

## Annex F: Glossary of terms

Term	Meaning
All Wales Core Data Set (AWCDS) or “data pack”	The ‘All Wales Core Data Set’ (or data pack) provides a consistent and balanced suite of contextual analysis for each school. It consists of a Contextual Pack and a Performance Pack for end of Foundation Phase, end of Key Stage 2 and end of Key Stage 3 assessments. The AWCDS is intended to support school self-evaluation and performance improvement, and inform work with Estyn, Local Authority Improvement Officers and Consortia.
Consortia	All local authorities in Wales have formed into 4 regional groupings, known as consortia. These consortia are working collaboratively on school improvement.
Data Exchange Wales Initiative (DEWi)	Online secure file transfer, validation and reporting system.
Families of Schools	Families of schools are groups of schools facing a broadly equivalent level of challenge who can work together for school improvement. Families have been created by initially grouping schools based on size and linguistic delivery and then within each high level grouping, schools are ordered in descending order according to the values of an index of ‘challenge’. This index is calculated on the basis of the number of pupils eligible for free school meals, levels of deprivation, pupils with Special Educational Needs and pupils, etc. Schools in the same family are considered to be facing a similar overall level of challenge.
Free School Meals (FSM)	There are a number of ways to identify social deprivation, but the most widely accepted is by using free school meals (FSM) data as an indicator. Broadly speaking when the levels of pupils with free school meals rise, the levels of performance fall, although this is not a definitive relationship and some schools consistently out-perform others with similar or lower levels of FSM.
Local Authority (LA)	There are 22 local authorities in Wales. Local authorities are responsible for the delivery of education in maintained schools, and school improvement.
My Local School (MLS)	My Local School is a Welsh Government website which makes school performance data accessible, including to parents and

	others, such as pupils and governors.
School Comparative Report	The School Comparative Report provides a summary of school performance in end of Foundation Phase, end of Key Stage 2 and end of Key Stage 3 assessments, both over time and compared to the local authority and Wales performance for the given year. It is intended to support school self-evaluation and performance improvement. The School Comparative Report for National Tests provides a summary of a school's test results compared to the local authority and Wales. Schools have a regulatory duty to publish their most recent Reports for assessments and National Tests in the Governors' Annual Report and School Prospectus and to provide them with pupil reports to parents.
Special Educational Needs (SEN)	The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. There are different levels of SEN: pupils may be subject to school action, school action plus or may have a statement. Different SEN policies are used in different local authorities and so there is no consistent approach to identify the level of need. Where comparisons are made to group schools into Families, therefore, only those subject to Statement and School Action plus are used.
Foundation Phase (FP)	The Foundation Phase is the first stage of the National Curriculum for Wales. It covers learning from ages 3 to 7 (learning at ages 3 and 4 in nurseries is non-statutory), in nursery and primary schools.
Key Stage (KS)	Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 follow the Foundation Phase as the three remaining stages of the National Curriculum for Wales.