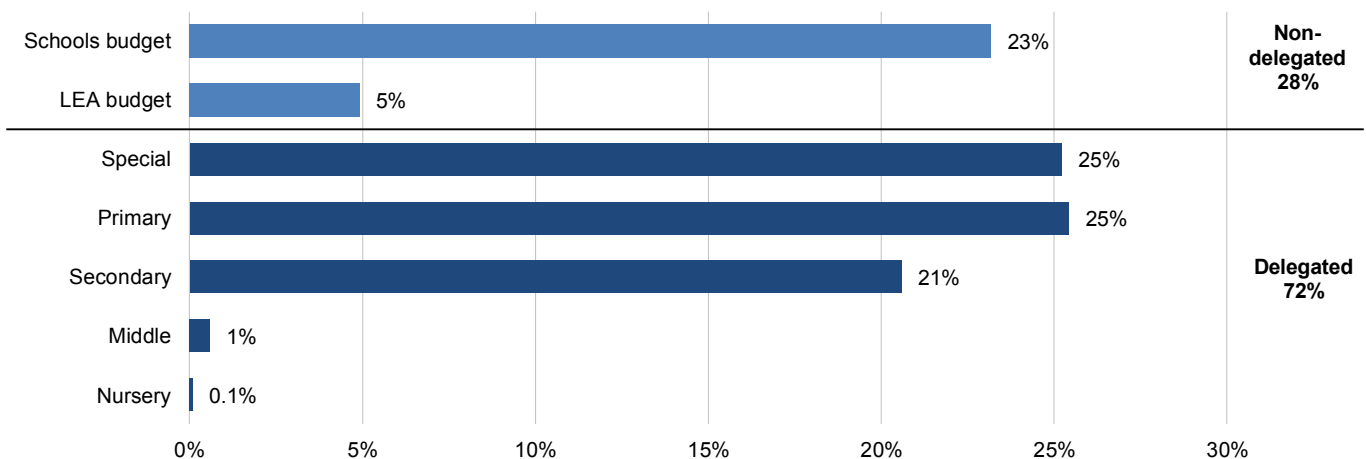
### Introduction

This statistical release analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh Local Authorities in respect of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for 2015-16. The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

### Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £356 million, a decrease of £0.8 million or 0.2% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).
- Delegated expenditure to special schools accounts for 25% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools account for a further 47% of the total. The remaining 28% is made up of money held centrally by local authorities (chart 1).
- Denbighshire delegates the largest proportion of their SEN budget to their schools at 90%, whilst Caerphilly delegates the smallest proportion at 52% (table 2).
- Total SEN expenditure per pupil for Wales is budgeted to be £789. This is made up of delegated expenditure at £567 per pupil and non-delegated expenditure at £222 per pupil (table 3).
- Isle of Anglesey has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,059, whilst Torfaen has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £579 (table 3 and chart 3).

Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2015-16



Additional information is available on the Welsh Government 'StatsWales' website:

[www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)

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Table 1 shows that budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous year. Cardiff has the largest percentage increase and Ceredigion has the largest percentage decrease.

**Table 1: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision (a)**

Authority	£ thousand		Percentage	
	2014-15	2015-16	Change	change
Isle of Anglesey	10,069	9,811	-258	-2.6
Gwynedd	13,776	13,494	-282	-2.0
Conwy	12,484	12,324	-160	-1.3
Denbighshire	12,128	11,625	-503	-4.1
Flintshire	20,419	19,043	-1,377	-6.7
Wrexham	15,462	15,563	102	0.7
Powys	15,468	16,279	811	5.2
Ceredigion	8,520	7,834	-686	-8.0
Pembrokeshire	14,348	14,644	296	2.1
Carmarthenshire	21,720	21,275	-445	-2.0
Swansea	31,322	31,828	506	1.6
Neath Port Talbot	14,603	14,450	-153	-1.0
Bridgend	18,626	18,722	96	0.5
Vale of Glamorgan	12,599	12,775	175	1.4
Cardiff	42,343	44,734	2,391	5.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,203	23,449	-755	-3.1
Merthyr Tydfil	7,261	7,273	12	0.2
Caerphilly	19,370	19,029	-341	-1.8
Blaenau Gwent	9,171	8,998	-173	-1.9
Torfaen	7,908	8,345	437	5.5
Monmouthshire	8,327	8,439	112	1.3
Newport	16,973	16,372	-600	-3.5
<b>Wales</b>	<b>357,099</b>	<b>356,306</b>	<b>-793</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

