

## Local authority budgeted expenditure on schools: 2015-16

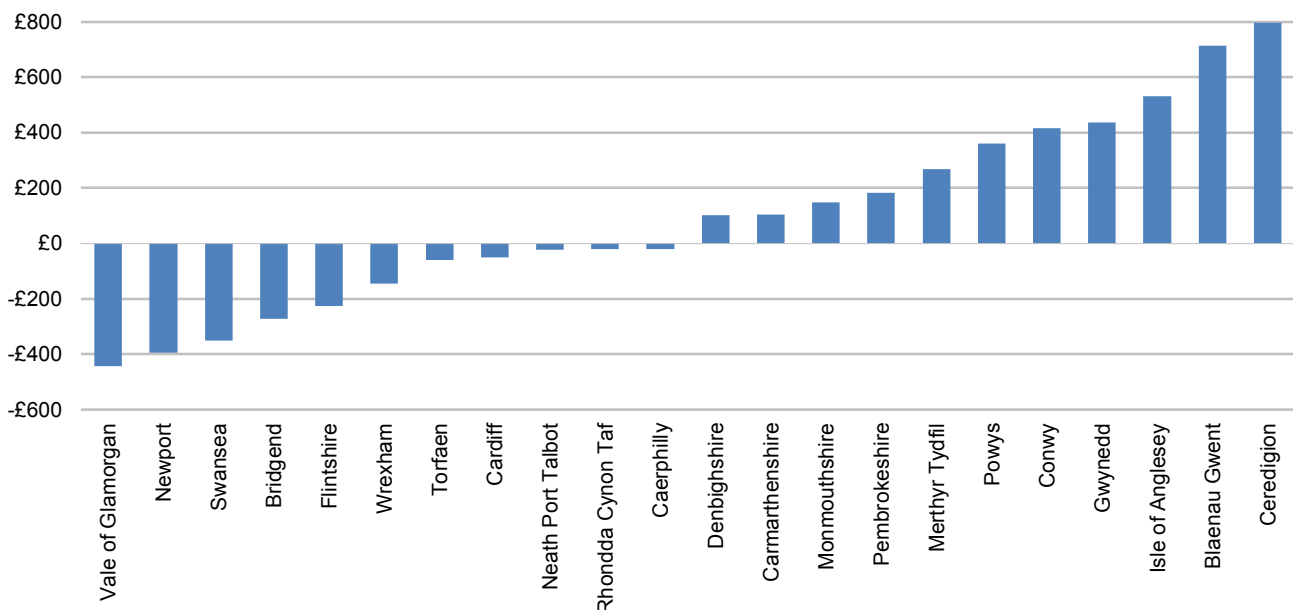
### Introduction

This statistical bulletin analyses the resources that local authorities have budgeted to make available for education services in 2015-16.

### Key points

- Gross schools expenditure is budgeted to be £2,496 million, on a comparable basis a decrease of 1.0% over the previous year (table 2).
- Gross schools expenditure per pupil is budgeted to be £5,526, a year-on-year decrease of 1.1% or £64. This can be broken down into £4,629 per pupil delegated to schools and £898 per pupil retained for centrally funded school services (chart 1 and table 5).
- The funding delegated to schools is budgeted to be £2,090 million. The amount of funding that local authorities delegate directly to schools ranges between 78% and 87% 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 0.9 of a percentage point compared to the previous year.

**Chart 1: Gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil: difference from the Wales average, 2015-16**



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

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**Next update:** June 2016 (provisional)

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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 Cardiff has the largest percentage increase in education net revenue expenditure at 2.2% whilst Powys has the largest decrease of 3.2%.

