

Local authority budgeted expenditure on schools: 2014-15

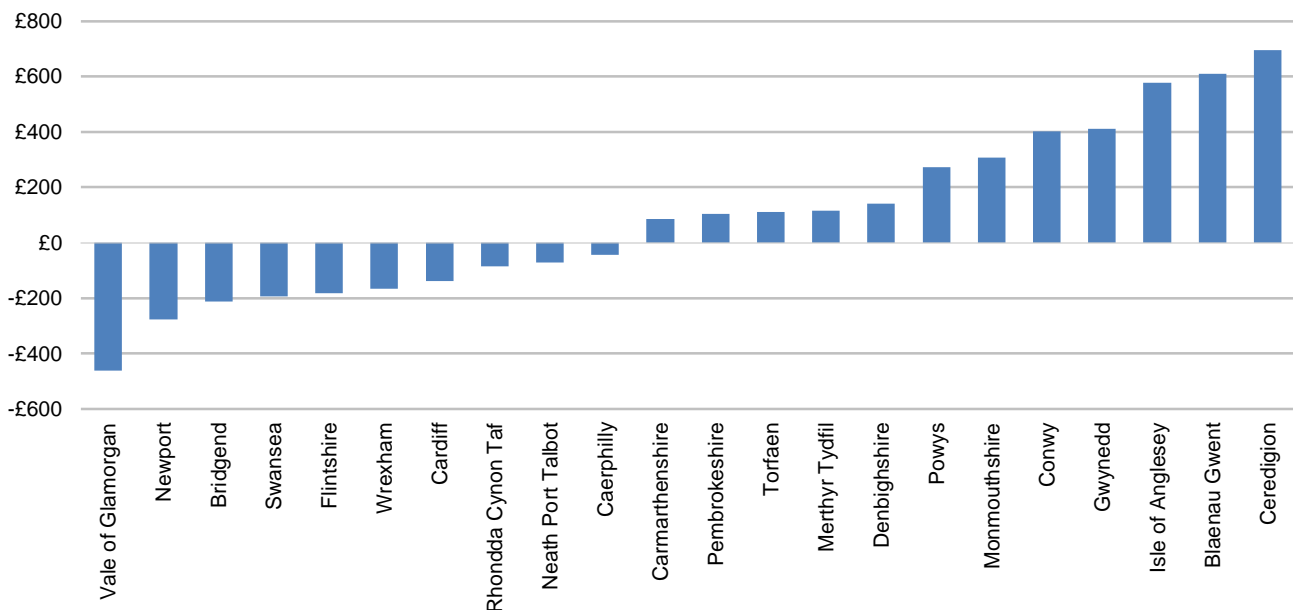
Introduction

This statistical bulletin analyses the resources that local authorities have budgeted to make available for education services in 2014-15.

Key points

- Gross schools expenditure is budgeted to be £2,528 million, an increase of 0.3% over the previous year (table 2).
- Gross schools expenditure per pupil is budgeted to be £5,607, a year-on-year increase of 0.2% or £13. This can be broken down into £4,647 per pupil delegated to schools and £960 per pupil retained for centrally funded school services (chart 1 and table 5).
- The funding delegated to schools is budgeted to be £2,095 million. The amount of funding that local authorities delegate directly to schools ranges between 77% and 86% of overall gross schools budgeted expenditure (table 3).
- 83% of the total gross schools budgeted expenditure is delegated directly to schools (table 3), an increase of 0.6 of a percentage point compared to the previous year.

Chart 1: Gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil: difference from the Wales average, 2014-15



Additional information is available on the 'StatsWales' website: www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

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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 Caerphilly has the largest percentage increase in education net revenue expenditure at 1.4% whilst Neath Port Talbot has the largest decrease of 2.9%.

