

SDR 129/2013

14 August 2013

National Curriculum teacher assessments of non-core subjects: Wales 2013

This Statistical First Release provides information on the National Curriculum teacher assessments of the non-core subjects in 2013, at Wales and local authority (LA) level. It includes non-core data for Welsh Second Language at Key Stage 2 (in Section 2).

Section 1 – Key Stage 3

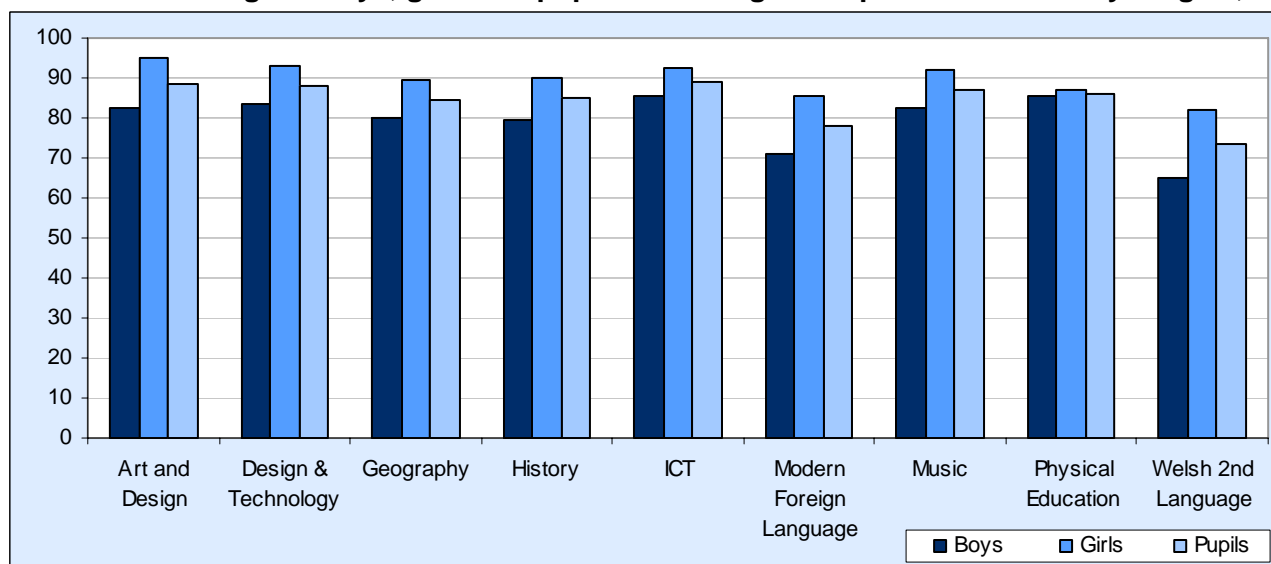
At all Wales level:

- In 2013, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (level 5 or above) varied from 89.0 per cent in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to 73.3 per cent in Welsh Second Language (*Chart 1, Table 1*).
- In each subject, a higher percentage of girls than boys achieved the expected level. The gap between girls and boys was greatest in Welsh Second Language (17.2 percentage points) (*Chart 1, Table 1*).
- Since 2012 there has been an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in every subject. The greatest increase was in Welsh Second Language (5.0 percentage points) (*Chart 2, Table 1*).

At LA level:

- The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level varied considerably between LAs across all subjects. Modern Foreign Language had the greatest range of results, 88.2 per cent in Gwynedd compared with 64.6 per cent in Blaenau Gwent (*Table 3*).

Chart 1: Percentage of boys, girls and pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 3, 2013



