



Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2018-19

28 June 2018
SFR 51/2018

Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £381 million, an increase of £8.8 million or 2.4% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).
- 27% 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 non-delegated 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 £844. This consists of £617 delegated expenditure per pupil and £227 non-delegated expenditure per pupil (table 3).
- Blaenau Gwent has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,107, whilst the Rhondda Cynon Taf has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £639 (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 2018-19.

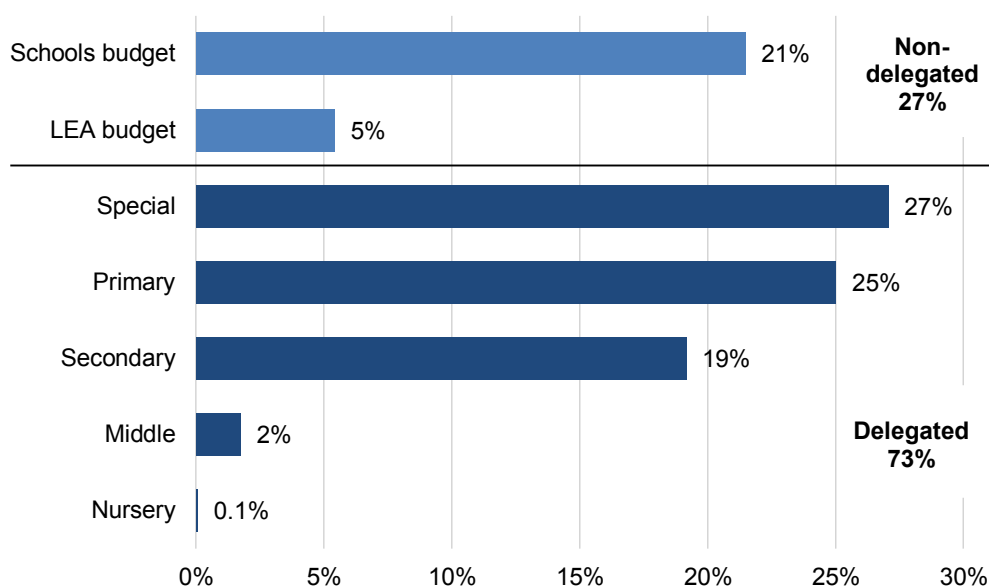
The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

We intend to merge this release with the 'Local Government Budgeted Expenditure on Schools' bulletin from 2019 onwards.

In this release

Budgeted expenditure	2
Budgeted expenditure per pupil	4
Glossary	6

Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2018-19



Additional information is available from StatsWales.

Table 1 shows that budgeted expenditure on SEN provision increased by 2.4% compared to the previous year. Vale of Glamorgan has the largest percentage increase at 9.6% due to inter-authority recoupment and an increased demand on the service. Isle of Anglesey has the largest percentage decrease at 7.6% mainly due to a reallocation of grants to social services.

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

Authority	£ thousand			Percentage
	2017-18	2018-19	Change	change
Isle of Anglesey	9,037	8,349	-688	-7.6
Gwynedd	14,863	15,243	380	2.6
Conwy	12,192	13,231	1,039	8.5
Denbighshire	12,015	12,269	254	2.1
Flintshire	19,855	19,384	-472	-2.4
Wrexham	15,832	15,149	-683	-4.3
Powys	16,428	16,534	106	0.6
Ceredigion	7,794	8,217	423	5.4
Pembrokeshire	15,307	15,105	-202	-1.3
Carmarthenshire	20,414	21,003	589	2.9
Swansea	35,160	37,150	1,990	5.7
Neath Port Talbot	16,140	17,307	1,167	7.2
Bridgend	18,768	18,789	20	0.1
Vale of Glamorgan	13,873	15,201	1,328	9.6
Cardiff	46,955	49,572	2,618	5.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,941	24,426	-515	-2.1
Merthyr Tydfil	8,913	8,903	-11	-0.1
Caerphilly	19,004	19,333	329	1.7
Blaenau Gwent	9,303	9,673	370	4.0
Torfaen	9,148	9,357	209	2.3
Monmouthshire	8,269	8,424	155	1.9
Newport	18,495	18,860	365	2.0
Wales	372,706	381,479	8,772	2.4

(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.