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

	<i>£ thousand</i>				
			Change in	Percentage	2014-15
	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15	change	Indicator
			over		based
			2013-14		assessment
					(IBA) (b)
Isle of Anglesey	49,407	48,993	-414	-0.8	52,413
Gwynedd	89,826	89,251	-575	-0.6	92,197
Conwy	82,286	82,022	-264	-0.3	79,906
Denbighshire	77,900	77,417	-483	-0.6	75,827
Flintshire	110,107	109,623	-484	-0.4	111,808
Wrexham	92,906	93,032	126	0.1	94,634
Powys	100,249	97,588	-2,661	-2.7	99,820
Ceredigion	54,583	53,057	-1,526	-2.8	53,833
Pembrokeshire	90,603	88,593	-2,010	-2.2	93,088
Cardiff	137,448	136,193	-1,256	-0.9	138,601
Swansea	159,822	158,419	-1,403	-0.9	164,591
Neath Port Talbot	99,788	96,849	-2,939	-2.9	102,513
Bridgend	109,191	106,922	-2,269	-2.1	103,645
Vale of Glamorgan	96,725	96,191	-534	-0.6	95,826
Cardiff	237,998	236,928	-1,070	-0.4	231,477
Rhondda Cynon Taf	192,916	190,611	-2,305	-1.2	183,901
Merthyr Tydfil	46,492	45,269	-1,224	-2.6	43,608
Caerphilly	134,567	136,403	1,836	1.4	140,302
Blaenau Gwent	52,647	51,434	-1,213	-2.3	50,504
Torfaen	71,636	71,429	-207	-0.3	71,936
Monmouthshire	57,695	57,698	3	0.0	59,635
Newport	103,441	102,653	-788	-0.8	112,463
Wales	2,248,234	2,226,575	-21,659	-1.0	2,252,529

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 Isle of Anglesey has the largest increase of 2.6% in gross schools expenditure with Powys having the largest decrease at 2.5%.

Table 2: Schools budgeted expenditure (a)

<i>£ thousand</i>				
	Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)			
	2013-14	2014-15	Change in 2014-15 over 2013-14	Percentage change
Isle of Anglesey	55,851 (r)	57,325	1,474	2.6
Gwynedd	99,065	99,079	14	0.0
Conwy	92,782	92,957	176	0.2
Denbighshire	86,644	87,611	967	1.1
Flintshire	123,751	124,369	618	0.5
Wrexham	101,305	101,281	-23	0.0
Powys	111,545	108,762	-2,783	-2.5
Ceredigion	60,900	59,589	-1,311	-2.2
Pembrokeshire	101,872	101,065	-807	-0.8
Carmarthenshire	152,944	152,757	-187	-0.1
Swansea	179,951	182,058	2,107	1.2
Neath Port Talbot	107,628	107,674	47	0.0
Bridgend	121,823	121,794	-29	0.0
Vale of Glamorgan	109,067	109,520	453	0.4
Cardiff	270,134	273,404	3,269	1.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	217,120	215,143	-1,976	-0.9
Merthyr Tydfil	49,318	48,634	-684	-1.4
Caerphilly	150,185	153,474	3,290	2.2
Blaenau Gwent	55,212	55,403	190	0.3
Torfaen	82,581	83,504	923	1.1
Monmouthshire	66,064	66,907	842	1.3
Newport	123,567	125,450	1,883	1.5
Wales	2,519,308 (r)	2,527,761	8,452	0.3

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.

(r) Revised.

Table 3 shows delegated schools budgets increased by 1.1% compared with the previous year. Cardiff has the highest percentage increase at 3.2%. The Vale of Glamorgan has the highest delegation rate at 85.9% and Powys has the lowest at 76.8% mainly due to high home to school transport costs which cannot be delegated.