**Chart 2: Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision over time**

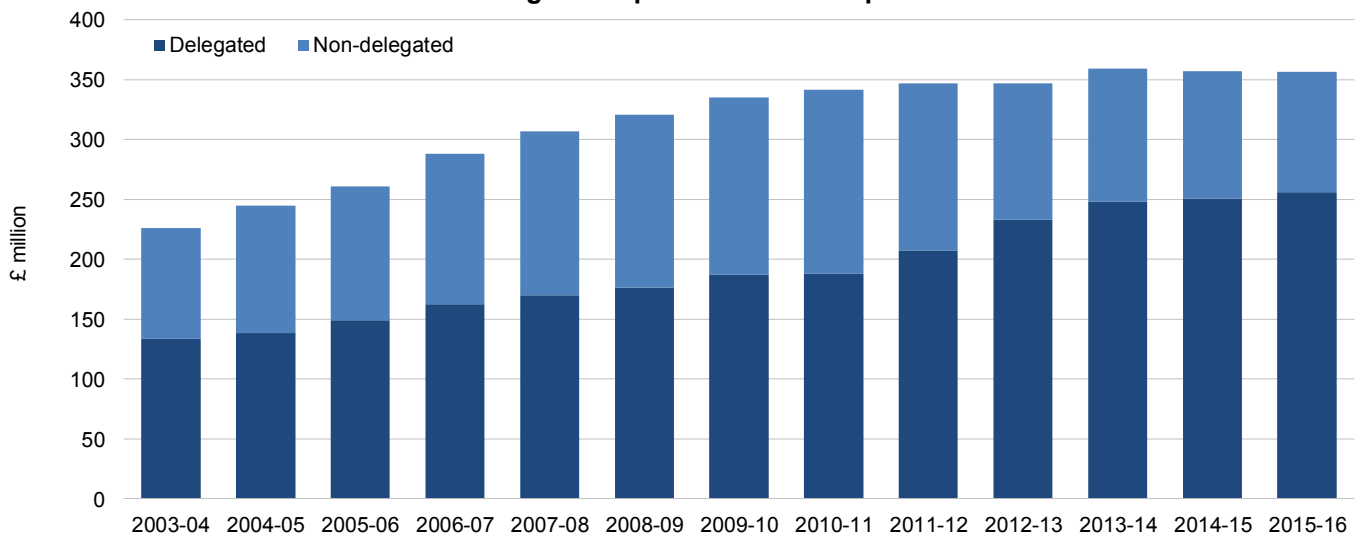


Table 2 shows how SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total at 90% whilst Caerphilly has the lowest at 52%.

**Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2015-16 (a)**

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure						Non-delegated SEN expenditure				Delegated as a percentage of total	
	Notional allocation to: (b)				Special schools (c)	Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget (d)	Inter-authority recoupment (e)	LEA budget (d)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	percentage of total
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Middle schools	Secondary schools								
Isle of Anglesey	0	2,860	0	2,003	1,503	6,366	1,981	336	1,128	3,445	9,811	65%
Gwynedd	0	4,230	0	3,353	2,526	10,109	2,836	114	435	3,385	13,494	75%
Conwy	0	3,587	0	2,903	3,585	10,076	1,468	220	561	2,248	12,324	82%
Denbighshire	0	3,255	67	2,126	5,069	10,516	2,347	-1,697	459	1,109	11,625	90%
Flintshire	0	3,916	0	2,889	3,776	10,581	5,357	2,516	588	8,461	19,043	56%
Wrexham	13	4,569	0	3,607	4,143	12,332	1,875	1,073	284	3,231	15,563	79%
Powys	0	2,988	186	2,649	6,005	11,829	4,461	-228	217	4,450	16,279	73%
Ceredigion (c)	0	2,190	1,134	1,996	0	5,320	2,553	-243	204	2,514	7,834	68%
Pembrokeshire	0	4,664	0	3,739	2,993	11,396	1,441	857	950	3,248	14,644	78%
Cardiff	9	6,997	0	6,238	3,212	16,456	2,830	-6	1,995	4,819	21,275	77%
Swansea	0	10,197	0	7,763	3,292	21,252	8,643	616	1,317	10,576	31,828	67%
Neath Port Talbot	0	3,918	0	2,748	4,507	11,172	858	702	1,718	3,278	14,450	77%
Bridgend	0	3,006	0	2,874	7,123	13,003	3,905	431	1,382	5,718	18,722	69%
Vale of Glamorgan	40	2,697	74	1,560	6,131	10,502	3,542	-2,173	904	2,273	12,775	82%
Cardiff	139	12,269	0	12,036	11,827	36,271	5,110	2,601	753	8,463	44,734	81%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	11	3,618	135	3,395	7,560	14,719	4,969	2,278	1,483	8,730	23,449	63%
Merthyr Tydfil	9	1,727	0	794	2,749	5,279	1,193	295	507	1,994	7,273	73%
Caerphilly	0	3,298	0	3,277	3,326	9,901	6,078	1,628	1,422	9,128	19,029	52%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,729	551	868	2,267	6,415	2,270	-86	399	2,583	8,998	71%
Torfaen	13	2,089	0	1,961	2,197	6,260	1,013	510	562	2,085	8,345	75%
Monmouthshire	0	2,004	0	1,441	2,393	5,837	1,833	565	204	2,602	8,439	69%
Newport	75	3,769	0	3,109	3,671	10,624	2,614	3,075	60	5,748	16,372	65%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>90,576</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>73,329</b>	<b>89,853</b>	<b>256,215</b>	<b>69,177</b>	<b>13,382</b>	<b>17,532</b>	<b>100,091</b>	<b>356,306</b>	<b>72%</b>