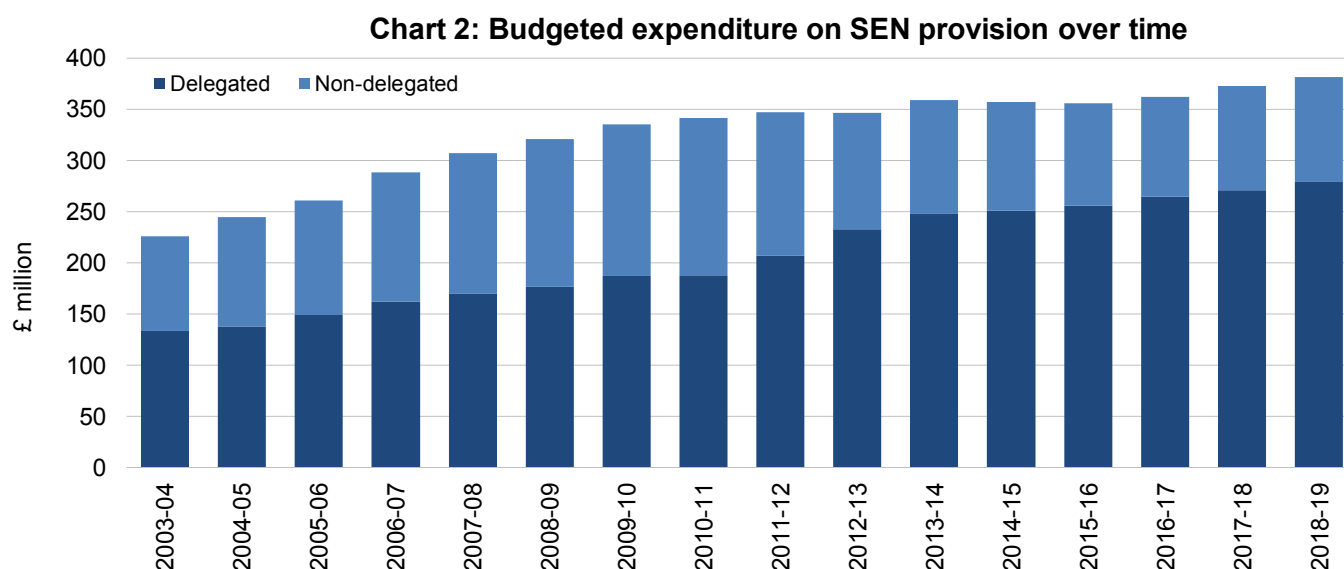


Table 2 shows how SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total at 90% whilst Caerphilly has the lowest at 56%.

Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2018-19

£ thousand

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure					Non-delegated SEN expenditure					Delegated as a percentage of total	
	Notional allocation to: (a)					Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment (c)	LEA budget	Total non-delegated		Total SEN
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special							
Isle of Anglesey	0	2,330	0	1,713	1,586	5,629	2,358	164	198	2,720	8,349	67%
Gwynedd	0	4,165	287	2,949	3,832	11,233	2,536	444	1,030	4,010	15,243	74%
Conwy	0	3,603	0	2,735	4,404	10,742	1,821	131	537	2,489	13,231	81%
Denbighshire	0	3,462	235	2,004	5,382	11,083	2,402	-1,699	484	1,187	12,269	90%
Flintshire	0	4,188	0	4,076	3,832	12,096	4,976	1,603	709	7,288	19,384	62%
Wrexham	14	4,808	0	3,516	4,428	12,766	2,992	-837	227	2,383	15,149	84%
Powys	0	2,962	161	2,433	5,616	11,172	4,915	-182	630	5,363	16,534	68%
Ceredigion (b)	0	2,265	1,529	2,105	0	5,899	2,455	-416	279	2,319	8,217	72%
Pembrokeshire	0	5,194	172	3,453	3,255	12,074	1,510	567	954	3,031	15,105	80%
Carmarthenshire	6	6,288	0	5,857	3,877	16,027	3,008	-268	2,235	4,975	21,003	76%
Swansea	0	11,099	0	8,253	4,412	23,764	9,789	1,990	1,607	13,386	37,150	64%
Neath Port Talbot	0	4,298	1,899	1,023	5,200	12,421	792	566	3,528	4,886	17,307	72%
Bridgend	0	3,091	0	2,965	8,165	14,221	3,968	-495	1,095	4,568	18,789	76%
Vale of Glamorgan	15	2,559	176	1,477	7,205	11,432	4,018	-1,196	947	3,769	15,201	75%
Cardiff	137	14,316	0	14,738	13,263	42,453	4,143	2,239	736	7,119	49,572	86%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	3,509	570	3,052	8,297	15,428	4,827	2,098	2,073	8,998	24,426	63%
Merthyr Tydfil	11	1,800	0	769	3,199	5,779	2,622	0	502	3,124	8,903	65%
Caerphilly	0	3,342	206	2,908	4,308	10,764	5,798	1,695	1,076	8,569	19,333	56%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,212	1,453	385	3,132	7,182	2,322	-251	421	2,491	9,673	74%
Torfaen	3	2,319	0	2,259	2,633	7,213	605	904	635	2,143	9,357	77%
Monmouthshire	0	2,400	0	1,364	2,311	6,075	1,696	315	339	2,349	8,424	72%
Newport	114	5,284	0	3,061	4,940	13,398	1,877	3,149	436	5,462	18,860	71%
Wales	299	95,493	6,686	73,096	103,275	278,850	71,430	10,522	20,677	102,629	381,479	73%