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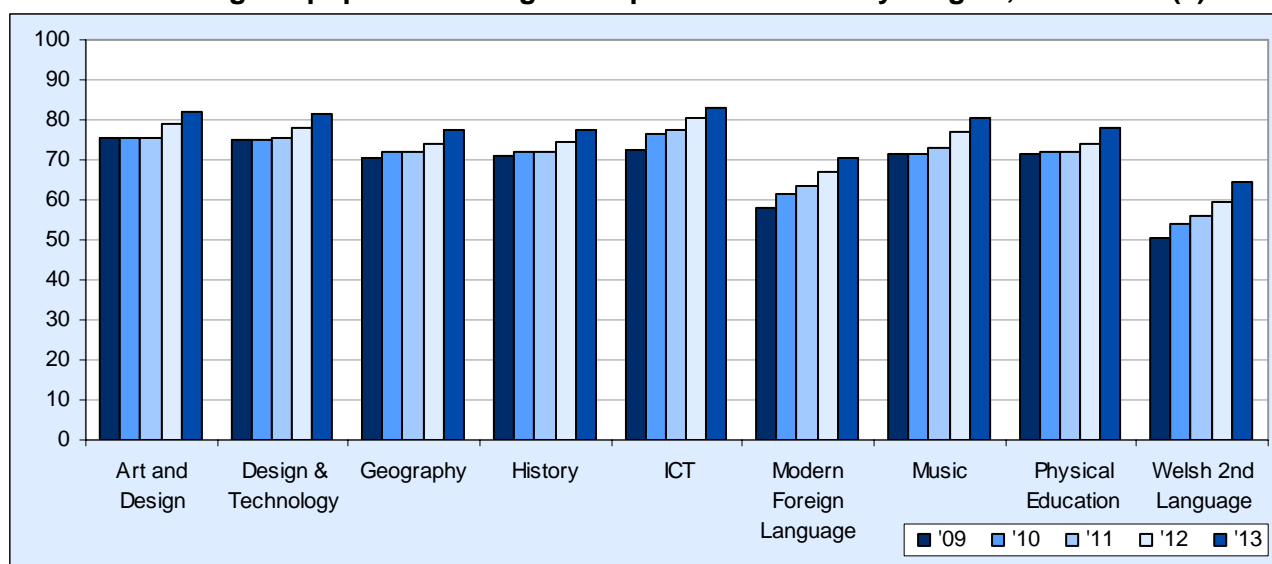
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Chart 2: Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 3, 2009-2013 (a)



- On average, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in non-core subjects in 2013 was 3.6 percentage points higher than 2012, slightly higher than the average increase that was observed between both 2011 and 2012 and 2010 and 2011 (3.5 percentage points). Between 2009 and 2010, the average increase was 2.9 percentage points.

Table 1: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results, 2009-2013

Percentage of pupils achieving at least level 5 (the expected level) in teacher assessments

| | Art and Design | Design and Technology | Geography | History | ICT | Modern Foreign Language | Music | Physical Education | Welsh 2nd Language |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Boys: | | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 66.3 | 68.4 | 67.1 | 66.3 | 72.5 | 55.0 | 65.8 | 72.1 | 46.4 |
| 2010 | 70.3 | 70.7 | 69.1 | 68.8 | 75.8 | 58.6 | 70.3 | 73.4 | 50.1 |
| 2011 | 74.2 | 74.6 | 72.8 | 72.4 | 78.4 | 62.4 | 74.7 | 77.4 | 55.2 |
| 2012 | 78.4 | 78.9 | 76.1 | 75.7 | 81.9 | 66.7 | 78.0 | 82.1 | 58.9 |
| 2013 | 82.6 | 83.4 | 79.9 | 79.7 | 85.7 | 71.0 | 82.6 | 85.4 | 65.0 |
| Girls: | | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 85.1 | 82.8 | 76.9 | 78.1 | 82.7 | 72.6 | 80.7 | 71.7 | 66.1 |
| 2010 | 88.0 | 86.0 | 79.7 | 80.3 | 85.7 | 75.8 | 84.0 | 74.3 | 69.3 |
| 2011 | 90.7 | 88.5 | 82.9 | 83.4 | 88.1 | 78.9 | 86.4 | 78.6 | 74.9 |
| 2012 | 93.0 | 90.6 | 86.3 | 86.9 | 90.8 | 82.7 | 89.5 | 82.3 | 78.4 |
| 2013 | 94.8 | 93.0 | 89.5 | 90.1 | 92.6 | 85.5 | 92.0 | 86.9 | 82.2 |
| Pupils: | | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 75.5 | 75.4 | 71.9 | 72.1 | 77.5 | 63.6 | 73.1 | 71.9 | 56.0 |
| 2010 | 78.9 | 78.1 | 74.2 | 74.4 | 80.6 | 67.0 | 77.0 | 73.9 | 59.4 |
| 2011 | 82.2 | 81.3 | 77.7 | 77.7 | 83.1 | 70.4 | 80.4 | 78.0 | 64.6 |
| 2012 | 85.5 | 84.6 | 81.0 | 81.2 | 86.2 | 74.5 | 83.6 | 82.2 | 68.2 |
| 2013 | 88.5 | 88.1 | 84.6 | 84.8 | 89.0 | 78.1 | 87.2 | 86.1 | 73.3 |

Table 2: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results, 2013 (a)

Percentage of boys, girls and pupils attaining each level

| Subject | D | N | NCO | | | | | | | | | Level 5 or above | Cohort |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|---------------------|--------|
| | | | 1,2&3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8+ | | |
| Boys: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art and Design | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 13.2 | 52.8 | 24.8 | 4.7 | 0.3 | 82.6 | 17,128 |
| Design and technology | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 12.1 | 51.3 | 27.7 | 4.3 | 0.1 | 83.4 | 17,128 |
| Geography | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 2.9 | 14.7 | 42.0 | 28.0 | 9.4 | 0.6 | 79.9 | 17,128 |
| History | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 14.8 | 41.3 | 28.9 | 8.9 | 0.5 | 79.7 | 17,128 |
| ICT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 10.3 | 44.6 | 33.0 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 85.7 | 17,128 |
| Modern Foreign Language | 2.2 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 17.3 | 40.0 | 24.4 | 6.2 | 0.4 | 71.0 | 17,128 |
| Music | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 13.0 | 55.9 | 21.3 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 82.6 | 17,128 |
| Physical Education | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 10.7 | 46.9 | 28.8 | 8.8 | 0.8 | 85.4 | 17,128 |
| Welsh 2nd language | 1.9 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 8.0 | 21.1 | 41.8 | 18.7 | 4.0 | 0.4 | 65.0 | 14,324 |
| Girls: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art and Design | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 3.7 | 33.8 | 40.7 | 17.9 | 2.3 | 94.8 | 16,252 |
| Design and technology | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 5.1 | 38.2 | 41.3 | 12.9 | 0.6 | 93.0 | 16,252 |
| Geography | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 8.2 | 37.5 | 35.0 | 15.1 | 1.9 | 89.5 | 16,252 |
| History | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 7.6 | 36.1 | 36.6 | 16.0 | 1.3 | 90.1 | 16,252 |
| ICT | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 5.8 | 38.4 | 40.4 | 13.4 | 0.3 | 92.6 | 16,252 |
| Modern Foreign Language | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 2.3 | 9.6 | 35.8 | 35.4 | 13.7 | 0.6 | 85.5 | 16,252 |
| Music | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 6.2 | 48.5 | 33.1 | 8.9 | 1.5 | 92.0 | 16,252 |
| Physical Education | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 10.8 | 53.7 | 26.4 | 6.3 | 0.5 | 86.9 | 16,252 |
| Welsh 2nd language | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 3.3 | 11.9 | 39.9 | 31.9 | 9.6 | 0.9 | 82.2 | 13,388 |
| Pupils: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art and Design | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 8.6 | 43.6 | 32.5 | 11.1 | 1.3 | 88.5 | 33,380 |
| Design and technology | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 8.7 | 44.9 | 34.3 | 8.5 | 0.3 | 88.1 | 33,380 |
| Geography | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 11.5 | 39.8 | 31.4 | 12.2 | 1.2 | 84.6 | 33,380 |
| History | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 11.3 | 38.8 | 32.7 | 12.4 | 0.9 | 84.8 | 33,380 |
| ICT | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 8.1 | 41.6 | 36.6 | 10.6 | 0.3 | 89.0 | 33,380 |
| Modern Foreign Language | 1.5 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 4.0 | 13.6 | 37.9 | 29.8 | 9.9 | 0.5 | 78.1 | 33,380 |
| Music | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 9.7 | 52.3 | 27.1 | 6.7 | 1.1 | 87.2 | 33,380 |
| Physical Education | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 10.7 | 50.2 | 27.7 | 7.6 | 0.7 | 86.1 | 33,380 |
| Welsh 2nd language | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 5.8 | 16.7 | 40.9 | 25.1 | 6.7 | 0.6 | 73.3 | 27,712 |

(a) D represents pupils who have been disappplied under sections 113 - 116 of the 2002 Education Act, or pupils for whom teachers were unable to provide an assessment.

N represents pupils not awarded a level for reasons other than disapplication.

From 2010 National Curriculum outcome level W (working towards level 1) was removed and replaced by three new valid outcomes – National Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. These new levels were introduced to describe the achievement below level 1.

Table 3: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results by LA, 2013
Percentage of pupils achieving at least level 5 (the expected level) in teacher assessments

| | Art and Design | Design and Technology | Geography | History | ICT | Modern Foreign Language | Music | Physical Education | Welsh 2nd Language |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Isle of Anglesey | 93.4 | 91.5 | 88.5 | 89.5 | 92.3 | 82.0 | 89.5 | 90.1 | 76.0 |
| Gwynedd | 93.7 | 94.7 | 91.8 | 91.5 | 95.1 | 88.2 | 92.6 | 91.7 | 77.3 |
| Conwy | 90.1 | 89.4 | 87.7 | 86.4 | 93.5 | 85.0 | 87.6 | 92.3 | 78.7 |
| Denbighshire | 90.3 | 88.1 | 84.1 | 83.0 | 88.2 | 80.4 | 88.0 | 88.1 | 72.6 |
| Flintshire | 94.2 | 92.5 | 89.4 | 89.0 | 92.8 | 79.6 | 89.7 | 87.6 | 74.3 |
| Wrexham | 82.2 | 83.2 | 80.6 | 80.3 | 85.8 | 73.4 | 84.9 | 84.2 | 67.7 |
| Powys | 91.6 | 93.0 | 88.7 | 89.4 | 93.2 | 84.1 | 90.1 | 92.6 | 77.8 |
| Ceredigion | 94.1 | 92.6 | 91.8 | 92.0 | 93.3 | 81.3 | 91.4 | 91.8 | 79.5 |
| Pembrokeshire | 89.0 | 90.5 | 87.6 | 88.1 | 90.2 | 80.9 | 89.1 | 87.4 | 78.3 |
| Carmarthenshire | 88.1 | 89.0 | 85.6 | 86.0 | 90.5 | 80.1 | 87.7 | 85.5 | 70.6 |
| Swansea | 88.9 | 84.9 | 84.9 | 84.1 | 89.3 | 76.4 | 86.4 | 86.1 | 73.1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 87.0 | 85.3 | 77.8 | 80.7 | 87.1 | 72.8 | 85.5 | 85.3 | 72.6 |
| Bridgend | 88.8 | 87.6 | 81.4 | 84.8 | 87.3 | 74.2 | 88.7 | 81.5 | 74.2 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 91.0 | 92.7 | 90.7 | 89.9 | 94.5 | 84.4 | 91.9 | 89.9 | 78.0 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 86.8 | 85.2 | 82.0 | 81.6 | 87.1 | 73.8 | 85.0 | 82.7 | 69.6 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 84.2 | 86.8 | 75.4 | 75.6 | 82.9 | 67.9 | 82.1 | 85.6 | 69.9 |
| Caerphilly | 83.0 | 85.1 | 78.9 | 80.7 | 82.6 | 74.1 | 82.3 | 82.3 | 67.9 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 85.2 | 77.4 | 74.5 | 72.6 | 84.6 | 64.6 | 86.7 | 78.6 | 72.8 |
| Torfaen | 88.6 | 86.6 | 84.9 | 86.8 | 89.1 | 78.6 | 89.5 | 85.8 | 77.1 |
| Monmouthshire | 87.3 | 90.5 | 87.8 | 90.0 | 88.1 | 78.7 | 92.1 | 89.7 | 75.0 |
| Newport | 86.2 | 89.1 | 82.6 | 81.6 | 85.4 | 75.9 | 83.4 | 85.4 | 74.9 |
| Cardiff | 88.6 | 87.7 | 85.9 | 84.9 | 89.3 | 80.0 | 85.4 | 84.1 | 73.0 |
| Wales | 88.5 | 88.1 | 84.6 | 84.8 | 89.0 | 78.1 | 87.2 | 86.1 | 73.3 |
| 2012 | 85.5 | 84.6 | 81.0 | 81.2 | 86.2 | 74.5 | 83.6 | 82.2 | 68.2 |
| 2011 | 82.2 | 81.3 | 77.7 | 77.7 | 83.1 | 70.4 | 80.4 | 78.0 | 64.6 |
| 2010 | 78.9 | 78.1 | 74.2 | 74.4 | 80.6 | 67.0 | 77.0 | 73.9 | 59.4 |
| 2009 | 75.5 | 75.4 | 71.9 | 72.1 | 77.5 | 63.6 | 73.1 | 71.9 | 56.0 |

Section 2 – Key Stage 2

- It is optional for schools to provide details of teacher assessments in Welsh Second Language to the Welsh Government. In 2013, 23,575 pupils from an eligible cohort of 24,841 (94.9 per cent) were assessed in Welsh Second Language, compared to 25,082 pupils from an eligible cohort of 25,519 (98.3 per cent) in 2012. The eligible cohort consists of those who did not have a teacher assessment in Welsh first language.
- In 2013, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (level 4 or above) in Welsh Second Language was 67.7 per cent.