Table 3: Delegated School Budget

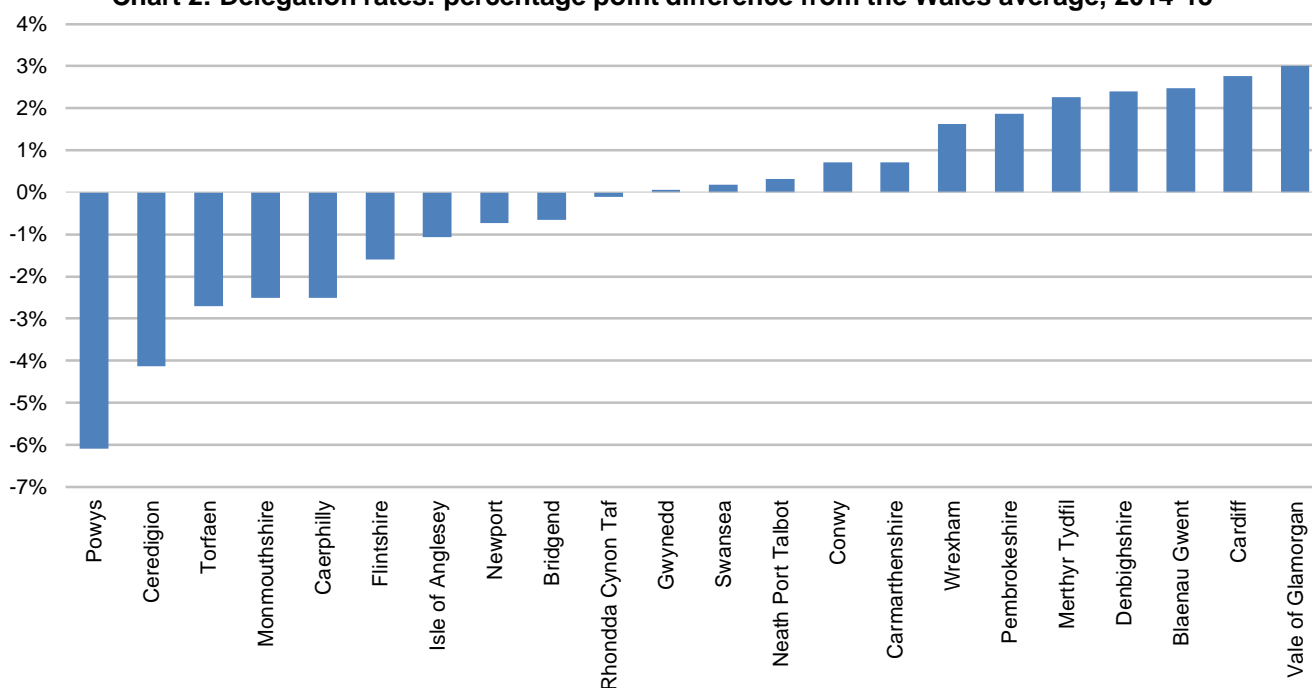
<i>£ thousand</i>					
Delegated schools budget (a)					
	2013-14	2014-15	Change in 2014-15 over 2013-14	Percentage change	Delegation Rate (b) 2014-15
Isle of Anglesey	45,748	46,905	1,157	2.5	81.8%
Gwynedd	81,483	82,178	695	0.9	82.9%
Conwy	76,039	77,701	1,662	2.2	83.6%
Denbighshire	73,247	74,719	1,472	2.0	85.3%
Flintshire	99,693	101,087	1,394	1.4	81.3%
Wrexham	83,605	85,586	1,982	2.4	84.5%
Powys	86,823	83,523	-3,300	-3.8	76.8%
Ceredigion	48,231	46,924	-1,306	-2.7	78.7%
Pembrokeshire	85,228	85,647	419	0.5	84.7%
Carmarthenshire	125,360	127,705	2,344	1.9	83.6%
Swansea	149,234	151,220	1,986	1.3	83.1%
Neath Port Talbot	88,456	89,587	1,131	1.3	83.2%
Bridgend	99,435	100,149	714	0.7	82.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	91,956	94,060	2,104	2.3	85.9%
Cardiff	226,872	234,147	7,275	3.2	85.6%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	179,925	178,101	-1,824	-1.0	82.8%
Merthyr Tydfil	41,910	41,409	-501	-1.2	85.1%
Caerphilly	122,537	123,362	825	0.7	80.4%
Blaenau Gwent	46,308	47,294	986	2.1	85.4%
Torfaen	66,144	66,948	804	1.2	80.2%
Monmouthshire	53,348	53,774	426	0.8	80.4%
Newport	100,387	103,066	2,679	2.7	82.2%
Wales	2,071,968	2,095,091	23,123	1.1	82.9%