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

	<i>£ thousand</i>				
			Change in		2015-16
	2014-15	2015-16	2015-16	Percentage	Indicator
			over	change	based
			2014-15		assessment
					(IBA) (b)
Isle of Anglesey	48,993	48,714	-279	-0.6	51,727
Gwynedd	89,251	89,185	-66	-0.1	90,780
Conwy	82,022	80,878	-1,144	-1.4	78,551
Denbighshire	77,417	75,412	-2,005	-2.6	75,673
Flintshire	109,623	107,227	-2,396	-2.2	111,507
Wrexham	93,032	92,303	-729	-0.8	94,720
Powys	97,588	94,422	-3,166	-3.2	98,360
Ceredigion	53,057	52,525	-532	-1.0	53,203
Pembrokeshire	88,593	86,789	-1,804	-2.0	91,035
Carmarthenshire	136,193	134,367	-1,826	-1.3	137,605
Swansea	158,419	154,987	-3,432	-2.2	163,496
Neath Port Talbot	96,849	97,176	327	0.3	102,920
Bridgend	106,922	105,634	-1,288	-1.2	102,662
Vale of Glamorgan	96,191	96,128	-63	-0.1	95,758
Cardiff	236,928	242,035	5,107	2.2	233,643
Rhondda Cynon Taf	190,611	187,040	-3,571	-1.9	180,666
Merthyr Tydfil	45,269	44,603	-666	-1.5	43,359
Caerphilly	136,403	136,768	364	0.3	138,816
Blaenau Gwent	51,434	50,993	-442	-0.9	49,802
Torfaen	71,429	71,379	-51	-0.1	70,473
Monmouthshire	57,698	56,825	-873	-1.5	58,886
Newport	102,653	103,026	373	0.4	111,811
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,226,575</b>	<b>2,208,413</b>	<b>-18,162</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>2,235,452</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.

School budgets are not wholly comparable with previous years due to the movement of Flying Start expenditure from Education to Social Services in 2015-16. After adjusting for Flying Start, Table 2 shows that Cardiff has the largest increase of 1.6% in gross schools expenditure with Torfaen having the largest decrease at 3.9%.

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

<i>£ thousand</i>					
Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)					
	2014-15	2015-16	Change in 2015-16 over 2014- 15	Percentage change (c)	Adjusted percentage change estimate (d)
Isle of Anglesey	57,325	56,140	-1,185	-2.1	0.2
Gwynedd	99,079	98,106	-973	-1.0	-1.0
Conwy	92,957	91,796	-1,162	-1.2	-1.2
Denbighshire	87,611	85,799	-1,812	-2.1	-2.1
Flintshire	124,369	121,110	-3,259	-2.6	-2.6
Wrexham	101,281	100,967	-314	-0.3	-0.3
Powys	108,762	105,995	-2,767	-2.5	-2.5
Ceredigion	59,589	59,513	-76	-0.1	-0.1
Pembrokeshire	101,065	99,591	-1,474	-1.5	-1.0
Carmarthenshire	152,757	151,534	-1,223	-0.8	-0.8
Swansea	182,058	175,930	-6,128	-3.4	-2.9
Neath Port Talbot	107,674	107,665	-9	0.0	0.0
Bridgend	121,794	119,742	-2,052	-1.7	-1.7
Vale of Glamorgan	109,520	109,059	-461	-0.4	-0.4
Cardiff	273,404	277,908	4,504	1.6	1.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	215,143	213,577	-1,566	-0.7	-0.7
Merthyr Tydfil	48,634	48,019	-615	-1.3	-1.3
Caerphilly	153,474	152,342	-1,133	-0.7	-0.7
Blaenau Gwent	55,403	55,124	-278	-0.5	-0.5
Torfaen	83,504	78,802	-4,702	-5.6	-3.9
Monmouthshire	66,907	64,251	-2,656	-4.0	-2.4
Newport	125,450	122,604	-2,846	-2.3	-0.3
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,527,761</b>	<b>2,495,573</b>	<b>-32,187</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-1.0</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.
- (c) Percentage changes are not wholly comparable with previous years due to the movement of Flying Start expenditure from Education to Social Services in 2015-16.
- (d) Calculated by removing Flying Start expenditure from 2014-15

Table 3 shows delegated schools budgets decreased by 0.2% compared with the previous year. Cardiff has the highest percentage increase at 2.8%. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate at 86.6% and Ceredigion has the lowest at 78.2% mainly due to high home to school transport costs which cannot be delegated.

