

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Mainstream Schools Funding Formula 2025/26



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Vale of Glamorgan Council Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools

1. Introduction

This formula was constructed by the Mainstream schools funding formula review group (a sub-group of the Budget Forum) following the 2016/17 review of the funding formula for schools in accordance with Vale of Glamorgan Council's Fair Funding Scheme for Schools, the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This formula has been reviewed and revised throughout the 2017/18 to 2024/25 financial years by the Budget Forum. This formula will be subject to continual review and will remain a regular item on the Budget Forum programme of work in order to ensure that it remains relevant and responds to changes in central government funding.

2. Budget

The 2025/26 budget was approved by full Council on March 10th, 2025.

The Council has awarded growth of £12.328M to schools, of which £9.572M was allocated to the mainstream sector as summarised in the total schools' budget table.

Within total school growth, £2.612M was allocated in respect of the changes to national insurance contributions for employers and £2.827M was allocated in respect of the increase to teachers' pension contributions.

Pay inflation growth of £6.506M includes resetting the base position for 2024/25, and fully funding any pay growth not met in the 2024/25 financial year.

Pay Awards

For non-teaching staff, an estimate of 3% has been included for pay growth from April 2025.

The 2025/26 budget has allowed for a 3% increase for teaching staff from September 2025, which is in addition to the 5.5% included for the April – August period in relation to the teachers' pay award agreed for September 2024.

Efficiency Savings

The Council has allocated £1.2M of efficiency savings to schools from April 2025 which has been cut from the total schools' budget.

This saving is in addition to the £2.75M of efficiency savings implemented in April 2023 and therefore there is a total £3.95M of ongoing efficiency savings built into the schools' formula.

Transfers

Transfers out of the delegated schools budget amounting to £2.426M are identified in the following table. £2.257M is in respect of the removal of the delegation of the budget for the provision of free school meals.

Total Schools Budget

The table below shows the total movement on the overall schools' budget.

Schools Budget Growth	Mainstream Sector	Special Sector	Total
	£'M	£'M	£'M
Schools' budget 2024/25	101.768	18.098	119.866
<u>Growth</u>			
Pay Inflation 2025/26	4.003	0.627	4.630
Pay inflation 2024/25 unmet	1.592	0.284	1.876
Teacher's Pension Increase	2.569	0.258	2.827
National Insurance increases	2.207	0.405	2.612
Subtotal Pay related Growth	10.371	1.574	11.945
Demographic adjustment	-0.644	1.000	0.356
Secondary Satellite Autism provision	0.128		0.128
Reduction use of reserves for energy	-0.283	-0.017	-0.300
TOTAL Growth (net)	9.572	2.756	12.328
Efficiency Savings (ALN provision)	-0.089	-0.158	-0.227
Efficiency Savings general	-0.932	-0.020	-0.953
TOTAL Efficiency Savings	-1.021	-0.179	-1.200
<u>Transfers</u>			
Remove delegation of school meals	-2.134	-0.123	-2.257
Energy switch-off saving transfer	-0.015		-0.015
Remove delegation creditors SLA	-0.082		-0.082
Remove insurance foundation school	-0.052		-0.052
Top-slice to expand decarbonisation scheme	-0.020		-0.020
Net transfers	-2.303	0.123	-2.426
TOTAL Delegated Budget	108,017	20.551	128.568
Post 16 Grant	8.157		8.157
TOTAL Formula Allocation	116,174	20.551	136.725

Summary of Movement on the Mainstream Schools Budget

	Mainstream Budget £'M
2024/25 Mainstream Schools Budget	101.768
Pay Inflation	5.595
Teachers' pension contribution increase	2.569
National insurance contribution increase	2.207
Secondary autism satellites	0.128
Demographic reduction	-0.644
Use of energy reserve step-down	-0.283
Efficiency Savings	-1.021
Transfers	-2.303
2025/26 Mainstream Schools Budget (excluding post 16 grant)	108.017
Movement	6.14%

3. Pupil Numbers

In order to ensure schools have sufficient funding to cover the September intake, funding is based on a calculation for adjusted pupil numbers. Adjusted pupil numbers are calculated as shown below.