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, 2014-15



Over the past decade the proportion of budget delegated to schools has varied at around 75% to 81%. This figure increased to 82% in 2013-14 and to 83% in 2014-15. 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

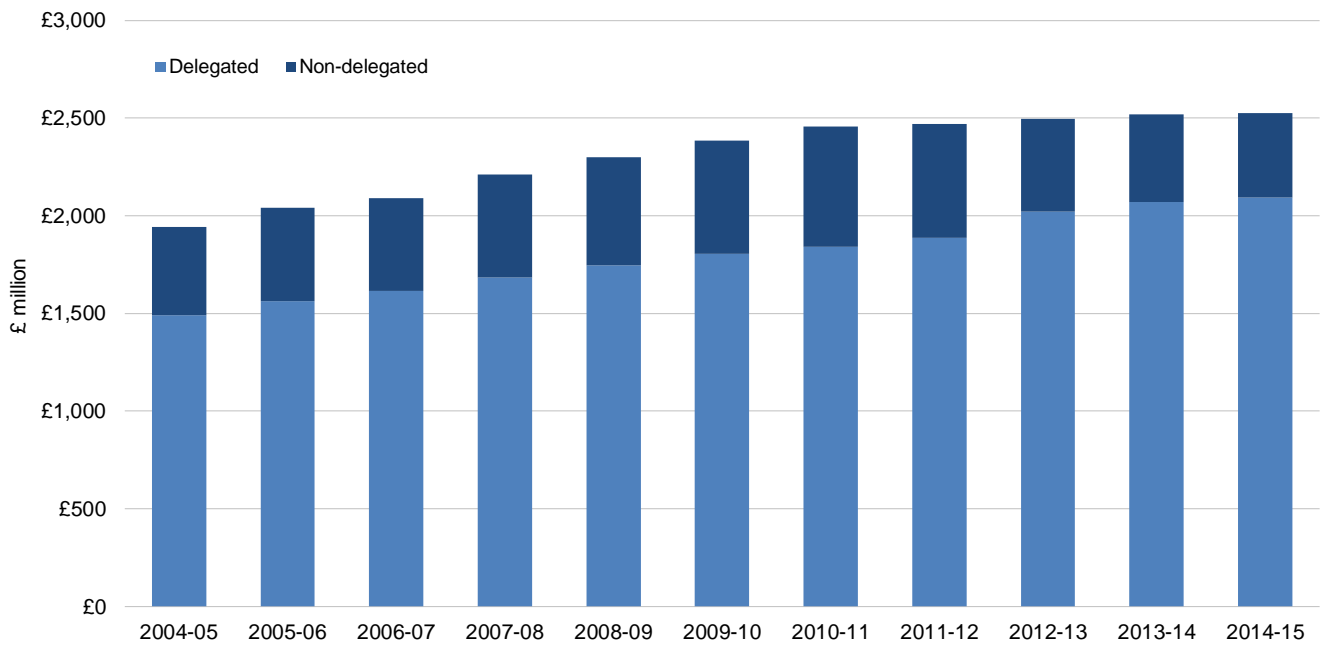


Table 4 shows budgeted expenditure per pupil on centrally funded schools services. The Vale of Glamorgan retains the least amount of funding centrally at £726 per pupil whilst Powys retains the most at £1,364 per pupil.

