

Alun Davies AC/AM  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-722  
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05416/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
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16 November 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 25 October to the Cabinet Secretary for Education. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

Local authorities (LAs) and schools are responsible for providing a suitable education for all learners, including those with special educational needs (SEN).

Funding to LAs for SEN provision is not ring-fenced and it is for LAs to determine how to spend their funding in order to best meet their local needs. LAs are, however, expected to work with schools to ensure school funding arrangements are effective in supporting and raising the achievement of all learners, regardless of their need.

School funding is provided to LAs by the Welsh Government via the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Once the RSG is distributed, it is the responsibility of individual authorities to set budgets for their schools and the local provision that they support. This approach to funding is a key part of the Welsh Government's policy that LAs are best placed to deliver services in line with the requirements and circumstances of their population, to which they are accountable.

Governing bodies should, with the head teacher, decide the school's general policy and approach to meeting learners' SEN for those with and without statements. They must set up appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and oversee the school's work.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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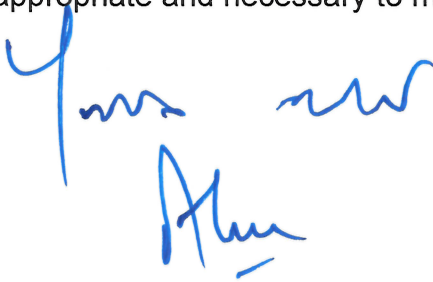
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The statistical release *Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2016-17* <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2016/160630-budgeted-expenditure-special-educational-needs-provision-2016-17-en.pdf> analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh LAs in respect of SEN provision for 2016-17. Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £362 million, an increase of £5.4 million or 1.5% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).

The Welsh Government is committed to creating an inclusive education system for all learners, regardless of their needs and background, to ensure that they are able to access the highest standard of education and reach their full potential. This is an overarching aim of our Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme, a fundamental aspect of which is the forthcoming Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, which I recently announced will be introduced into the National Assembly before the Christmas recess. The legislation will provide for a new legal framework for supporting children and young people up to the age 25 who have additional learning needs and require different forms of educational provision in order to meet those needs. This would include provision appropriate and necessary to meet the needs of children and young people.



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