(a) Includes notional allocations to 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 can vary from these notional allocations.

(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 £1,107 and Rhondda Cynon Taf spends the least at £639. Total delegated expenditure per pupil for Wales is £617, an increase of £17 over the previous year. Non-delegated expenditure per pupil is £227, an increase of £2 over the previous year.

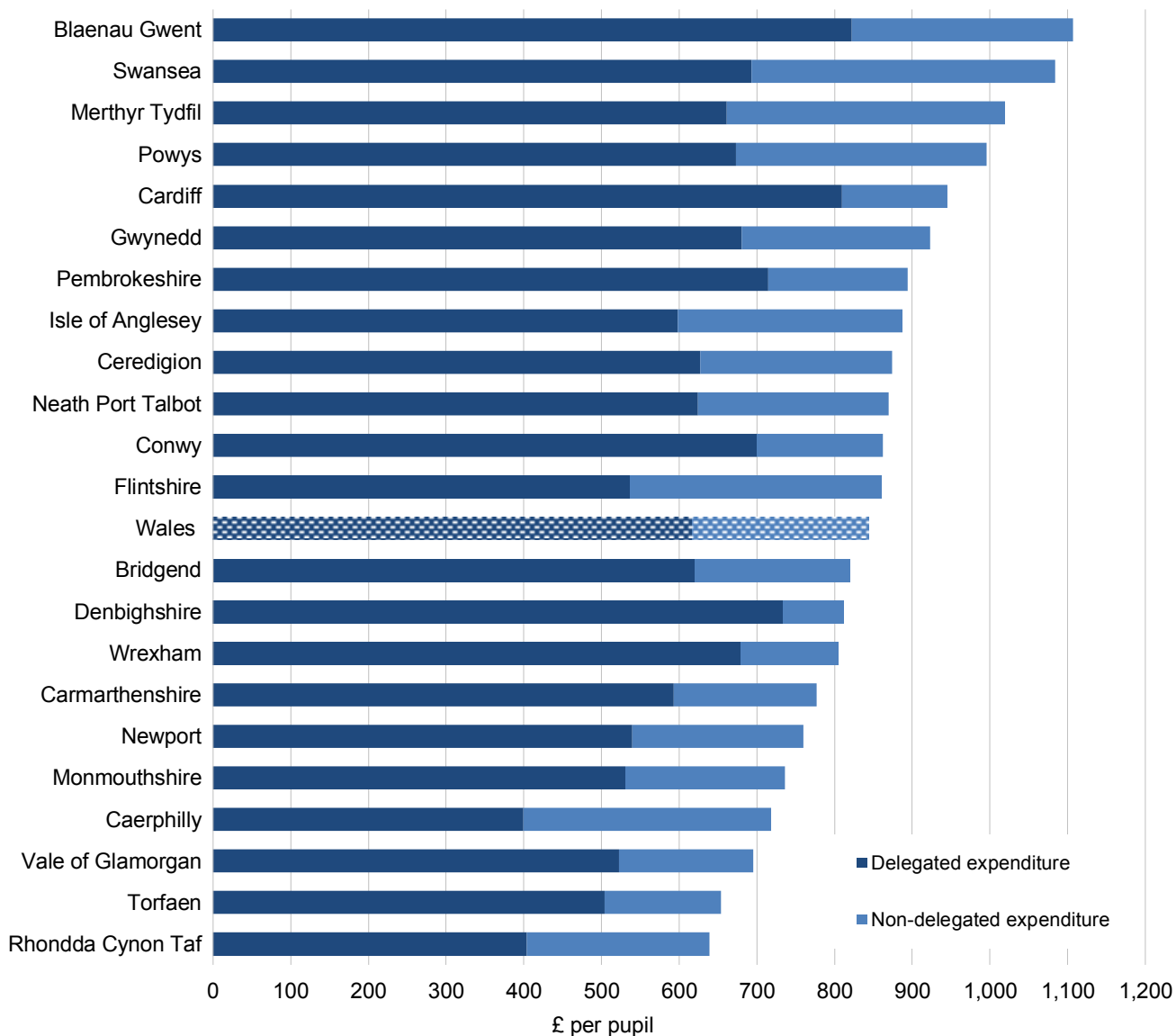
Table 3: Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2018-19 (a) £ per pupil