Table 4: Key Stage 2 non-core teacher assessment results, 2013 (a)

Percentage of pupils boys, girls and pupils attaining each level

| Subject | D | N | NCO | | | | | | | Level 4 or above | Cohort |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|---------------------|--------|
| | | | 1,2&3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6+ | | |
| Boys: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Welsh 2nd language | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 6.6 | 29.0 | 51.2 | 9.8 | 0.2 | 61.2 | 12,183 |
| Girls: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Welsh 2nd language | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 3.7 | 20.1 | 56.7 | 17.6 | 0.3 | 74.6 | 11,392 |
| Pupils: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Welsh 2nd language | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 5.2 | 24.7 | 53.9 | 13.6 | 0.2 | 67.7 | 23,575 |

(a) Welsh Second Language data at Key Stage 2 was collected for the first time in 2010. The reporting of these results is optional for schools. For further information please see the notes at the end of this release.

Table 5: Key Stage 2 non-core teacher assessment results by LA, 2010 - 2013 (a)

Percentage of pupils achieving at least level 4 (the expected level) in teacher assessments

| | Welsh Second Language | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 37.5 | 48.4 | 33.8 | 38.7 |
| Gwynedd (b) | . | * | * | * |
| Conwy | 50.6 | 58.8 | 68.7 | 70.2 |
| Denbighshire | 48.9 | 62.4 | 66.2 | 69.7 |
| Flintshire | 38.1 | 45.5 | 53.2 | 61.2 |
| Wrexham | 65.6 | 76.0 | 77.5 | 78.5 |
| Powys | 37.0 | 51.7 | 57.5 | 70.9 |
| Ceredigion | 69.6 | 60.0 | 58.1 | 64.4 |
| Pembrokeshire | 26.8 | 41.3 | 52.7 | 59.6 |
| Carmarthenshire | 36.6 | 58.4 | 51.8 | 61.1 |
| Swansea | 34.6 | 47.7 | 59.1 | 67.1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 54.3 | 59.4 | 71.2 | 75.7 |
| Bridgend | 11.1 | 32.4 | 50.7 | 60.6 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 29.4 | 57.9 | 69.1 | 71.6 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 23.4 | 42.8 | 59.6 | 63.3 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 14.4 | 34.2 | 52.5 | 58.2 |
| Caerphilly | 10.2 | 23.3 | 45.8 | 64.4 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 34.6 | 59.0 | 63.9 | 71.1 |
| Torfaen | 28.6 | 52.8 | 72.0 | 76.4 |
| Monmouthshire | 43.1 | 58.9 | 76.9 | 75.0 |
| Newport | 41.0 | 66.5 | 77.0 | 78.2 |
| Cardiff | 43.4 | 58.5 | 62.1 | 67.4 |
| Wales | 35.4 | 51.4 | 61.6 | 67.7 |

(a) Welsh Second Language data at Key Stage 2 was collected for the first time in 2010. The reporting of these results is optional for schools. For further information please see the notes at the end of this release.

(b) Most pupils in Gwynedd study Welsh as their first language, and therefore the cohort size would be very small, or even zero (as in 2010).

Notes

1. Context

1.1 Policy/Operational

All learners in their final year of Key Stages 2 and 3 must be assessed through teacher assessments. Headteachers are responsible for reporting results for all learners on their school roll as at the second Tuesday in May; this is known as the 'specified date on roll'. In 2013, the date for this was 14 May. Statutory assessment arrangements for the school year 2012/13 can be found here:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/statutoryassessment/?lang=en>

The National Curriculum subjects in Wales are split into two categories, core subjects and non-core subjects. The core subjects are English, Welsh first language, mathematics and science. The non-core subjects are art and design, design and technology, geography, history, information and communication technology, modern foreign language, music, physical education and Welsh second language.

