



Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit Newsletter

Note from the Chair

The issue of the low level of funding for schools in the Vale has been a recurrent theme over the years for the Vale School Governors Association. It has been debated at length in the Education Budget Forum and in our regular meetings with Members and Officers of the Council. We have made representation to Welsh Government but to no avail.

This is not a party-political issue. Since 2012, Councillors of all parties have agreed spending on education above the figure which Welsh Government tells us should be allocated to Education in the Vale. Despite this, the Vale maintains its position with the lowest spending per pupil per annum. It is number 22 out of 22. Each pupil in the Vale gets £5,022, which is £606 per pupil per annum below the Welsh average of £5,628. The highest funded authority spends £6,382 per pupil, £1,360 more than the Vale. The gap is now 27% and has grown from 24% two years ago.

Don't be distracted by the Welsh Government announcements about investment in School building. That is very welcome but is about the fabric of schools. The figure we are talking about here is ongoing revenue – paying for teachers, books, light, heating – year on year.

Why is this happening? The Budget Forum has been trying to work out why the other authorities can spend less than Welsh Government recommends, but still spend far more than The Vale does on each pupil. The answer lies in the formula used by Welsh Government to divvy up the money it gives to local authorities. This is not published, is not

transparent and we have discovered is based on old data. Some elements are based on the 1991 census. The demographics of Wales have changed quite a bit in 27 years.

The secondary school of which I am a Governor would be £500,000 better off each year if it were moved four miles into the neighbouring local authority. That cannot be right.

Obviously, some areas of Wales have greater needs than others, but the current methods of sharing out the money are not clear and are patently unfair. At the very least there should be a public debate about where and how money should be spent.

The Budget Forum and the Council have hit a brick wall in their attempts to get Welsh Ministers to listen to their concerns. That is why we have started a public campaign to raise awareness of this unsatisfactory state of affairs. You can help my writing as a Governing Body or as individual Governors to the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government, Alun Davies, explaining what the lack of money means to the education you can provide. Please also encourage the parents at your school to raise it with their local AMs and MPs.

This is an issue of fairness and transparency in the use of public funds, and its impact on the young people in our care.

Dr Martin Price
Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of
Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman
Catholic High School, Barry

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Special points of
interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the
Vale of Glamorgan Council's
Governor Support Unit

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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.

It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

VSGA
Governor Support Unit
Learning & Development Dept.
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices, Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU



An opportunity not to be wasted!

Could your school benefit from a free school visit? To a local, state of the art education centre? All linked to the national curriculum?

If it's a 'yes' to the above, and you've ever wondered what happens to all the things we throw away every day, like crisp packets, that can't be recycled and go into our black bags, a visit to Trident Park should be on the agenda for your school.

Trident Park is an energy recovery facility situated in Cardiff Docks, near the magic roundabout. You may have seen the distinctive looking building. It is run by a private company, Viridor, and takes residual waste from several local authorities, including the Vale, converting it into renewable energy.

The building is an impressive facility that contains a purpose built education and visitor centre that opened its doors in August 2015, and is free for Vale schools to visit.

Pupils can learn about reducing, reusing and recycling waste. The centre contains interactive exhibitions with hands-on models and audio visual exhibits, a fully equipped classroom and activities linked to the national curriculum with session plans.

Fun, yet informative, the idea is to stimulate young minds. We all throw things away, we can all become more involved and interested in what happens to it.

The centre can offer a range of educational packages from Key Stage 2+ with guided site tours, all fully risk assessed.

Some of our schools have already visited Trident Park, but if yours isn't one of them, please don't let this chance go to waste.

Demand can be high as the facility deals with waste from several local authorities, so encourage your school to book early to avoid disappointment.

Bookings are made directly with the centre manager, Emma Wood, by e mailing EWood@viridor.co.uk

Emma would welcome contact from Vale schools, and having visited myself I can highly recommend a visit!

Sam Harrison
Waste Awareness Officer, The Vale of Glamorgan Council
For further information please either telephone 01446 700111
or email visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Barry Young Carers Award

Please click on link [here](#) to view Barry Comprehensive School's Young Carers award which is the first School in Wales to receive such an award.

New data protection laws will change the way schools deal with pupils' personal information

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply from 25 May 2018 and will affect the way that schools process people's personal data. Schools are considered to be individual data controllers, independent from the wider Council and therefore governors will need to reflect on the schools processes and systems to ensure that they are compliant. The new regulations overall aim is to make sure that people's sensitive data is kept safe and secure. It's similar to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 in many ways – most of the differences are where the GDPR builds on or strengthens the principles of the DPA. If your school is compliant with the DPA now, you'll be compliant with much of the GDPR already.

Schools dealing with personal information will be required to make the privacy rights of pupils a top priority when the GDPR comes into force to. The GDPR will give people stronger rights to be informed about how their personal information is used and have more rights in respect of the way it is processed. The GDPR will also introduce a duty on all organisations to report serious data breaches to the regulator, and in some cases to the individuals affected. It also gives the ICO the ability to issue much higher fines when enforcing the law.

One of the main changes for schools will be the way they deal with subject access requests (SARs). Subject access is a person's right to access information held about them, which in a school's case could be pupil records. The new law gives organisations less time to respond to these requests and in most cases schools won't be able to charge a fee.

The Information Commissioner's Office delivered two briefing sessions about the GDPR to Headteacher's and governors in the Civic Offices of the Vale of Glamorgan Council on Friday 26 January 2017. As a follow up to this advice and to offer schools the required support, model policies and training documentation will be circulated by the Council to all Headteachers and governing bodies before Easter. The Council have also invited all schools to express an interest in a Service Level Agreement to support them with their responsibilities going forward after 25 May 2018.

In the meantime, all the changes governors need to be aware of feature in the GDPR related guidance on the ICO website. The ICO has produced a package of tools and resources to help you get ready. These resources include:

- a guide to the GDPR;
- a getting ready for the GDPR self help checklist;
- a GDPR FAQs document;
- a new advice service helpline for small organisations; and
- a '12 steps to take now' graphic.

For further information from the ICO please contact the ICO's office in Wales on 029 2067 8400 with any queries you have, or by email at Wales@ico.org.uk

For further information from the Council about the support offered to schools please contact

Lisa Lewis
Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources
on 01446 709110 or by email Lewis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Independent investigations

There is an increasing need for the independent investigation of school issues i.e. complaints, disciplinary, whistleblowing etc.

To meet this need the Council is looking to train governors to be able to undertake independent investigations and therefore establish a pool of readily available governors to deploy as necessary.

If you are interested in being trained for this role please contact Janine Hoare in the first instance by email at JHoare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk by no later than Fri 27 April.

This article first appeared on the Institute of Welsh Affairs blog on 15 February 2018.

What does it cost to educate a child in Wales – Episode 2

Dr. Martin Price argues the current Welsh Government funding formula for schools is inequitable.



Over two years ago I wrote a piece on the inequity of funding of schools in Wales with particular reference to the Vale of Glamorgan, which has been twenty-second out of twenty two on its expenditure per pupil per annum for the past twenty years. At that point, the gap between top and bottom was 22 per cent. Now it is 27 per cent.

The Council Politicians, Officers, Headteachers and Governors have gone public with letters to all parents in a campaign aimed at getting Welsh Government to reveal the murky mechanics of how local authority funds for education are allocated between local authorities.

This dramatic graph published by Welsh Government shows the inequity very effectively. The school I am a Governor of would have half a million pounds more every year if it were located four miles away in Cardiff.

What the graph does not show is that the Vale has allocated £3 million more than Welsh Government has allocated to it under their funding formula. Several of the local authorities higher up the spending table are actually spending less than Welsh Government say they should but are still outspending the Vale on a per pupil per annum basis.

The reasons for this are buried in the formula Welsh Government use to allocate funds between authorities. If you ask them the basis, you will be referred to a document called the Green Book, which is available for you to download. This gives you the breakdown of the numbers under various headings, but not the calculations behind them. A cynic would say that this is transparency in name only. The formula has been tinkered with, but not been comprehensively reviewed since 2001.

There is talk of complicated regression models

underlying the figures. As a Chartered Statistician, I recognise a smokescreen when I see one.

What can be gleaned from the Green Book are some very obvious anomalies. For example, some parts are based on the 1991 census data. Perhaps it has passed Welsh Government by that there were censuses in 2001 and 2011, and that the make-up and location of the Welsh population has changed over twenty-seven years.

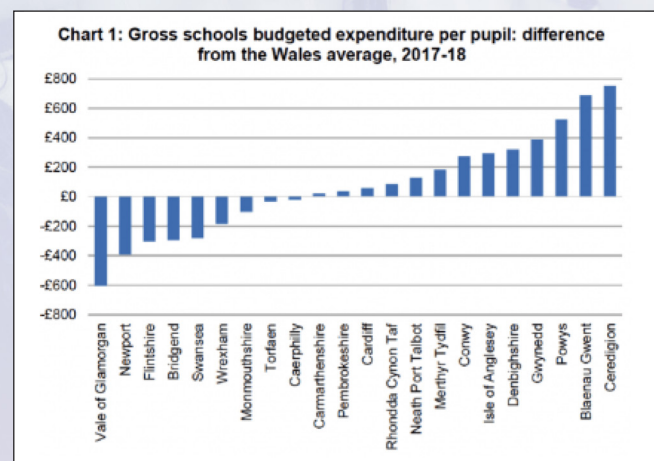
The Vale of Glamorgan Education Budget Forum has worked with the Council to produce and publicise the methods by which it allocates funds to individual schools. There has been a healthy debate, winners and losers, but everyone knows where they stand.

It is time for Welsh Government to come clean and demonstrate that its funding formula is fair and defensible, regularly reviewed and fit for purpose. It would be a good start if they made public how they do it now.

Meanwhile, children in the Vale struggle on with larger classes and fewer textbooks.

All articles published on Click on Wales are subject to IWA's disclaimer.

Dr Martin Price is Chair of the Vale of Glamorgan School Governors Association, Vice Chair of Governors at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry and Governor at St Illtyd's Catholic High School in Cardiff. He is a partner in Consultancy.coop LLP which provides services to charities and social enterprises in Wales.



Source: Welsh Government: Local Authority Budgeted Expenditure on Schools SB 32/2017

Management Committee Membership 2016-18

The Management Committee is comprised of elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	R	Bailey	Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comprehensive
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Romilly Primary
5	Mr	W	Hennessey	Oak Field Primary & Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
8	Mrs	A	Males	St Cyres Comprehensive
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary & St. Nicholas C/W Primary
10	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
11	Mr	R	Simpson	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
12	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
13	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Primary
14	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
15	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Fairfield Primary & Victoria Primary
PGR-Prim	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St. Athan Primary
PGR-Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

2018-20 School Term Dates

The 2018-20 School Term dates are now confirmed until Summer 2020. Full details can be accessed here:
<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/School-Term-Dates.aspx>



SAVE THE DATE

Central South Consortium Governors' Summer Conference 2018

With Keynote Speaker Kirsty Williams AM,
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Wednesday
6th June 2018

Village Hotel,
Coryton,
Cardiff
CF14 7EF

**Full Agenda
Coming Soon!**

Book your place at www.cscgovconf.eventbrite.co.uk
For further details, contact CSCGovernor@cscjes.org.uk