

18 March 2024

Dear

## **ATISN 20297 FOI Request for information on EHE funding for local authorities**

Thank you for your request which we received on 21/02/2024. You asked for:

*How much money is allocated by WAG to LAs for each home educated child on the LAs register? I'm aware that different LAs allocate different amounts from this grant to EHE children and their families and was wondering what the LA was allocated per child from central government.*

*Also, as primary aged children in Wales are now entitled to free school meals during term time will any such equivalent support be offered to EHE children? I realise that as a home educating parent I agreed to take on full financial responsibility for my children's education at the point of deregistering but as free school meals is not part of their education I was wondering if EHE children would be given support in this area from WAG.*

### **Our response**

We have provided the following funding to local authorities annually since 2021-22.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Funding for EHE children</b>
Anglesey	£12,166.00
Blaenau Gwent	£16,274.00
Bridgend	£31,284.00
Caerphilly	£16,906.00
Cardiff	£49,770.00
Carmarthenshire	£69,836.00
Ceredigion	£36,656.00
Conwy	£19,750.00
Denbighshire	£23,542.00
Flintshire	£26,386.00

Gwynedd	£14,378.00
Merthyr Tydfil	£9,796.00
Monmouthshire	£14,062.00
Neath Port Talbot	£44,240.00
Newport	£23,226.00
Pembrokeshire	£42,186.00
Powys	£38,552.00
Rhondda Cynon Taff	£39,974.00
Swansea	£33,022.00
Torfaen	£12,482.00
Vale of Glamorgan	£17,696.00
Wrexham	£16,432.00

The purpose of the grant funding is to:

Complement the core offer agreed by local authorities and provide additional support to home educating families in recognition of additional costs that a home educating family will incur when providing resources and opportunities that are typically available in school. For example, the cost of:

- Qualifications (subject to local decision making and affordability)
- Welsh language courses
- learning resources (such as textbooks and materials)
- learning software
- hire of facilities to use for group activities
- funding locally based activities to enrich the learning experience, e.g. outdoor education, music activities

The above suggestions are not exhaustive and deliberately not prescriptive to allow flexibility for local authorities to help meet the needs and circumstances of EHE learners across Wales, whose needs and requirements would vary considerably.

Legislation stipulates that local authorities should provide free school meals (FSM) to eligible pupils attending maintained schools. As such, learners who are not attending a school maintained by the local authority are ineligible to apply for a free school meal.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,

Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,

Cardiff,

CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,

Wilmslow,

Cheshire,

SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely