



## Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2017-18

29 June 2017  
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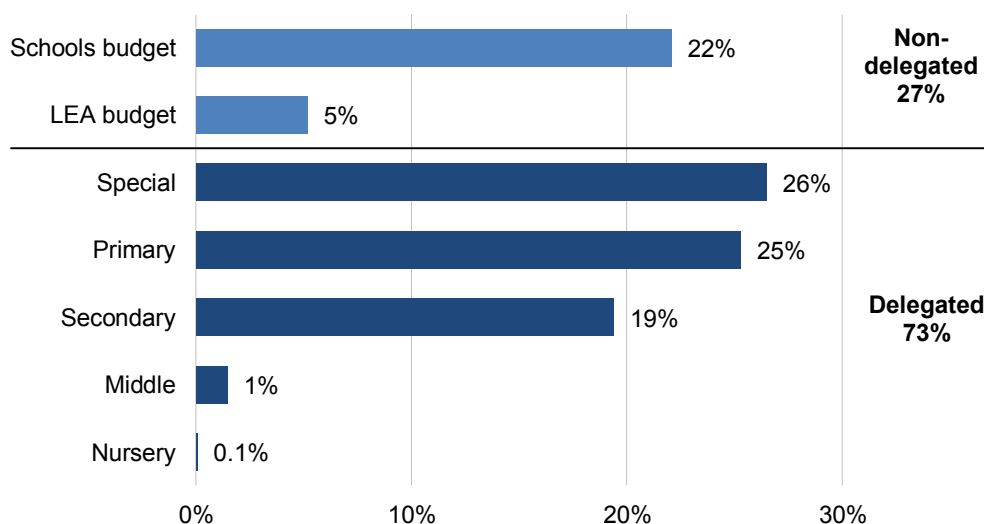
- Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £373 million, an increase of £11.0 million or 3% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).
- 26% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure is delegated to special schools. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools account for a further 46% of the total. The remaining 27% is made up of money held centrally by local authorities (chart 1).
- Denbighshire delegates the largest proportion of their SEN budget to their schools at 90%, whilst Caerphilly delegates the smallest proportion at 56% (table 2).
- Total SEN expenditure per pupil for Wales is budgeted to be £825. This consists of £600 delegated expenditure per pupil and £225 non-delegated expenditure per pupil (table 3).
- Blaenau Gwent has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,068, whilst the Vale of Glamorgan has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £634 (table 3 and chart 3).

### About this release

This statistical release analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh Local Authorities in respect of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for 2017-18.

The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

**Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2017-18**



Additional information is available at: [statswales.gov.wales](http://statswales.gov.wales).

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Table 1 shows that budgeted expenditure on SEN provision increased by 3% compared to the previous year. Merthyr Tydfil has the largest percentage increase due to an increased demand on the service and an increase in pupil numbers. Wrexham has the largest percentage decrease.

**Table 1: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision (a)**

Authority	£ thousand			
	2016-17	2017-18	Change	Percentage change
Isle of Anglesey	9,059	9,037	-22	-0.2
Gwynedd	13,663	14,863	1,200	8.8
Conwy	12,436	12,192	-245	-2.0
Denbighshire	11,748	12,015	267	2.3
Flintshire	19,607	19,855	248	1.3
Wrexham	16,580	15,832	-748	-4.5
Powys	15,390	16,428	1,038	6.7
Ceredigion	7,618	7,794	176	2.3
Pembrokeshire	15,231	15,307	76	0.5
Carmarthenshire	20,431	20,414	-17	-0.1
Swansea	32,493	35,160	2,667	8.2
Neath Port Talbot	15,696	16,140	444	2.8
Bridgend	19,236	18,768	-468	-2.4
Vale of Glamorgan	12,904	13,873	969	7.5
Cardiff	46,416	46,955	538	1.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,233	24,941	708	2.9
Merthyr Tydfil	7,648	8,913	1,266	16.5
Caerphilly	18,407	19,004	597	3.2
Blaenau Gwent	8,770	9,303	533	6.1
Torfaen	8,758	9,148	390	4.5
Monmouthshire	8,329	8,269	-60	-0.7
Newport	17,083	18,495	1,413	8.3
<b>Wales</b>	<b>361,737</b>	<b>372,706</b>	<b>10,969</b>	<b>3.0</b>

