

## Local authority budgeted expenditure on schools: 2016-17

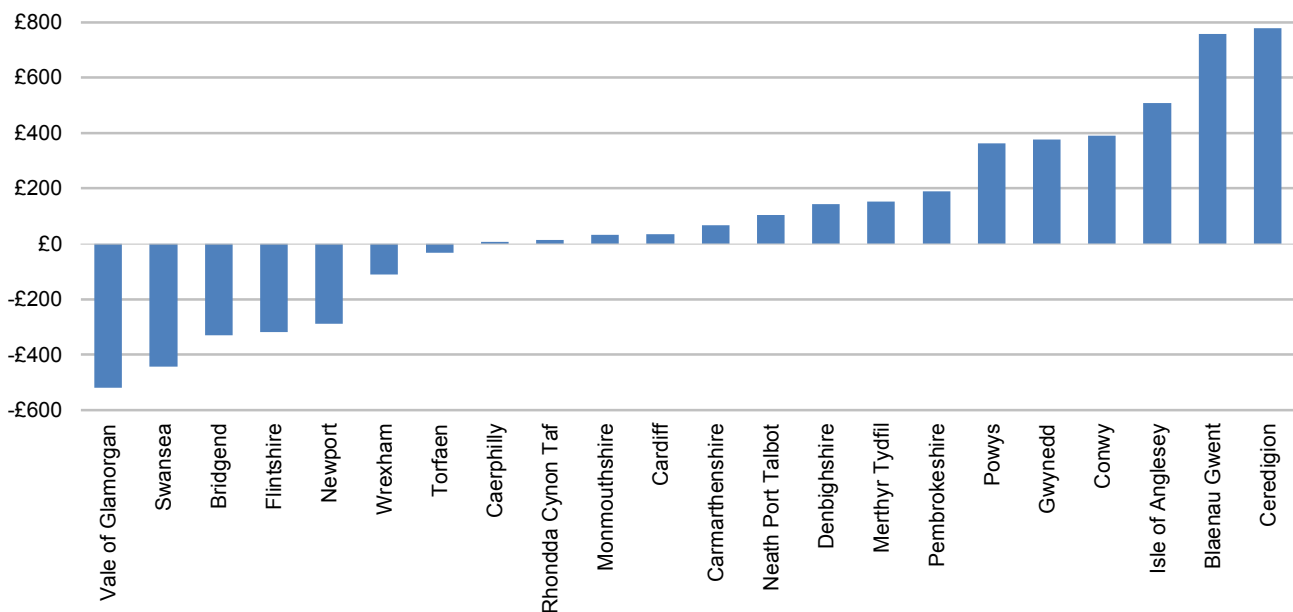
### Introduction

This statistical bulletin analyses the resources that local authorities have budgeted to make available for education services in 2016-17.

### Key points

- Gross schools expenditure is budgeted to be £2,519 million, an increase of 0.9% over the previous year (table 2).
- Gross schools expenditure per pupil is budgeted to be £5,570, a year-on-year increase of 0.8% or £44. This can be broken down into £4,695 per pupil delegated to schools and £874 per pupil retained for centrally funded school services (table 5).
- The funding delegated to schools is budgeted to be £2,123 million. The amount of funding that local authorities delegate directly to schools ranges between 78% and 88% of overall gross schools budgeted expenditure (table 3).
- 84% of the total gross schools budgeted expenditure is delegated directly to schools (table 3), an increase of 0.5 of a percentage point compared to the previous year.

**Chart 1: Gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil: difference from the Wales average, 2016-17**



Additional information is available on the 'StatsWales' website: [statswales.gov.wales](http://statswales.gov.wales)

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Net revenue expenditure is the amount of expenditure which is supported by council tax and general support from central government, plus (or minus) any appropriations from (or to) financial reserves.

Table 1 shows Newport has the largest percentage increase in education net revenue expenditure at 4.1% whilst Flintshire has the largest decrease of 0.8%.

