

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 22nd JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DATA FOR SCHOOL FUNDING 2014-15

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of the dataset used for the School Funding Formula 2014-15.

2. BACKGROUND

The School Funding Formula allocates budgets to all maintained primary, secondary and academy schools in Wirral. In 2014-15, the budget allocated to schools is estimated to be £183m.

The 2014-15 School Funding Formula is based on information which is mainly provided by the October 2013 School Census. Looked after Children data is based on January 2013 School Census.

This report highlights the main differences in the pupil dataset in each funding element, taking into account any local and national amendments made to the formula from the previous year. A number of these changes were included in the School Funding Formula consultation earlier in the year. The data and formula values will be submitted to the EFA on the 21st January. At the time of writing this report, the figures were not final.

3. CHANGES IN SCHOOLS BLOCK DATASET

3.1 Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

This area records the changes in pupil data from the School Census in October 2012 and 2013.

The number of primary pupils has increased compared to last year and the number of secondary pupils decreased. These changes are broadly neutral in terms of unit values. Where numbers have changed, the overall funding has increased or decreased by a matching amount. The increase in unit values shown is a result of growth/headroom allocated within the budget.

PRIMARY	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Numbers on roll	24279	24668	2%
Add Reception Uplift	36	31	
Less High Needs Pupils/Places	103	148	
Number of pupils in school formula	24212	24551	1%
Unit Value per pupil	£2,729.26	£2,753.64	1%
SECONDARY	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Numbers on roll	17328	16834	-3%
Less High Needs Pupils/Places	122	135	
Number of pupils in school formula	17206	16699	-3%

Unit Value per KS3 pupil	£3,891.65	£3,931.10	1%
Unit Value per KS4 pupil	£4,999.73	£5,049.07	1%

3.2 Deprivation

Free School Meals (FSM)

There have been no national or local changes to this element, although the overall free school meal numbers have reduced. With fewer numbers set against a fixed percentage of the budget, the amount allocated per pupil has increased.

	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Primary FSM	5338	5099	-4%
Unit Value per Primary FSM pupil	£1,831.04	£1,944.18	6%
Secondary FSM	3233	2933	-9%
Unit Value per Secondary FSM pupil	£2,256.56	£2,349.10	4%

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

Compared to last year, there has been little change in the percentage of pupils in each IDACI band. Unit values for each band remain similar to 2013-14.

3.3 Looked After Children (LAC)

The DfE have changed this indicator to allocate funding to children who were looked after on the 31st March 2013, regardless of the length of time. Previously, a child had to be looked after for more than six months. This has resulted in an increase from 390 (under the old measure) to 428 pupils. The funding per pupil would have reduced from £575 to £525. However, following discussions with schools, this element will increase to £1050 with the funding required top sliced from deprivation.

3.4 English as an additional language (EAL)

Although there has been no national change to this element, Wirral has changed the allocation of funding to EAL children who have been in the school system from one year to children who have been in the school system for three years. Last year, 188 primary pupils and 39 secondary pupils were funded compared to 491 and 94 this year. Overall, funding has decreased from £1348 to £517 per primary pupil and £773 to £405 per secondary pupil, since the total amount distributed is unchanged.

	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Primary EAL	188	491	161%
Unit Value per Primary EAL pupil	£1,348.25	£516.50	-62%
Secondary EAL	39	74	90%
Unit Value per Secondary EAL pupil	£772.94	£405.44	-48%

3.5 Prior Attainment

This element is used as a proxy indicator for low cost, high incidence special education needs in schools. In 2014-2015, data will include Year 1 children who were assessed under the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Analysis of 2013 data has found that a larger number of children were deemed to be underachieving, compared to the number of children who were assessed under the old framework. As a result, the EFA have

permitted local authorities to scale back numbers of year 1 children who deemed to be underachieving to similar levels as previous years.

This has kept the primary unit values at a similar level to last year.

The DfE has also introduced a change to the secondary sector and any child who did not achieve a level 4 in English **or** Maths will attract funding. Previously, only children who did not achieve a level 4 in **both** subjects would be eligible for funding. This has increased the number of secondary children eligible for funding from 1436 to 3392. This has resulted in funding reducing from £2367 per pupil to £956.

	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Primary Prior Attainment (PA)	5177	5179	0%
Unit Value per Primary PA pupil	£944.10	£947.74	0%
Secondary Prior Attainment (PA)	1436	3392	136%
Unit Value per Secondary PA pupil	£2,367.26	£955.76	-60%

3.6 Split Sites

This formula element allocates additional funding to schools when pupils are located on more than one site and where the distance between sites is greater than 0.3 miles. Only two schools qualified for this in 2013-14.

A change has been made to include schools on two sites separated by a road where there are two separate administration/reception points. This would include one further school.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The forum notes the report and the changes to the unit values within the schools funding formula in 2014-15.