- Current number on roll (should match unverified January 2025 PLASC)
- Plus 50% of the projection for the following year number on roll (Jan 2026)
- Less 50% of the previous year (2024) forecast for the current year (Jan 2025)

Adding 50% of the projection for the following year ensures that the school has sufficient funding to manage the September intake. Deducting 50% of the previous year forecast will ensure an automatic claw-back for schools that had over projected pupil numbers and an additional allocation for those where pupil numbers had been under projected.

The adjusted pupil number calculation for the 2025/26 mainstream formula is identified in the table below.

Pupil numbers (excluding post 16)	Jan 2025 (NOR/Plasc)	Jan 2025 (previous yr Estimate)	Jan 2026 Estimate	Adjusted Pupil Numbers
		<i>Less 50%</i>	<i>Plus 50%</i>	
Nursery/ Primary	11,904	12,087	11,903	11,812
Secondary (Year 7–11)	8,332	8,458	8,361	8,284
TOTAL	20,236	20,909	20,264	20,096

Note –table above excludes Post 16 pupils, as the Post 16 grant is funded via a separate formula which does not use this average calculation.

The table below shows the overall increase in adjusted pupil numbers from the 2024/25 formula to the 2025/26 formula.

	Adj. pupil no. 24/25	Adj. pupil no. 25/26	Movement
Nursery/Primary	11,928	11,812	(116)
Secondary	8,370	8,284	(86)
TOTAL	20,298	20,096	(202)

There is a decrease of 202 pupils in total when comparing adjusted pupil number calculations from the last to financial year to 2025/26. This decrease has arisen as a combination of a reduction in pupil numbers, and the claw back in relation to the over-projection of pupils provided in the last financial year.

4. Age Weighted Pupil Unit – (AWPU)

In accordance with the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; at least 70% of the delegated schools' budget must be allocated via pupil numbers. This allocation should be weighted by age to account for the different levels of funding required throughout the different year groups. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has allocated 70.24% of the schools' budget (excl. Post 16) via the AWPU.

For each full-time pupil, a school will receive an Age Weighted pupil unit (AWPU) allocation as shown in the tables below.

Primary Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1-2	Year 3-6
Pupil Allocation	£3,722.17	£3,851.39	£3,284.91	£2,955.76

The full breakdown of the Primary AWPU is shown at **Appendix A**.

Secondary Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

	Year 7-9	Year 10	Year 11
Pupil Allocation	£4,033.15	£5,332.60	£5,474.30

*Note – sixth form pupils are funded by the Welsh Government post 16 grant and are not accounted for in this formula.

A full breakdown of the secondary AWPU calculation is shown at **Appendix B**.

5. Floor Area Allocations

To account for school costs that are driven by the size of the school building and its grounds; the following allocations are included in the formula.

Basis	Allocation	Covering
Internal Floor area	£26.29 per m2 This amount was originally calculated by looking at the actual spend of all schools and dividing by the entire floor area.	Repairs, maintenance, security, cleaning, refuse recycling, utilities. Roughly 37% of these costs are funded through the AWPU and the remaining 63% are funded through this floor area-based allocation. The original formula had split these costs at 50% AWPU and 50% floor area, but the percentages are no longer 50% due to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> energy growth awarded on a floor area basis in 2024/25. reducing pupil numbers increased floor areas
External grounds area	£0.42 per m2	Grounds Maintenance

Note – schools receive an additional £800 each to fund food recycling costs (£1,600 for schools with split sites).

6. ALN Funding

ALN Mainstream Funding has been divided into three areas.

- i. Delegated ALN funding for resource units and outreach
- ii. Primary Mainstream ALN funding
- iii. Secondary Mainstream ALN funding

i. Delegated ALN Funding for resource units and outreach provision

The following funding has been delegated to mainstream schools to manage ALN provision on behalf of the Local Authority.

	Placements (FTE)	Funding
Jenner Park - Cognition and learning difficulties	22	£297,323
Jenner Park - ALN outreach		£82,016
High Street - Wellbeing/trauma (behavioural emotional and social difficulties)	8	£245,322
St Cyres - Physical and complex medical difficulties	7	£159,634
Whitmore - Autism base	35	£747,527
Pencoedtre - Autism Satellite	n/a	£134,307
Ysgol Bro Morgannwg Autism Satellite	n/a	£92,916
Stanwell Autism Satellite	n/a	£92,916
Llantwit Autism Satellite	n/a	£92,916
TOTAL Delegated to mainstream schools		£1,944,877

Mainstream Resource Units Delegated to Y Deri – The following resource bases are now delegated to Ysgol Y Deri within the special school formula allocation and therefore are not included within the mainstream budget.

- Hafan Resource base
- St Joseph's Resource base
- Early Intervention Unit

Non-delegated resource units – Resource units at Y Ddraig, Palmerston, Holton and Gwaun Y Nant are centrally retained and not delegated within the funding formula.

Dual registered pupils - Schools receive AWPU funding for any pupil registered with their school as their main registration. Y Ddraig, Holton and Gwaun Y Nant resource bases accommodate dual registered pupils on a part time basis whose main registration is with other schools. A place led allocation of £614.08 is then allocated to those three resource

bases to fund non-staffing costs in relation to the unit. The staffing costs are centrally funded.

ii. **Primary Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - £3.455M**

A budget allocated to support all primary pupils with ALN accessing mainstream education.

The ALN funding allocated per school is calculated using a combination of

- **Pupil Numbers** on roll - 33.3%
- **Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)** - 33.3% of the budget is allocated using a formula taking into account the individual pupil postcodes in each school against the ten WIMD deprivation deciles.
- **Number of IDPs** - 33.3% is allocated via IDPs which calculates to £1,463.46 per IDP. (Note - Pupils with IDPS in resource bases are excluded from this calculation as these are already funded via the resource base budgets).

iii. **Secondary Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - £2.673M**

A budget allocated to support all secondary pupils with ALN accessing mainstream education.

Unlike the primary pupil allocation, the secondary budget is allocated purely based on the number of IDPs per school, excluding IDPs in resource bases.

Schools receive an allocation of £4,389.90 per IDP.

7. Lump Sum Allocations

To account for costs regardless of school capacity and size, the following lump sum allocations are included in the formula.

Allocation	Amount	Basis of Calculation
Head teacher	Various	Mid-point of the Head teacher's salary range. Notes – 3-19 schools receive two Head teacher allocations. Whitmore and Pencoedtre each receive an additional allocation for the Executive Head Teacher
Administration	Based on school capacity Primary Less than 421 £ 54,181 421 or more £ 72,241 Secondary £180,603	Based on a grade 6 member of staff at 1.5FTE for primary <421, 2 FTE for primary >421 and 5 FTE for Secondary schools. Note - Additional per pupil allocation included in the AWPU for admin of £16.56 per pupil.
Caretaking	Based on school capacity less than 421 - £ 36,121 less than 701 - £ 54,181 701 or more - £ 63,211	Based on a grade 6 member of staff and 1 FTE for schools up to 421 capacity, 1.5 FTE for schools up to 701 capacity, and 1.75 FTE for schools with a capacity above 701
SLA's	£16,739 per primary school £27,999 per secondary school	A lump sum to fund central recharges and SLAs for payroll (Employee services), HR, Schools finance support, Licence fees, ICT (basic support), GDPR and E-Teach.
Rates/Rent	Various	Actual projected charges for rates and rent

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Listed buildings	From £7,500 to £15,000	Based on the estimated additional maintenance and repairs cost of listed school buildings.
Waste water treatment	From £1,000 to £4,500	An allocation for the five schools required to pay for waste water treatment systems
Translation (Welsh medium)	Primary - £4,082 lump sum Age 3-19 School - £40,826	Lump sum in addition to a per pupil allocation of £10.74 per pupil in Welsh medium schools.
Welsh Immersion	£614.08 per full time place available	Lump sum based on the number of places available in the immersion unit
Food Waste Recycling	£800 per school/ £1,600 for schools with split sites	Schools are responsible from April 2019 for the collection of food waste previously managed by Vale Catering Services.
Breakfast Club	£10,000 per primary school/£20,000 for schools with split sites	An additional amount per pupil is allocated via the AWPU
Split Site Allowance	£164,259 per school	Based on a non-teaching deputy head, and an allocation for additional admin and caretaking required for two sites.
Nursery split site allowance	£95,409 per school	For primary schools where the nursery school is on a split site across a main highway. Based on 1 teacher and a contribution towards additional caretaking and administration
Smaller schools' allowance	Pupil numbers less than 141 pupils £68,319.00 211 pupils £34,159.50	Protection for Primary schools under the optimum size of 210 pupils (excluding nursery). Based on the average teacher salary. One FTE for schools less than 141 and 0.5 FTE for schools less than 210.
Transitional Funding	No allocations for 2025/26	To phase in funding reductions due to amalgamations, or provide budget assistance to school transition