**Table 1: Budgeted net revenue expenditure on education (a)**

	<i>£ thousand</i>				
					2016-17
			Change in 2016-17	Percentage change	Indicator based assessment (IBA) (b)
	2015-16	2016-17	over 2015-16		(IBA) (b)
Isle of Anglesey	48,714	49,330	616	1.3	51,536
Gwynedd	89,185	89,004	-181	-0.2	90,326
Conwy	80,878	81,306	427	0.5	77,707
Denbighshire	75,412	77,067	1,655	2.2	75,179
Flintshire	107,227	106,389	-838	-0.8	111,525
Wrexham	92,303	94,372	2,069	2.2	94,398
Powys	94,422	94,168	-254	-0.3	96,754
Ceredigion	52,525	52,834	310	0.6	52,476
Pembrokeshire	86,789	87,149	360	0.4	89,246
Carmarthenshire	134,367	134,172	-195	-0.1	137,838
Swansea	154,987	157,893	2,906	1.9	163,356
Neath Port Talbot	97,176	100,572	3,397	3.5	102,897
Bridgend	105,634	106,125	491	0.5	102,050
Vale of Glamorgan	96,128	96,587	459	0.5	95,180
Cardiff	242,035	250,947	8,912	3.7	235,390
Rhondda Cynon Taf	187,040	188,710	1,670	0.9	179,668
Merthyr Tydfil	44,603	45,712	1,110	2.5	43,019
Caerphilly	136,768	137,179	412	0.3	138,879
Blaenau Gwent	50,993	51,048	55	0.1	48,872
Torfaen	71,379	71,776	397	0.6	69,524
Monmouthshire	56,825	56,545	-280	-0.5	58,709
Newport	103,026	107,253	4,227	4.1	111,773
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,208,413</b>	<b>2,236,138</b>	<b>27,725</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2,226,304</b>

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

(a) The figures are on a 'net' basis, i.e. excluding grant for post-16 provision in schools and other expenditure funded by specific government grants.

(b) The indicator based assessments (IBAs) are not intended as spending targets. Local authorities set their own spending priorities under the Welsh revenue support grant distribution system.

Table 2 shows that Neath Port Talbot has the largest increase of 3.9% in gross schools expenditure with Monmouthshire having the largest decrease at 1.3%.

**Table 2: Schools budgeted expenditure (a)**

*£ thousand*

	Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)			
	2015-16	2016-17	Change in 2016-17 over 2015-16	Percentage change
Isle of Anglesey	56,140	56,475	335	0.6
Gwynedd	98,106	97,898	-208	-0.2
Conwy	91,796	92,167	372	0.4
Denbighshire	85,799	86,799	1,001	1.2
Flintshire	121,110	119,971	-1,139	-0.9
Wrexham	100,967	102,769	1,802	1.8
Powys	105,995	104,989	-1,006	-0.9
Ceredigion	59,513	59,580	67	0.1
Pembrokeshire	99,591	99,012	-579	-0.6
Carmarthenshire	151,534	151,837	303	0.2
Swansea	175,930	176,409	479	0.3
Neath Port Talbot	107,665	111,906	4,242	3.9
Bridgend	119,742	120,281	539	0.5
Vale of Glamorgan	109,059	109,105	46	0.0
Cardiff	277,908	288,422	10,514	3.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	213,577	215,010	1,433	0.7
Merthyr Tydfil	48,019	48,879	860	1.8
Caerphilly	152,342	152,186	-155	-0.1
Blaenau Gwent	55,124	55,283	158	0.3
Torfaen	78,802	79,492	690	0.9
Monmouthshire	64,251	63,410	-841	-1.3
Newport	122,604	126,886	4,282	3.5
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,495,573</b>	<b>2,518,768</b>	<b>23,194</b>	<b>0.9</b>

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

(a) Covers all elements of LEA spending that relate to school provision, i.e. school budget plus the LEA budget, including central administration of the LEA, less spending on home to college transport and further education and training for young persons and adults. The figures include the cost of educating pupils with statements of special educational needs who are educated out of county.

(b) Figures are on a 'gross' basis, i.e. including funding from all sources.

Table 3 shows delegated schools budgets increased by 1.6% compared with the previous year. Cardiff has the highest percentage increase at 5.7% and also the highest delegation rate at 88.2%. Powys and Ceredigion have the lowest rate at 78.0% mainly due to high home to school transport costs which cannot be delegated.