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

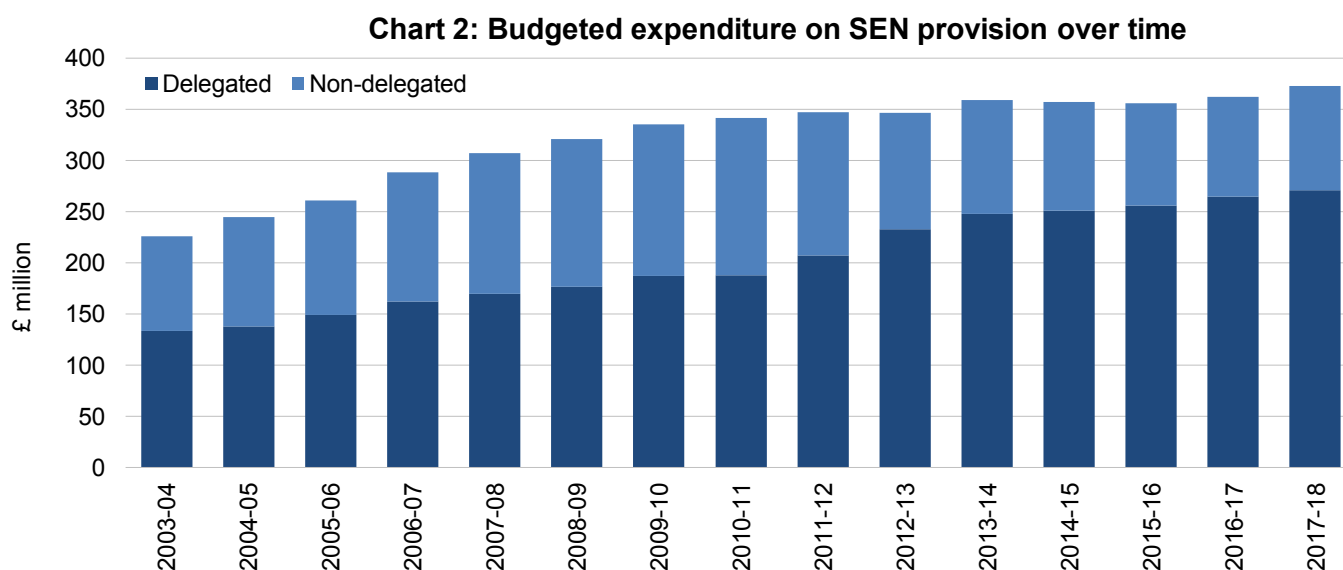


Table 2 shows how SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total at 90% whilst Caerphilly has the lowest at 56%.

**Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2017-18**

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure					Non-delegated SEN expenditure					£ thousand	
	Notional allocation to: (a)					Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment (c)	LEA budget	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	Delegated as a percentage of total
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special							
Isle of Anglesey	0	2,349	0	1,745	1,514	5,608	2,061	341	1,027	3,429	9,037	62%
Gwynedd	0	4,347	172	3,099	3,344	10,962	2,974	436	491	3,901	14,863	74%
Conwy	0	3,362	0	2,901	3,878	10,141	1,500	46	505	2,051	12,192	83%
Denbighshire	0	3,400	179	2,013	5,231	10,822	2,348	-1,649	494	1,193	12,015	90%
Flintshire	0	5,239	0	3,589	3,762	12,590	5,165	1,588	513	7,265	19,855	63%
Wrexham	14	4,627	0	3,527	4,316	12,484	2,142	731	475	3,348	15,832	79%
Powys	0	3,117	149	2,459	5,827	11,552	5,128	-398	146	4,876	16,428	70%
Ceredigion (b)	0	2,109	1,462	1,883	0	5,454	2,459	-405	286	2,340	7,794	70%
Pembrokeshire	0	5,048	0	3,906	3,173	12,127	1,463	663	1,054	3,180	15,307	79%
Carmarthenshire	4	6,316	0	5,910	3,520	15,750	2,912	-266	2,018	4,663	20,414	77%
Swansea	0	10,481	0	7,940	3,693	22,114	9,632	1,924	1,490	13,046	35,160	63%
Neath Port Talbot	0	3,865	1,753	1,113	4,948	11,679	1,280	632	2,549	4,461	16,140	72%
Bridgend	0	3,034	0	2,850	8,105	13,989	4,186	-476	1,069	4,779	18,768	75%
Vale of Glamorgan	12	2,531	181	1,462	6,948	11,134	3,568	-1,984	1,155	2,739	13,873	80%
Cardiff	144	13,308	0	13,410	12,899	39,760	4,320	2,139	736	7,194	46,955	85%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	3,640	144	3,401	8,677	15,862	5,045	2,213	1,820	9,079	24,941	64%
Merthyr Tydfil	11	1,920	0	756	3,409	6,096	2,199	130	488	2,818	8,913	68%
Caerphilly	0	3,354	0	3,349	3,878	10,581	5,540	1,666	1,217	8,423	19,004	56%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,223	1,422	375	2,649	6,669	2,401	-155	387	2,634	9,303	72%
Torfaen	11	2,398	0	2,185	2,461	7,055	749	733	611	2,093	9,148	77%
Monmouthshire	0	2,306	0	1,371	2,261	5,938	1,682	315	335	2,331	8,269	72%
Newport	98	5,319	0	3,080	4,257	12,754	2,360	2,948	433	5,741	18,495	69%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>94,293</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>72,323</b>	<b>98,750</b>	<b>271,122</b>	<b>71,114</b>	<b>11,171</b>	<b>19,299</b>	<b>101,584</b>	<b>372,706</b>	<b>73%</b>

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend on SEN can vary from these notional

(b) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(c) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils.

Table 3 shows that Blaenau Gwent spends the most per pupil on SEN provision at £1,068 and Vale of Glamorgan spends the least at £634. Total delegated expenditure per pupil is £600, an increase of £14 over the previous year. Non-delegated expenditure per pupil is £225, an increase of £11 over the previous year.