(a) Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend on SEN can vary from these notional allocations.

(c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs. A definition of the schools and LEA budget is included in the technical note.

(e) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

Table 3 shows that Isle of Anglesey spends the most per pupil on SEN provision at £1,059 and Torfaen spends the least at £579. Total delegated expenditure per pupil is £567, an increase of £11 over the previous year. Total non-delegated expenditure per pupil is £222, a decrease of £14 over the previous year.

**Table 3: Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2015-16**

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure							Non-delegated SEN expenditure					Percentage point difference on Wales average (f)
	Notional allocation to: (b)				Special schools (c)		Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment (d)	LEA budget (e)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Middle schools	Secondary schools	Number of places	Budget (£ per place)							
Isle of Anglesey	0	541	0	514	85	17,682	687	214	36	122	372	1,059	34
Gwynedd	0	456	0	477	137	18,490	614	172	7	26	206	820	4
Conwy	0	429	0	421	185	19,378	652	95	14	36	146	798	1
Denbighshire	0	408	136	325	247	20,496	690	154	-111	30	73	763	-3
Flintshire	0	301	0	300	233	16,206	463	234	110	26	370	833	6
Wrexham	928	376	0	574	310	13,364	657	100	57	15	172	829	5
Powys	0	306	344	358	296	20,287	657	248	-13	12	247	904	15
Ceredigion (c)	0	490	805	565	0	0	565	271	-26	22	267	832	5
Pembrokeshire	0	461	0	520	148	20,223	653	83	49	54	186	840	6
Carmarthenshire	118	456	0	548	120	26,768	611	105	-0	74	179	791	0
Swansea	0	505	0	570	177	18,625	625	254	18	39	311	936	19
Neath Port Talbot	0	338	0	354	218	20,696	571	44	36	88	168	739	-6
Bridgend	0	231	0	304	332	21,476	571	171	19	61	251	821	4
Vale of Glamorgan	283	226	128	183	239	25,653	490	165	-101	42	106	595	-25
Cardiff	829	406	0	607	568	20,813	715	101	51	15	167	881	12
Rhondda Cynon Taf	304	163	287	217	487	15,523	379	128	59	38	225	604	-23
Merthyr Tydfil	184	331	0	277	147	18,697	637	144	36	61	241	878	11
Caerphilly	0	204	0	287	128	25,984	358	220	59	51	330	688	-13
Blaenau Gwent	0	511	390	438	99	22,897	726	257	-10	45	292	1,019	29
Torfaen	505	270	0	299	94	23,372	434	70	35	39	145	579	-27
Monmouthshire	0	311	0	298	42	56,971	516	162	50	18	230	745	-6
Newport	934	284	0	299	152	24,151	445	109	129	3	241	685	-13
<b>Wales</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>20,222</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>0</b>
Lowest	0	163	0	183		13,364	358	44		3	73	579	-27
Highest	934	541	805	607		56,971	726	271		122	372	1,059	34

(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend can vary from these notional allocations.