**Table 3: Delegated School Budget**

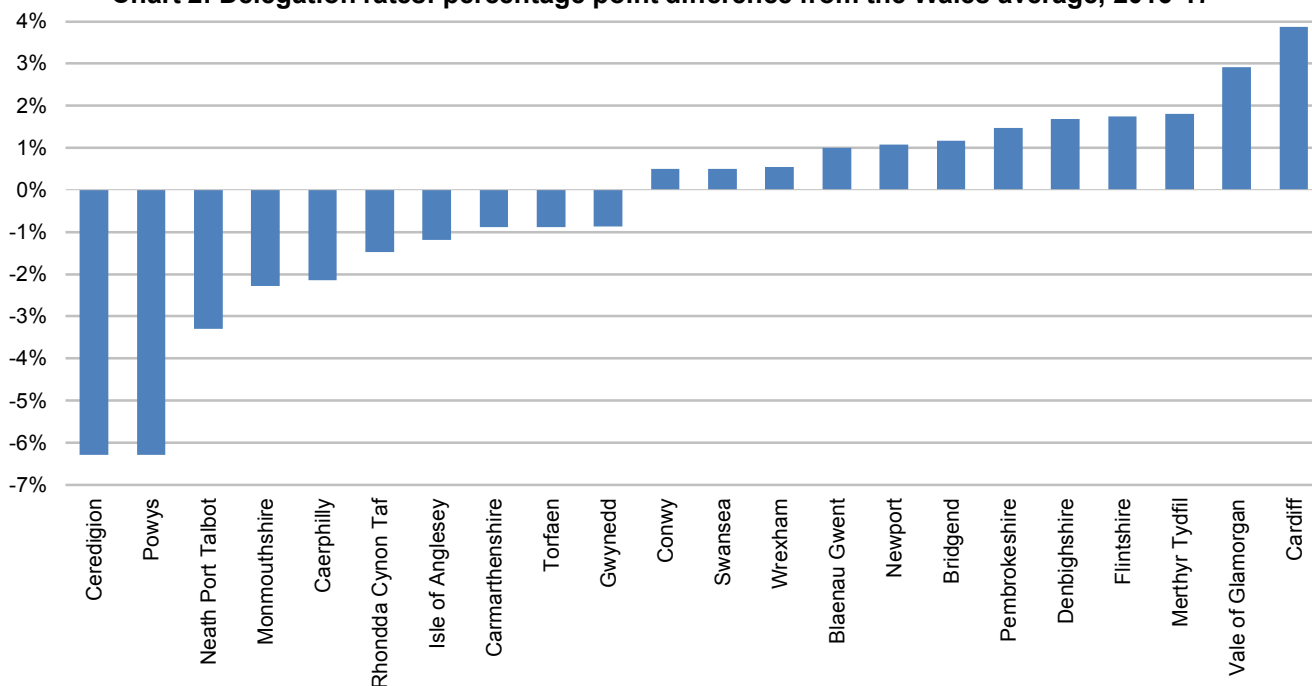
	Delegated schools budget (a)					Delegation Rate (b) 2016-17
			Change in		Percentage change	
	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17 over 2015-16	2016-17		
Isle of Anglesey	46,470	46,940	470	1.0	83.1%	
Gwynedd	81,677	81,672	-5	-0.0	83.4%	
Conwy	77,272	78,156	884	1.1	84.8%	
Denbighshire	74,009	74,639	630	0.9	86.0%	
Flintshire	100,951	103,221	2,269	2.2	86.0%	
Wrexham	85,770	87,190	1,420	1.7	84.8%	
Powys	83,634	81,900	-1,734	-2.1	78.0%	
Ceredigion	46,562	46,476	-86	-0.2	78.0%	
Pembrokeshire	84,969	84,928	-41	-0.0	85.8%	
Carmarthenshire	126,514	126,656	142	0.1	83.4%	
Swansea	147,013	149,597	2,584	1.8	84.8%	
Neath Port Talbot	89,468	90,642	1,174	1.3	81.0%	
Bridgend	100,818	102,809	1,991	2.0	85.5%	
Vale of Glamorgan	93,524	95,164	1,640	1.8	87.2%	
Cardiff	240,685	254,320	13,634	5.7	88.2%	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	176,937	178,084	1,146	0.6	82.8%	
Merthyr Tydfil	40,753	42,090	1,337	3.3	86.1%	
Caerphilly	123,372	125,022	1,650	1.3	82.2%	
Blaenau Gwent	47,063	47,154	91	0.2	85.3%	
Torfaen	66,193	66,311	118	0.2	83.4%	
Monmouthshire	52,885	52,008	-876	-1.7	82.0%	
Newport	103,600	108,339	4,739	4.6	85.4%	
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,090,141</b>	<b>2,123,319</b>	<b>33,178</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