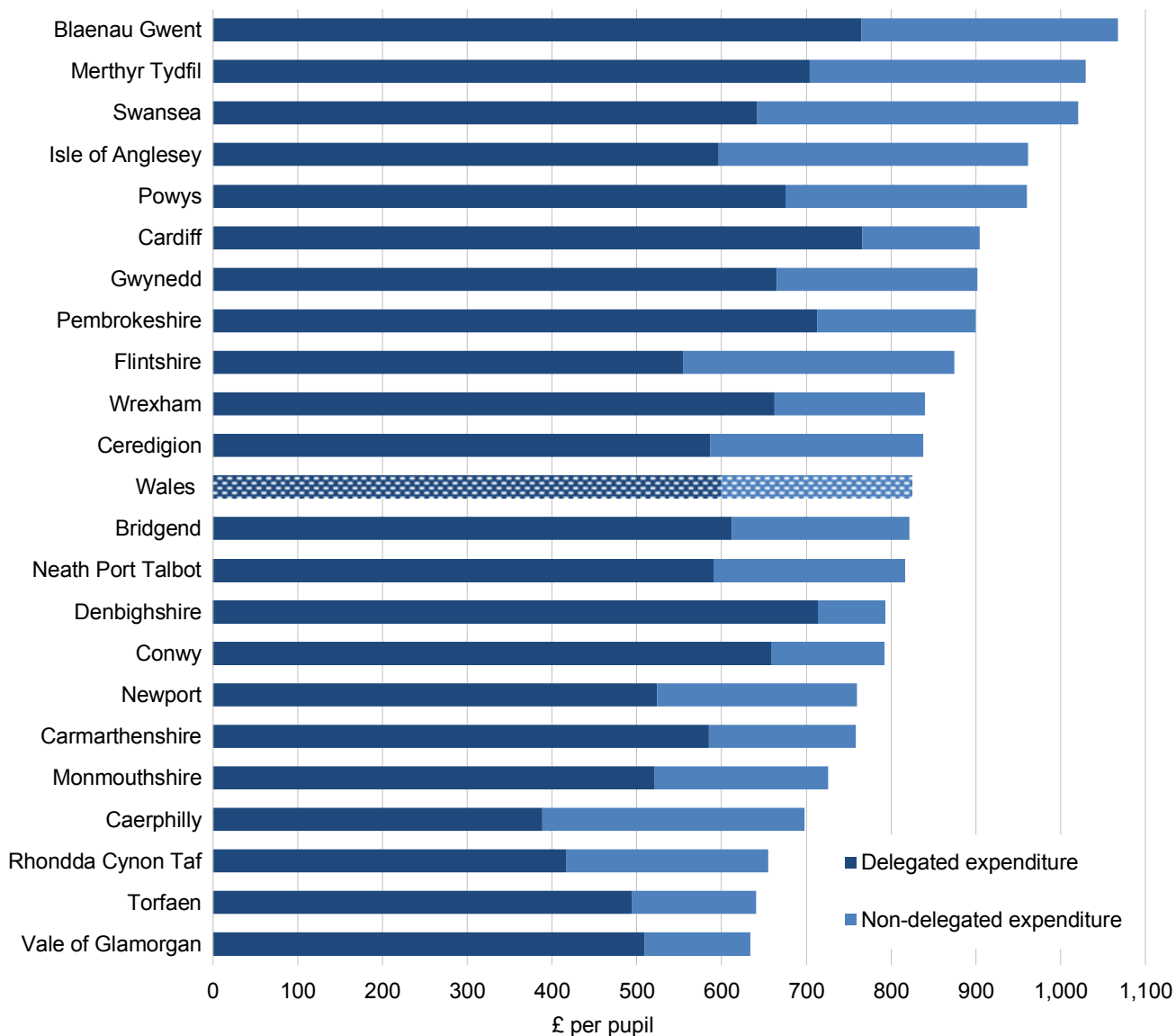
**Table 3: Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2017-18 (a)** £ per pupil

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure						Non-delegated SEN expenditure						Percentage point difference on Wales average
	Notional allocation to:				Special schools		Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment	LEA budget	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Number of places	Budget (£ per place)							
Isle of Anglesey	0	427	0	458	90	16,822	597	219	36	109	365	961	17
Gwynedd	0	466	468	470	190	17,572	665	180	26	30	237	902	9
Conwy	0	395	0	434	200	19,388	658	97	3	33	133	791	-4
Denbighshire	0	418	362	320	250	20,968	714	155	-109	33	79	792	-4
Flintshire	0	398	0	385	222	16,947	555	228	70	23	320	875	6
Wrexham	885	375	0	570	300	14,387	662	114	39	25	178	840	2
Powys	0	340	311	343	291	20,024	675	300	-23	9	285	961	16
Ceredigion	0	498	703	629	0	0	586	264	-44	31	251	838	2
Pembrokeshire	0	496	0	585	154	20,604	713	86	39	62	187	900	9
Carmarthenshire	45	405	0	532	120	29,336	585	108	-10	75	173	759	-8
Swansea	0	509	0	580	185	19,962	642	280	56	43	379	1,021	24
Neath Port Talbot	0	347	779	182	254	19,480	591	65	32	129	226	817	-1
Bridgend	0	228	0	309	347	23,357	612	183	-21	47	209	821	-0
Vale of Glamorgan	128	206	168	178	252	27,571	509	163	-91	53	125	634	-23
Cardiff	943	424	0	678	564	22,870	766	83	41	14	139	905	10
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	167	284	224	548	15,833	417	133	58	48	239	655	-21
Merthyr Tydfil	187	346	0	263	182	18,729	704	254	15	56	325	1,029	25
Caerphilly	0	208	0	306	146	26,562	389	203	61	45	309	698	-15
Blaenau Gwent	0	500	507	278	105	25,231	766	276	-18	44	302	1,068	29
Torfaen	512	301	0	354	107	23,108	494	52	51	43	147	641	-22
Monmouthshire	0	353	0	286	56	40,382	521	148	28	29	205	726	-12
Newport	1,452	379	0	306	184	23,136	524	97	121	18	236	760	-8
<b>Wales</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>20,806</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>0</b>
Lowest	0	167	0	178		14,387	389	52		9	79	634	-23
Highest	1,452	509	779	678		40,382	766	300		129	379	1,068	29

