



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

National school categorisation system update: secondary school categorisation

2016 categorisation outcomes

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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Background

In January 2015 a national school categorisation system was introduced in Wales. This system categorises schools according to the level of support that they require - showing the range from those that need significant support to the ones that are highly effective and who can become providers of such support.

Pupils in Year 11

As a result of “the Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19 years olds in Wales” published in November 2012. There will be a number of changes made to the performance measures for secondary schools over the coming years.

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/121127reviewofqualificationsen.pdf>

One such change is to amend the population used in reporting from 15-year-olds at the start of the academic year to the whole Year 11 cohort. This will apply to the 2016 data in the national school categorisation outcomes. We will not be applying this retrospectively to previous years in order to preserve the robustness of the historical data that has been agreed with schools.

Welsh Government will continue to work closely with the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW) and the four regional education consortia in Wales, to ensure the national school categorisation process continues to be robust, transparent and consistently applied across Wales.

The national school categorisation guidance will be updated to include this change and will be published on the categorisation web pages. <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/schoolcategorisation/?lang=en>

Performance of eFSM pupils

Schools are reminded that the minimum standard for the performance of eFSM pupils increases to 32% for the 2016 published outcomes. This will continue to be a three year weighted average applied at school level. The minimum standard will be applied at step one of the categorisation process.

As with last year, where performance of eFSM learners is below the minimum standard, the judgement in relation to school’s standards group will not be assessed as being better than a 3. The overall impact is that any school in this position can not be categorised as a green school.

Special schools

Following a request, consideration has been given to publishing the step two and step three outcomes for special schools. Welsh Government has discussed this with the consortia representatives who have shared this thinking with the relevant stakeholder groups. The Cabinet Secretary has agreed to this approach and it will be implemented for the 2016 National

School Categorisation outcomes due to be published in January 2017. Step two and step three outcomes for special schools will therefore be published on the My Local School webpages.