**Table 3: Delegated School Budget**

<i>£ thousand</i>					
	Delegated schools budget (a)				
	2014-15	2015-16	Change in		Delegation Rate (b) 2015-16
			2015-16	over 2014-15	
Isle of Anglesey	46,905	46,470	-435	-0.9	82.8%
Gwynedd	82,178	81,677	-501	-0.6	83.3%
Conwy	77,701	77,272	-430	-0.6	84.2%
Denbighshire	74,719	74,009	-709	-0.9	86.3%
Flintshire	101,087	100,951	-136	-0.1	83.4%
Wrexham	85,586	85,770	184	0.2	84.9%
Powys	83,523	83,634	111	0.1	78.9%
Ceredigion	46,924	46,562	-362	-0.8	78.2%
Pembrokeshire	85,222 (c)	84,969	-253	-0.3	85.3%
Carmarthenshire	127,705	126,514	-1,191	-0.9	83.5%
Swansea	150,292 (c)	147,013	-3,279	-2.2	83.6%
Neath Port Talbot	89,587	89,468	-119	-0.1	83.1%
Bridgend	100,149	100,818	669	0.7	84.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	94,060	93,524	-536	-0.6	85.8%
Cardiff	234,147	240,685	6,538	2.8	86.6%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	178,101	176,937	-1,163	-0.7	82.8%
Merthyr Tydfil	41,409	40,753	-656	-1.6	84.9%
Caerphilly	123,362	123,372	10	0.0	81.0%
Blaenau Gwent	47,294	47,063	-231	-0.5	85.4%
Torfaen	66,948	66,193	-755	-1.1	84.0%
Monmouthshire	53,774	52,885	-889	-1.7	82.3%
Newport	103,066	103,600	535	0.5	84.5%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,093,738 (c)</b>	<b>2,090,141</b>	<b>-3,598</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>83.8%</b>

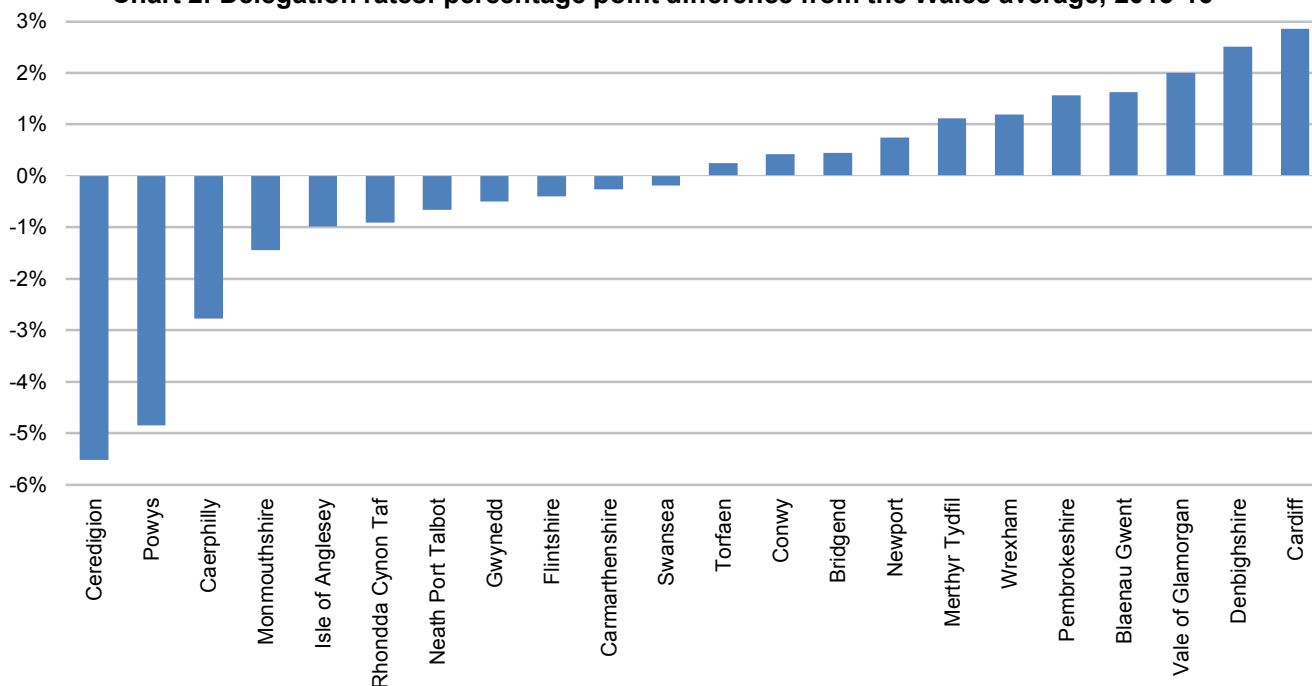
Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