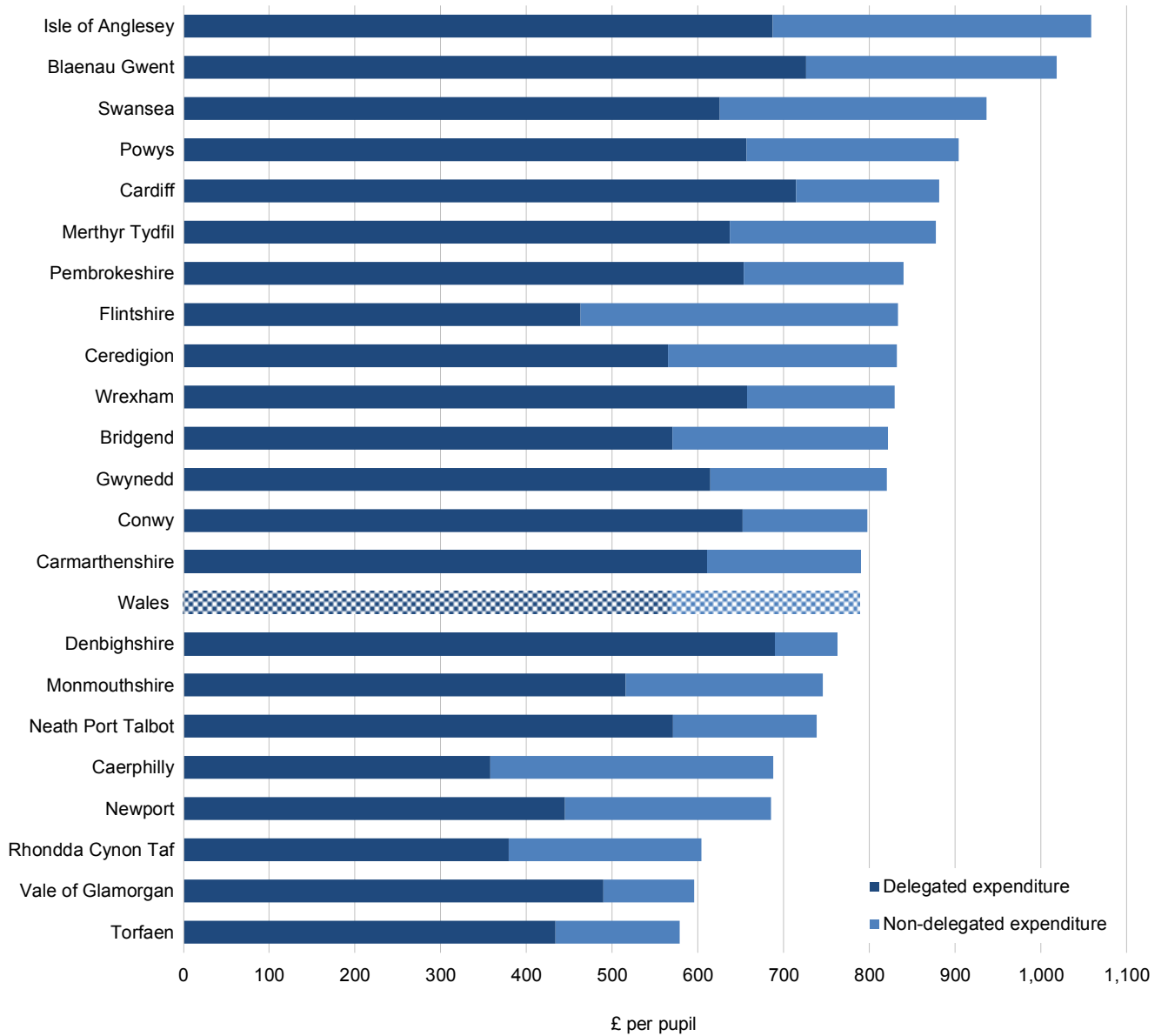
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(d) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

(e) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs.

(f) Total SEN expenditure per pupil compared to equivalent figure for all Wales (Wales=100).

**Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2015-16 (a)**



(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION

### Data sources

The main sources of information about Local Authority (LA) budgets are the Revenue Account (RA) returns and Section 52 (S52) returns required under Section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### Definitions

There are several issues that should be considered when using these data:

- For SEN provision, it is particularly important to be aware that there is variation in the criteria local authorities use to identify pupils with SEN. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LA. These are however notional and it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN. Therefore, the actual spend by nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison in table 2, the number of pupils in all schools have been used as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN. This is due to the fact that much SEN provision relates to pupils without a statement, particularly provision in non-special schools. The use of all pupils gives a fairer comparison of the relative differences between LAs, fully reflecting the different approaches taken by them in providing SEN services. By using all pupils, however, the data would suggest a lower SEN expenditure level per pupil than is actually the case.
- The 'schools budget', as set out in schedule 2 of the 2003 Regulations, covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises expenditure on services for which the LA retains funding centrally. These services include special educational needs (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs (SEN).
- Delegated expenditure derives from funding that is allocated directly to the schools by each local authority. Non-delegated expenditure derives from funding held centrally by the local authority and spent on behalf of the schools.
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LA functions involved in special educational needs, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs and exclude home to school transport costs.

### Quality

Wales collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two unitary authorities. We publish a detailed [quality report](#) on Welsh Local Government Finance statistics.

### Rounding

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

### Accessing the data

Much of the data behind the charts and tables shown in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most up to date and detailed official data in Wales).

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue/Education>

→Local Government →Finance →Revenue →Education

### **Further information**

Statistics on education expenditure are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

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