(a) Figures are on a 'gross' basis, i.e. including funding from all sources.

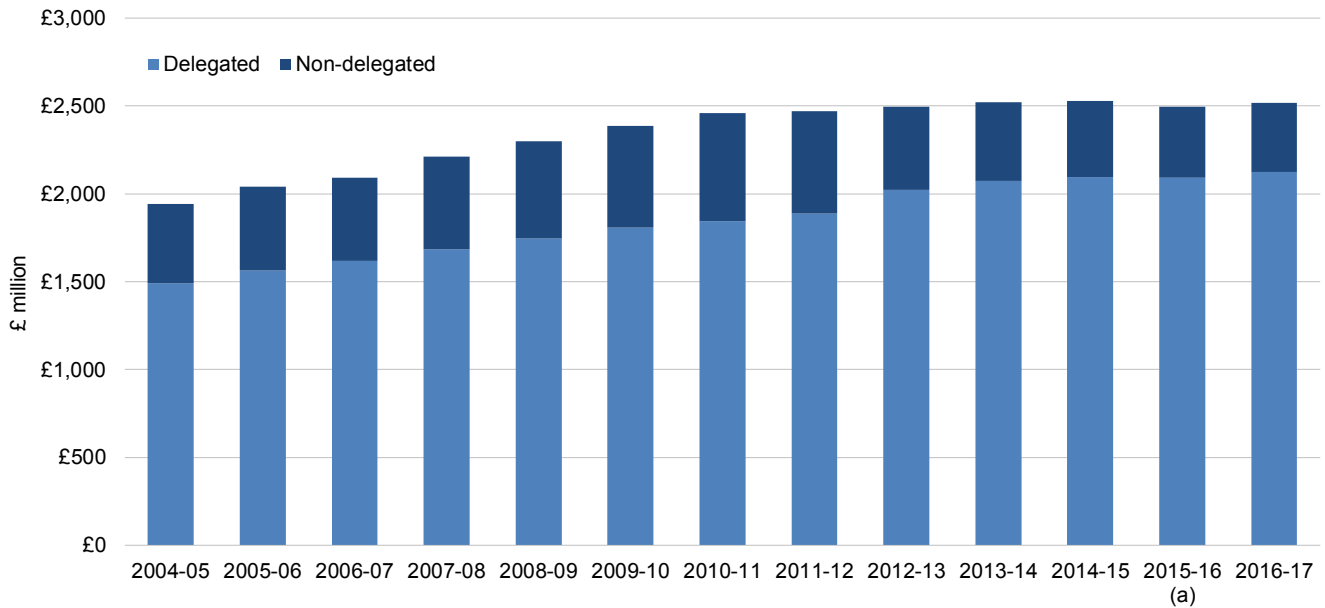
(b) The delegation rate is calculated by dividing the amounts delegated to schools by the gross schools budgeted expenditure. Delegation rates will vary based on the services provided centrally by local authorities.

**Chart 2: Delegation rates: percentage point difference from the Wales average, 2016-17**



Between 2004 and 2014, the proportion of budget delegated to schools has varied from 75% to 82%. This figure has increased to 84.3% in 2016-17. This is in the context of a commitment by the Education and Skills Minister for Local Authorities to delegate 85% of all school funding directly to schools by 2014-15.