(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.

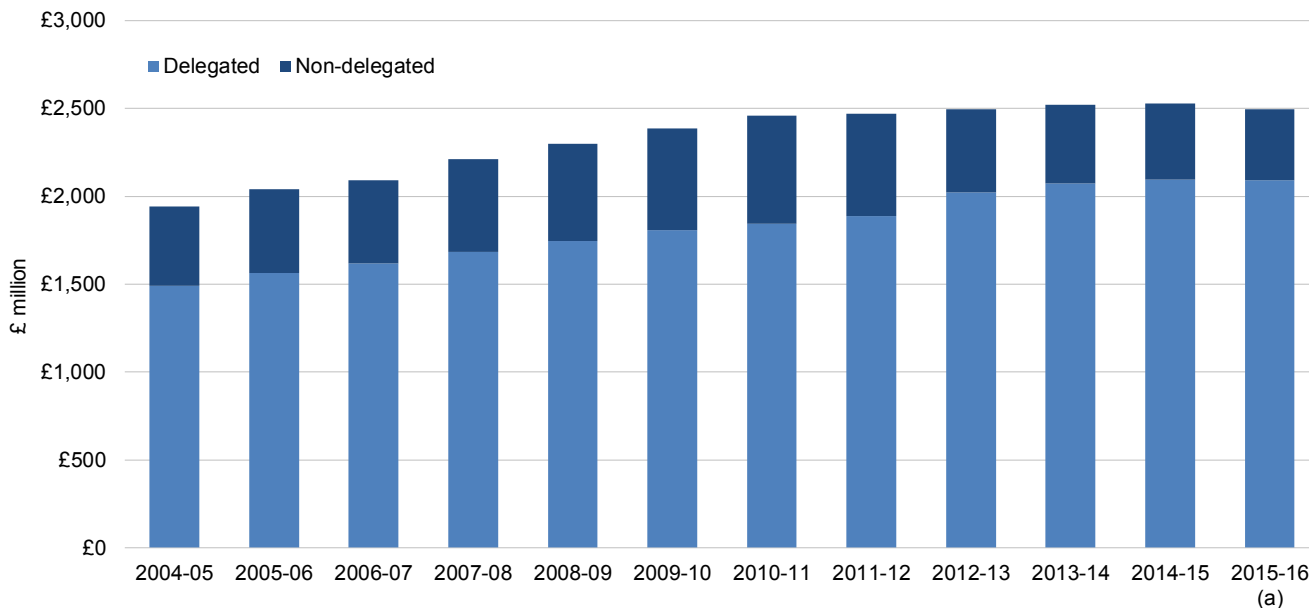
(c) Adjusted to remove a small amount of Flying Start expenditure in 2014-15.

**Chart 2: Delegation rates: percentage point difference from the Wales average, 2015-16**



Over the past decade the proportion of budget delegated to schools has varied at around 75% to 82%. This figure increased to 83% in 2014-15 and to 84% in 2015-16. 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.

**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 £724 per pupil whilst Ceredigion retains the most at £1,376 per pupil.