1.2 Related Publications

A similar release relating to mandatory areas of learning at end of Foundation Phase and core subjects at Key Stage 2 and 3, entitled "End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and National Curriculum Teacher Assessment of Core Subjects at Key stages 2 and 3" was also released on 14 August 2013 and can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2013/?lang=en>

For school-level data and further information please visit My Local School (mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk / fyysgolleol.cymru.wales.gov.uk). The site contains a wealth of data from contextual information, such as data on pupil numbers and characteristics, to school performance, attendance and data on staffing and finance.

England publish separate releases on Key Stage 1, 2 and 3. Within the England release, figures are published on teacher assessments, as well as official exams (no longer sat in Wales). The latest available published statistics can be found here:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics>

More detailed tables, including school-level data, are available on request.

2. Data source

The National Data Collection (NDC) is the electronic collection of teacher assessment data at end of Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 and 3. Data is sent by schools to Knowledge and Analytical Services within the Welsh Government care of their Local Authority (LA).

A summary of the NDC process for 2013 covering timescales and reporting arrangements can be found here:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/schooldata/ims/datacollections/nationaldatacollection/?lang=en>

3. Definitions

3.1 Coverage

Most learners will be 11 or 14 years old at the end of Key Stage 2 and 3 respectively. It is possible that some may be older or younger and some may be taught in a class where the majority of learners are of a different age. For each Key Stage, learners must be statutorily assessed (i.e. they must receive an end of Key Stage teacher assessment) once only.

From 2010 schools were able to provide Key Stage 2 results for Welsh Second Language.

3.2 Expected levels

The general expectation is that the majority of 11 year olds will attain level 4 in each subject. Similarly, 14 year olds will attain level 5.

'D' represents pupils who have been disapplied under sections 113-116 of the 2002 Education Act, or pupils for whom teachers were unable to provide an assessment. 'N' represents pupils not awarded a level for reasons other than disapplication.

In 2010, level 'W' (working towards level 1) was removed and replaced by three new valid outcomes for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 – National Curriculum Outcomes (NCO) 1, 2 and 3. These new levels have been introduced to describe achievement below level 1. For publishing purposes, these three outcomes have been grouped together and named 'NCO 1, 2 and 3'.

More information on levels within each Key Stage (including the 'D' and 'N' codes) can be found by following the link seen in section 1.1.

4. Rounding and symbols

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.

The following symbols have been used throughout the publication:

- percentages less than 0.5 but not zero
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * figure is less than 5, or based on a figure less than 5.

5. Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. It also covers specific issues relating to quality of 2013 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs, in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of responses has been published and is available here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/education/?lang=en>

5.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The research community;
- LAs and schools;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- General background and research;
- Inclusions in reports and briefings;

- Advice to Ministers;
- The all-Wales education core data packs (the replacement for the National Pupil Database);
- LA and school comparisons and benchmarks;
- To inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales including school reorganisation;
- To inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- The education domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- To assist in research in educational attainment.

5.2 Accuracy

Following the outcome of the Daugherty Assessment Review Group in 2004, Key Stage 2 task/ tests were made optional for 2005, and Key Stage 3 task/ tests were made optional in 2006. This release only shows the results for teacher assessments.

The Welsh Government works closely with schools and LAs in order to ensure all data are validated before tables are published. Data is collated into an electronic return and submitted to the Welsh Government through DEWi, a secure online data transfer system developed by the Welsh Government. Various stages of automated validation and sense-checking are built into the process to ensure a high quality of data.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

DEWi was available for uploading files on 7 May 2013, with schools asked to submit data for every pupil on roll at the school on 14 May for the relevant Foundation Phase/Key Stages and National Reading Tests. Schools and LAs were then asked to validate their data within the validation period, which closed on 5 July.

Improvements in the data collection method and procedures and considerable effort by colleagues in local authorities and schools have resulted in us being able to tighten the National Data Collection timetable since 2008. In previous years we would have published a provisional set of results in September, followed by a final set in October once the data had been validated by schools.

5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

5.5 Comparability

No independent schools submitted Key Stage 2 or 3 data in 2013. 1 independent school submitted Key Stage 2 data in 2012 – the same independent school also provided results in 2009 and 2010. An independent school's data will not be included in an LA's results, but will appear in the overall results for Wales.

Attainment data for pupils arriving from non-English or Welsh based educational systems within the previous two academic years are removed from the school and LA's results, but included in the overall results for Wales.