Table 4: Centrally funded schools budgets, 2014-15 (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	221	44	1	288	0	146	84	59	220	61	0	1,124	10,420
Gwynedd	183	7	5	193	72	24	80	59	225	179	0	1,027	16,901
Conwy	99	16	3	298	0	47	74	37	299	114	0	986	15,256
Denbighshire	165	-111	22	144	0	35	100	153	246	92	0	846	12,892
Flintshire	256	110	0	101	25	38	97	55	225	110	0	1,015	23,282
Wrexham	107	60	28	246	0	6	43	34	198	121	0	843	15,695
Powys	239	-19	3	284	16	7	62	27	517	230	0	1,364	25,239
Ceredigion	283	-39	0	195	0	44	134	80	447	194	0	1,339	12,664
Pembrokeshire	95	46	1	101	0	52	58	49	303	165	0	871	15,418
Carmarthenshire	114	7	1	161	0	69	78	32	297	174	0	934	25,053
Swansea	263	18	29	191	0	42	42	100	197	35	0	917	30,838
Neath Port Talbot	64	24	3	249	0	96	60	95	274	52	12	930	18,087
Bridgend	217	-18	9	194	78	61	41	61	208	107	0	959	21,645
Vale of Glamorgan	193	-96	0	200	27	36	52	83	146	86	0	726	15,460
Cardiff	102	52	4	135	0	14	50	208	126	93	0	785	39,256
Rhondda Cynon Taf	146	57	5	138	0	38	16	140	270	135	5	951	37,042
Merthyr Tydfil	152	33	8	53	0	51	46	66	196	244	2	850	7,225
Caerphilly	236	59	27	244	0	51	76	33	203	163	0	1,091	30,112
Blaenau Gwent	241	-9	1	52	13	79	102	102	191	137	-0	910	8,109
Torfaen	69	36	8	358	0	41	100	135	174	213	0	1,134	16,556
Monmouthshire	177	39	0	277	0	21	55	34	331	227	0	1,161	13,133
Newport	168	114	0	270	0	16	4	160	152	67	0	951	22,384
Wales	168	26	8	193	10	42	59	93	234	125	1	960	432,669
Minimum	64	-111	0	52	0	6	4	27	126	35	-0	726	
Maximum	283	114	29	358	78	146	134	208	517	244	12	1,364	

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 £6,302 whilst the Vale of Glamorgan has the lowest at £5,145. Torfaen has the highest increase in spend per pupil over the previous year of 3.1%. Ceredigion has a decrease of 2.9%.

Table 5: Total gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil, 2014-15 (a)