**Table 4: Centrally funded schools budgets, 2015-16 (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	214	36	1	109	0	122	70	36	219	236	0	1,043	9,670
Gwynedd	172	7	6	163	71	26	94	56	218	186	0	999	16,429
Conwy	95	14	2	279	0	36	74	32	284	123	0	940	14,524
Denbighshire	154	-111	4	149	0	30	74	133	251	90	0	773	11,789
Flintshire	234	110	0	62	25	26	76	46	216	87	0	882	20,159
Wrexham	100	57	30	281	0	15	43	36	191	56	0	810	15,197
Powys	248	-13	3	224	17	12	57	18	463	213	0	1,242	22,361
Ceredigion	271	-26	1	194	0	22	124	120	433	237	0	1,376	12,951
Pembrokeshire	83	49	0	96	0	54	64	38	294	161	0	838	14,622
Carmarthenshire	105	-0	2	140	0	74	89	31	308	182	0	930	25,020
Swansea	254	18	29	109	0	39	56	98	212	36	0	851	28,917
Neath Port Talbot	44	36	1	256	0	88	46	58	314	73	14	930	18,197
Bridgend	171	19	8	87	85	61	46	32	182	140	0	830	18,924
Vale of Glamorgan	165	-101	2	252	0	42	46	69	155	94	0	724	15,535
Cardiff	101	51	4	140	0	15	38	173	129	82	0	733	37,222
Rhondda Cynon Taf	128	59	5	130	0	38	18	166	274	125	1	944	36,640
Merthyr Tydfil	144	36	6	54	0	61	48	75	217	233	2	877	7,266
Caerphilly	220	59	25	235	0	51	62	31	205	159	0	1,047	28,970
Blaenau Gwent	257	-10	16	46	13	45	77	106	193	161	9	913	8,061
Torfaen	70	35	5	162	0	39	91	75	171	226	0	875	12,609
Monmouthshire	162	50	0	178	0	18	56	33	330	177	0	1,004	11,367
Newport	109	129	0	133	0	3	46	144	149	84	0	795	19,004
<b>Wales</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>405,433</b>
Minimum	44	-111	0	46	0	3	18	18	129	36	0	724	
Maximum	271	129	30	281	85	122	124	173	463	237	14	1,376	

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 £6,322 whilst the Vale of Glamorgan has the lowest at £5,083. After adjusting for Flying Start, Merthyr Tydfil has the highest increase in spend per pupil over the previous year of 1.3%. Swansea has a decrease of 3.9%.

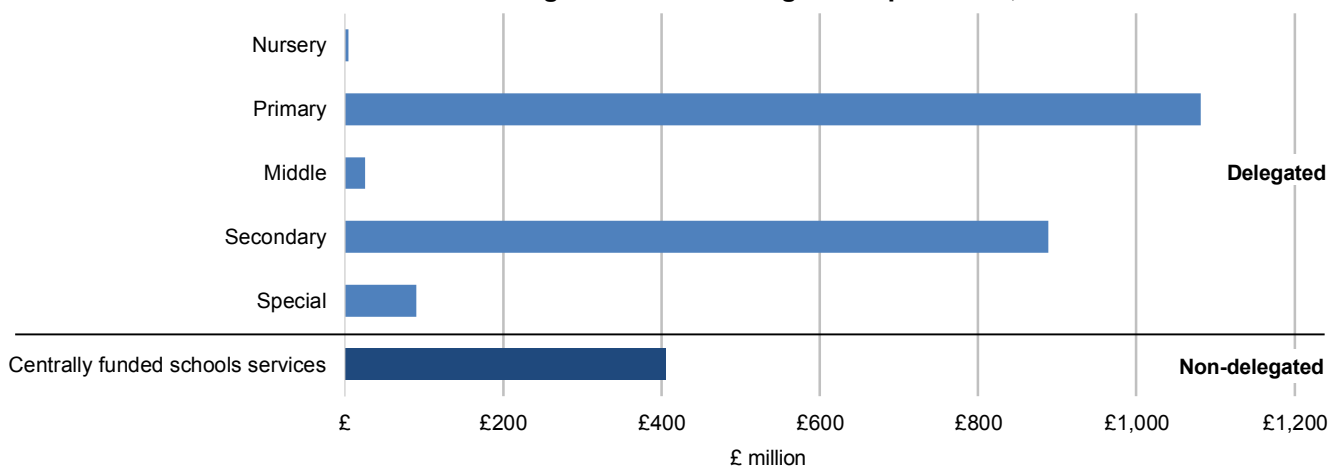
**Table 5: Total gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil, 2015-16 (a)**