(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

Chart 3 shows the budgeted expenditure per pupil on SEN. Blaenau Gwent has the largest SEN expenditure per pupil whilst Vale of Glamorgan has the lowest.

**Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2017-18 (a)**



(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

# Glossary

## Data sources

The main sources of information about Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs Provision are the Revenue Account (RA) and Section 52 (S52) returns from county councils.

## Background

There are several issues that should be considered when using these data:

- For SEN provision, it is particularly important to be aware that there is variation in the criteria local authorities use to identify pupils with SEN. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LA. These are however notional and it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN. Therefore, the actual spend by nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison, the number of pupils in all schools have been used as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN. This is due to the fact that much SEN provision relates to pupils without a statement, particularly provision in non-special schools. The use of all pupils gives a fairer comparison of the relative differences between LAs, fully reflecting the different approaches taken by them in providing SEN services. By using all pupils, however, the data would suggest a lower SEN expenditure level per pupil than is actually the case.
- The 'schools budget', as set out in schedule 2 of the 2003 Regulations, covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises expenditure on services for which the LA retains funding centrally. These services include special educational needs (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs (SEN).
- Delegated expenditure derives from funding that is allocated directly to the schools by each local authority. Non-delegated expenditure derives from funding held centrally by the local authority and spent on behalf of the schools.
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LA functions involved in special educational needs, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs and exclude home to school transport costs.

## **Key quality information**

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability.

### **Relevance**

The statistics are important and have a number of uses, for example: advice to Ministers; local government finance revenue settlement calculations; unitary authority comparisons and benchmarking; expenditure in Wales compared to other countries; informing the debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond; assisting in research in public expenditure issues; economic analysis.

### **Accuracy**

The main sources of information about Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs Provision are the Revenue Account (RA) and Section 52 (S52) returns from county councils. The latest returns relate to the 2017-18 financial year.

We collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils. The collection is a 100% survey and as such no estimation of the figures is calculated, and hence there is no sampling error.

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 as shown.

Once we receive the data, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example:

- spend per head by local authority;
- arithmetic consistency checks;
- cross checks with other relevant data collections;
- thorough tolerance checks;
- outturn comparison with budgets;
- cross checks with data from other government departments;
- verification that data outside of tolerances are correct.

The data that is collected adhere to recognised professional standards. Specifically, the finance data is required under legislation and also must adhere to CIPFA accounting procedures. However, further guidelines are also available on the interpretation of these standards to ensure consistency.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The data collection is carried out in April and May. The data is published in June, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the data of publication through the [upcoming calendar](#) web pages.

## **Accessibility and clarity**

The Welsh local government finance statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics Publication Hub. All releases are available to download for free.

More detailed data are also available at the same time on the StatsWales website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

We regularly peer review our outputs.

## **Comparability and coherence**

Adhering to the professional code (CIPFA's SeRCOP) has meant that changes over time have been minimal. Where there have been time series which are not comparable from the start of the time series to the end this will be shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

The existence of a professional code and our adherence to it provides assurance that the data are consistent across domains, such as local authorities.

Data on school budgets are also available for [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

## **National Statistics status**

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.



## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/budgeted-expenditure-special-educational-needs-provision/>

Further data is available on our StatsWales website:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue>

### Open data

The data is also accessible directly via the StatsWales OData service. Links to data and metadata can be found below each view on the StatsWales website within the ‘Open Data’ tab.

### Next update

June 2018 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2018-19.

### We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.finance@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.finance@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

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