**Chart 3: Breakdown of gross school budgeted expenditure over time**



(a) The data is not wholly comparable with previous years due to the movement of Flying Start expenditure from Education to Social Services in 2015-16.

Table 4 shows budgeted expenditure per pupil on centrally funded schools services. The Vale of Glamorgan retains the least amount of funding centrally at £645 per pupil whilst Ceredigion retains the most at £1,396 per pupil.

**Table 4: Centrally funded schools budgets, 2016-17 (a)**

	Schools budget					LEA budget						Memo:	
	Special educational needs (b)	Inter authority recoupment	Staff	Other schools budget	Capital expenditure charged to revenue account	Special educational needs	School improvement	Access to education (excluding transport)	Home to school transport	Strategic management	Other LEA budget	Total centrally funded schools budget	Centrally funded schools budget (£ thousand)
Isle of Anglesey	201	36	1	100	0	111	53	48	219	256	0	1,026	9,535
Gwynedd	160	7	5	158	71	30	86	53	228	188	0	986	16,226
Conwy	88	5	2	263	0	34	71	29	291	123	0	906	14,011
Denbighshire	151	-112	4	136	0	32	87	151	258	93	0	800	12,160
Flintshire	215	66	0	52	0	22	72	47	188	70	0	733	16,751
Wrexham	116	58	4	233	0	34	49	49	192	92	0	828	15,579
Powys	243	-20	5	277	17	14	58	-6	513	203	0	1,305	23,089
Ceredigion	253	-30	3	222	0	25	130	122	471	201	0	1,396	13,104
Pembrokeshire	85	58	0	78	0	62	52	41	286	157	0	819	14,084
Carmarthenshire	94	-0	2	133	0	73	113	23	316	181	0	935	25,181
Swansea	252	20	29	48	0	40	57	108	194	31	0	779	26,812
Neath Port Talbot	80	39	1	238	0	101	45	92	298	120	64	1,078	21,265
Bridgend	186	6	4	75	79	40	47	30	161	133	0	761	17,471
Vale of Glamorgan	159	-101	2	234	0	41	42	89	84	96	0	645	13,941
Cardiff	94	41	5	133	0	15	34	138	123	80	0	663	34,102
Rhondda Cynon Taf	113	62	6	165	0	47	20	178	251	118	0	959	36,926
Merthyr Tydfil	145	34	6	37	0	57	52	57	195	209	2	795	6,789
Caerphilly	208	60	19	229	0	44	53	25	199	158	0	995	27,164
Blaenau Gwent	243	-16	17	26	14	59	77	151	197	156	7	930	8,129
Torfaen	53	44	1	181	0	40	93	83	181	228	15	918	13,181
Monmouthshire	154	28	0	153	0	30	54	29	344	216	0	1,007	11,402
Newport	105	119	0	113	0	7	52	146	147	83	0	772	18,547
<b>Wales</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>395,449</b>
Minimum	53	-112	0	26	0	7	20	-6	84	31	0	645	
Maximum	253	119	29	277	79	111	130	178	513	256	64	1,396	

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

- (a) Schools expenditure covers all elements of local education authority spending that relate to school provision. Figures are on a 'gross' basis, i.e. including funding from all sources.
- (b) Figures include the cost of educating pupils with statements of special educational needs who are educated out of county. Expenditure on pupil referral units is included, however the pupil numbers are not included in the calculation of 'spend per pupil' as they are not available from the section 52 return. Please see notes for definitions.

Table 5 shows the total gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil. Ceredigion has the highest spend per pupil at £6,349 whilst the Vale of Glamorgan has the lowest at £5,051. Neath Port Talbot has the highest increase in spend per pupil over the previous year of 3.1%. Monmouthshire has a decrease of 1.3%.