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	419	0	456	90	17,622	598	251	17	21	289	887	5
Gwynedd	0	457	472	448	215	17,840	680	154	27	62	243	923	9
Conwy	0	425	0	413	230	19,146	700	119	9	35	162	862	2
Denbighshire	0	424	500	323	271	19,896	734	159	-112	32	79	812	-4
Flintshire	0	319	0	444	225	17,030	537	221	71	31	323	860	2
Wrexham	741	390	0	572	297	14,909	679	159	-44	12	127	805	-5
Powys	0	336	342	346	267	21,034	673	296	-11	38	323	996	18
Ceredigion	0	527	710	713	0	0	627	261	-44	30	247	874	4
Pembrokeshire	0	524	348	545	155	21,000	715	89	34	56	179	894	6
Carmarthenshire	64	402	0	524	120	32,306	593	111	-10	83	184	777	-8
Swansea	0	541	0	607	185	23,849	693	286	58	47	391	1,084	28
Neath Port Talbot	0	392	551	196	258	20,156	624	40	28	177	245	869	3
Bridgend	0	232	0	321	354	23,065	620	173	-22	48	199	820	-3
Vale of Glamorgan	176	208	155	183	252	28,591	523	184	-55	43	172	695	-18
Cardiff	940	453	0	732	572	23,187	810	79	43	14	136	945	12
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	165	222	221	547	15,167	404	126	55	54	235	639	-24
Merthyr Tydfil	192	321	0	266	175	18,247	662	300	0	57	358	1,019	21
Caerphilly	0	209	298	287	150	28,720	400	215	63	40	318	718	-15
Blaenau Gwent	0	497	522	283	139	22,532	822	266	-29	48	285	1,107	31
Torfaen	294	290	0	364	111	23,828	504	42	63	44	150	654	-23
Monmouthshire	0	364	0	285	56	41,265	531	148	27	30	205	736	-13
Newport	1,515	363	0	306	181	27,290	540	76	127	18	220	760	-10
Wales	614	366	451	426	4,849	21,298	617	158	23	46	227	844	0
Lowest	0	165	0	183		14,909	400	40		12	79	639	-24
Highest	1,515	541	710	732		41,265	822	300		177	391	1,107	31

(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 Rhondda Cynon Taf has the lowest.

Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2018-19 (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 2018-19 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. 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 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 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 the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

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:

<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/budgeted-expenditure-special-educational-needs-provision/?lang=en>

Further data is available on our [StatsWales website](#).

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 2019 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2019-20.

We intend to merge this release with the ‘Local Government Budgeted Expenditure on Schools’ bulletin from 2019 onwards.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.finance@gov.wales.

Open Government Licence

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated.