	Delegated schools budget					Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)					£ per pupil	
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	All sectors	Centrally funded schools	2014-15	2015-16	Percentage change (c)	Adjusted percentage change estimate	
						(b)	budget (b)					
Isle of Anglesey	.	4,751	.	5,095	17,682	5,014	1,043	6,184	6,058	-2.0	0.2	
Gwynedd	.	4,672	.	5,088	18,490	4,965	999	6,019	5,963	-0.9	-0.9	
Conwy	.	4,578	.	5,129	19,378	5,002	940	6,010	5,942	-1.1	-1.1	
Denbighshire	.	4,221	4,564	5,057	20,496	4,855	773	5,749	5,628	-2.1	-2.1	
Flintshire	.	4,047	.	4,634	16,206	4,418	882	5,424	5,300	-2.3	-2.3	
Wrexham	17,815	4,133	.	4,953	13,364	4,571	810	5,440	5,381	-1.1	-1.1	
Powys	.	4,075	4,932	4,749	20,287	4,645	1,242	5,880	5,887	0.1	0.1	
Ceredigion	.	4,545	5,754	5,122	(d)	4,947	1,376	6,302	6,322	0.3	0.3	
Pembrokeshire	.	4,549	.	5,009	20,223	4,872	838	5,712	5,710	-0.0	0.4	
Carmarthenshire	5,130	4,254	.	5,068	26,768	4,701	930	5,693	5,630	-1.1	-1.1	
Swansea	.	3,914	.	4,749	18,625	4,325	851	5,414	5,176	-4.4	-3.9	
Neath Port Talbot	.	4,069	.	4,872	20,696	4,573	930	5,536	5,503	-0.6	-0.5	
Bridgend	.	3,857	.	4,604	21,476	4,424	830	5,395	5,254	-2.6	-2.6	
Vale of Glamorgan	6,702	3,839	4,574	4,439	25,653	4,359	724	5,145	5,083	-1.2	-1.2	
Cardiff	8,839	4,219	.	5,043	20,813	4,742	733	5,468	5,475	0.1	0.1	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	6,603	4,023	6,112	4,931	15,523	4,560	944	5,523	5,505	-0.3	-0.3	
Merthyr Tydfil	7,043	4,421	.	5,078	18,697	4,918	877	5,722	5,795	1.3	1.3	
Caerphilly	.	4,064	.	4,777	25,984	4,459	1,047	5,563	5,507	-1.0	-1.0	
Blaenau Gwent	.	5,007	5,170	5,428	22,897	5,328	913	6,216	6,241	0.4	0.4	
Torfaen	7,923	4,206	.	4,764	23,372	4,591	875	5,719	5,466	-4.4	-2.7	
Monmouthshire	.	4,251	.	4,776	56,971	4,671	1,004	5,915	5,675	-4.1	-2.5	
Newport	6,459	3,940	.	4,536	24,151	4,336	795	5,331	5,131	-3.8	-1.8	
<b>Wales</b>	<b>7,494</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>5,272</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>20,222</b>	<b>4,629</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>5,607</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	
Minimum	5,130	3,839	4,564	4,439	13,364	4,325	724	5,145	5,083	-4.4	-3.9	
Maximum	17,815	5,007	6,112	5,428	56,971	5,328	1,376	6,302	6,322	1.3	1.3	

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) Percentage changes are not wholly comparable with previous years due to the movement of Flying Start expenditure from Education to Social Services in 2015-16.  
 (d) 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, 2015-16**



## 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:

<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

In 2015-16, authorities were asked to report flying start consistently and class all related expenditure as Social Services rather than Education. To provide consistent year on year changes, calculations have also been made using adjusted 2014-15 figures.

## 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:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/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](http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk)

## 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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