	Delegated schools budget						Gross schools budgeted expenditure (b)			
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	All sectors (b)	Centrally funded schools budget (b)	2014-15		Percentage change
								2013-14	2014-15	
Isle of Anglesey	0	4,869	0	5,049	17,271	5,060	1,124	6,039 (r)	6,184	2.4
Gwynedd	0	4,678	0	5,165	18,094	4,992	1,027	5,970	6,019	0.8
Conwy	0	4,615	0	5,126	19,290	5,023	986	5,951	6,010	1.0
Denbighshire	0	4,347	4,588	4,980	20,531	4,903	846	5,711	5,749	0.7
Flintshire	13,191	4,083	0	4,548	15,669	4,409	1,015	5,398	5,424	0.5
Wrexham	8,618	4,113	0	5,086	13,518	4,597	843	5,482	5,440	-0.8
Powys	0	4,138	5,623	4,418	18,772	4,515	1,364	5,994	5,880	-1.9
Ceredigion	0	4,561	5,173	5,398	0 (c)	4,962	1,339	6,489	6,302	-2.9
Pembrokeshire	0	4,614	0	4,846	21,036	4,840	871	5,768	5,712	-1.0
Carmarthenshire	4,829	4,346	0	5,071	25,372	4,760	934	5,676	5,693	0.3
Swansea	0	4,108	0	4,879	19,084	4,497	917	5,367	5,414	0.9
Neath Port Talbot	0	4,140	0	4,857	19,850	4,606	930	5,540	5,536	-0.1
Bridgend	3,735	3,923	0	4,547	20,245	4,436	959	5,463	5,395	-1.2
Vale of Glamorgan	6,683	3,928	0	4,472	23,712	4,419	726	5,129	5,145	0.3
Cardiff	8,962	4,147	0	4,996	21,303	4,683	785	5,504	5,468	-0.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	8,978	4,066	6,027	4,889	15,432	4,572	951	5,561	5,523	-0.7
Merthyr Tydfil	5,622	4,390	0	5,095	17,283	4,872	850	5,605	5,722	2.1
Caerphilly	0	4,105	0	4,742	25,267	4,471	1,091	5,438	5,563	2.3
Blaenau Gwent	0	5,053	5,047	5,260	23,884	5,306	910	6,152	6,216	1.0
Torfaen	8,258	4,247	0	4,711	21,571	4,585	1,134	5,547	5,719	3.1
Monmouthshire	0	4,256	0	4,987	53,225	4,754	1,161	5,768	5,915	2.6
Newport	7,087	4,084	0	4,497	22,264	4,380	951	5,291	5,331	0.8
Wales	7,263	4,226	5,194	4,847	19,758	4,647	960	5,594 (r)	5,607	0.2
Minimum	0	3,923	0	4,418	0 (c)	4,380	726	5,129	5,145	-2.9
Maximum	13,191	5,053	6,027	5,398	53,225	5,306	1,364	6,489	6,302	3.1

Source: RA/Section 52 education budget statements

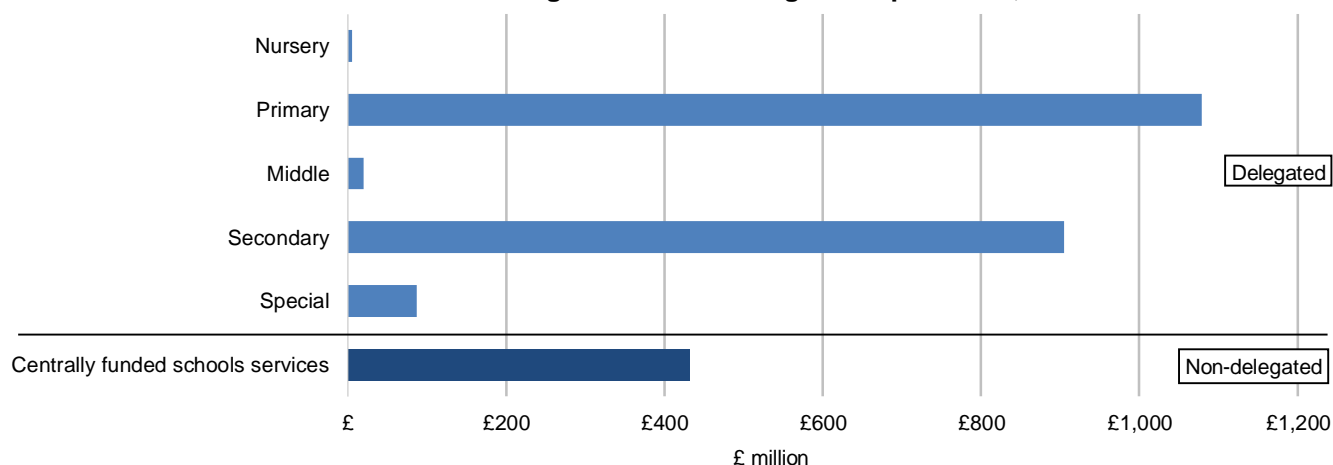
(a) Figures are on a 'gross' basis, i.e. including funding from all sources.

(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.

(r) Revised.

Chart 4: Breakdown of gross schools budgeted expenditure, 2014-15



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.

Quality

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

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

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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