**Table 5: Total gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil, 2016-17 (a)**

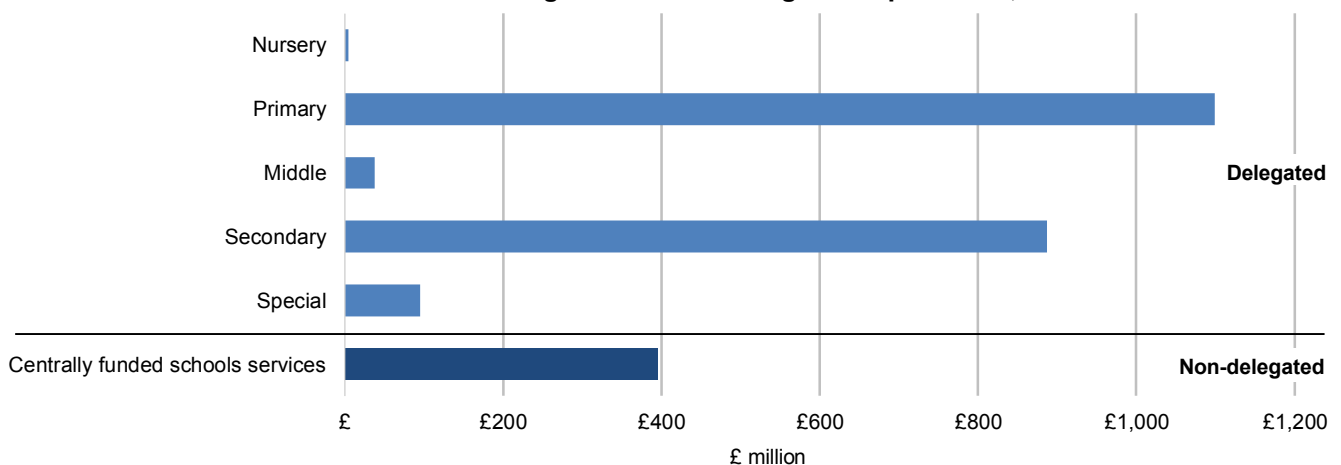
£ per pupil

	Delegated schools budget					Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)				
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	All sectors (b)	Centrally funded schools budget (b)		Percentage change	
							2015-16	2016-17		
Isle of Anglesey	.	4,721	.	5,232	17,033	5,051	1,026	6,058	6,077	0.3
Gwynedd	.	4,587	.	5,180	17,541	4,961	986	5,963	5,947	-0.3
Conwy	.	4,564	.	5,239	19,616	5,054	906	5,942	5,960	0.3
Denbighshire	.	4,262	4,469	5,150	21,468	4,913	800	5,628	5,713	1.5
Flintshire	.	4,156	.	4,721	17,519	4,519	733	5,300	5,252	-0.9
Wrexham	20,630	4,102	.	5,174	14,014	4,632	828	5,381	5,460	1.5
Powys	.	4,044	5,280	4,748	19,877	4,628	1,305	5,887	5,933	0.8
Ceredigion	.	4,531	5,830	5,150	(c) 17,511	4,953	1,396	6,322	6,349	0.4
Pembrokeshire	.	4,599	.	5,101	20,986	4,941	819	5,710	5,760	0.9
Carmarthenshire	4,699	4,208	.	5,150	27,596	4,702	935	5,630	5,637	0.1
Swansea	.	3,967	.	4,704	19,903	4,347	779	5,176	5,126	-1.0
Neath Port Talbot	.	4,113	5,267	4,781	19,071	4,596	1,078	5,503	5,674	3.1
Bridgend	.	3,866	.	4,665	23,234	4,479	761	5,254	5,240	-0.3
Vale of Glamorgan	6,920	3,846	4,561	4,510	24,508	4,406	645	5,083	5,051	-0.6
Cardiff	11,004	4,391	.	5,259	21,979	4,941	663	5,475	5,604	2.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	6,936	4,057	5,961	4,994	16,048	4,626	959	5,505	5,585	1.5
Merthyr Tydfil	6,114	4,405	.	5,160	17,418	4,929	795	5,795	5,723	-1.2
Caerphilly	.	4,174	.	4,889	28,617	4,581	995	5,507	5,576	1.3
Blaenau Gwent	.	5,047	5,355	5,420	23,302	5,396	930	6,241	6,327	1.4
Torfaen	9,500	4,226	.	4,807	22,915	4,619	918	5,466	5,537	1.3
Monmouthshire	.	4,124	.	4,795	56,760	4,595	1,007	5,675	5,602	-1.3
Newport	7,661	4,013	.	4,829	25,730	4,510	772	5,131	5,282	2.9
<b>Wales</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>4,210</b>	<b>5,295</b>	<b>4,958</b>	<b>20,636</b>	<b>4,695</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>5,570</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Minimum	4,699	3,846	4,469	4,510	14,014	4,347	645	5,083	5,051	-1.3
Maximum	20,630	5,047	5,961	5,420	56,760	5,396	1,396	6,322	6,349	3.1

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

- (a) Figures are on a 'gross' basis, i.e. including funding from all sources.  
 (b) The £ per pupil figures shown here are an average across all sectors.  
 (c) There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with statements of special educational needs.

**Chart 4: Breakdown of gross schools budgeted expenditure, 2016-17**



## Technical notes on Budgeted Expenditure on Schools

### Data sources

Budget returns for education spending are required by section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Authorities' Section 52 returns and Revenue Account (RA) forms have been used to determine overall changes in local authority budgets, changes in education budgets and amounts delegated to schools.

The numbers of pupils used for the calculations are based on full-time equivalent pupil numbers in nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, as shown in S52 Part 1 returns, i.e. the pupil numbers on which Local Authorities (LAs) based their budgets.

### Policy Context

The gross schools budgeted expenditure is made up of the delegated schools budget, the schools budget and the LEA budget and includes funding from all sources. In 2012-13, the Minister for Education and Skills made a commitment for Local Authorities to delegate 85% of all school funding directly to schools by 2014-15. The Minister also made a commitment to increase net delegated school budgets every year by 1% above the block grant received from the UK Government.

### Definitions

#### Sources of funding

Local authority budgets for education services are funded mainly from shares of revenue support grant, council tax and redistributed non-domestic rates. In addition, funding is provided through specific grants provided by the Welsh Government, including grants for post-16 provision in schools. The grant for post-16 provision in schools forms part of core funding for schools and is part of a local authority's schools budget.

The provisions of the Education Act 2002 brought into force for financial year 2004-05 through the "LEA Budget, Schools Budget and Individual Schools Budget (Wales) Regulations 2003" require local authorities to allocate expenditure to 3 budgets. These are: **LEA budget** (covers central LA functions involved in Additional Learning Needs; school improvement; access to education; further education and training for young persons and adults and strategic management - as set out in Schedule 1 to the 2003 Regulations), **the schools budget** (covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises of expenditure on services for which the LA retains funding centrally, such as: Additional Learning Needs services, school meals and milk and the **Individual Schools Budget** or funding delegated to schools).

To focus comparisons, non-school expenditure such as further education and training for young persons and adults, youth service and home to college transport have been excluded throughout.

### Comparison with England

In January 2012 we published a [statistical article](#) explaining why the Wales data cannot be compared with England. This situation has not changed as due to the rollout of Academies in England we continue to be unable to produce school budget data on a consistent basis. We are in continued dialogue with the Department for Education in England regarding how this can be resolved in the future.

The Chief Statistician published an update in March 2015 on the current state of the comparison which can be found using the following link:

[gov.wales/statistics-and-research/about/user-engagement/chief-statisticians-update/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/about/user-engagement/chief-statisticians-update/?lang=en)

### Quality

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

### Flying Start Expenditure

For 2015-16 onwards, authorities were asked to report flying start consistently and class all related expenditure as Social Services rather than Education.



## 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 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). Please select the individual subdirectories at the navigation screen of the following site:

[statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue](https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue)

→Local Government	→Finance	→Revenue	→Education
→Local Government	→Finance	→Revenue	→Budgets
→Local Government	→Finance	→Revenue	→Delegated Schools Budgets

Individual school level data is also available from [mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk](https://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk)

## OData

The data is also accessible directly via the StatsWales odata service. Links to data and metadata can be found below each view on the StatsWales website within the 'Database name' tab.

## Further information

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

## Feedback

We actively encourage feedback of our statistics. If you have any comments or queries or require further information, then please contact us using the details below.

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