8. Free School Meals

In previous financial years, schools have received an FSM allocation based on the free school meal price, multiplied by the number of pupils eligible for free school meals (and those transitionally protected) which is then multiplied by 190 days.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the free school meal budget of £2.257M has been removed from the total schools' budget.

It is important to account for this reduction when schools are comparing total funding allocated in 2025/26 to funding allocated in the previous financial year.

Appendix A**Breakdown of Primary AWPU Allocation**

	Nursery	Recep	Year 1-2	Year 3-6	Notes
Teachers	£2,275.02	£2,275.02	£2,275.02	£2,275.02	Teaching ratios of 1:30 and the average primary teaching salary.
Foundation Phase LSA's	£895.63	£895.63	£329.15		1:8 in nursery and reception and 1:15 in year 1 to 2. Only 35% is accounted for as around 65% of this cost is met through the RCSIG grant
Primary PPA	£227.50	£227.50	£227.50	£227.50	
Technicians	£88.24	£88.24	£88.24	£88.24	1 technician to every 360 pupils
Admin	£16.56	£16.56	£16.56	£16.56	8% of the admin budget (92% allocated via lump sum allocations)
Midday Supervisors		£129.22	£129.22	£129.22	1 midday supervisor to every 45 pupils.
Supply/ Maternity	£102.99	£102.99	£102.99	£102.99	
Breakfast Club	£44.56	£44.56	£44.56	£44.56	In addition to lump sum allocation per school
DBS Checks	£1.30	£1.30	£1.30	£1.30	
Resources	£103.00	£103.00	£103.00	£103.00	
Premises	£133.24	£133.24	£133.24	£133.24	Repairs, Maintenance, Security, Utilities, Cleaning, Refuse, Recycling. In addition to premises budget led by floor area
Efficiency Savings Apr 2023	-£119.51	-£119.51	-£119.51	-£119.51	£2.75M efficiency savings target set by the Council – ongoing from April 2023. (£2.402M Mainstream)
Efficiency Savings Apr 2025	-£46.37	-£46.37	-£46.37	-£46.37	£1.2M efficiency savings target set by the Council – ongoing from April 2025 (£932k via AWPU)
TOTAL	£3,722.17	£3,851.39	£3,284.91	£2,955.76	

Appendix B**Breakdown of Secondary AWPUP Allocation**

	Year 7-9	Year 10	Year 11	Notes
Teachers	£3,477.40	£4,638.85	£4,638.85	Teaching ratios of 1:20 in years 7-9 and 1:15 in years 10 and 11. Using average secondary teaching salary.
Technicians	£235.31	£235.31	£235.31	1 technician to every 120 pupils.
Administration	£16.56	£16.56	£16.56	8% of the entire Admin budget. (92% allocated via lump sums)
Midday Supervisors	£129.22	£129.22	£129.22	1 midday supervisor to every 45 pupils.
Supply/ Maternity	£102.99	£102.99	£102.99	
DBS Checks	£1.30	£1.30	£1.30	
Resources	£103.00	£103.00	£103.00	
Exam Fees		£138.00	£279.70	
Premises	£133.24	£133.24	£133.24	Repairs, Maintenance, Security, Utilities, Cleaning, Refuse, Recycling. In addition to premises budget led by floor area
Efficiency Savings Apr 2023	-£119.51	-£119.51	-£119.51	£2.75M efficiency savings target set by the Council – ongoing from April 2023. (£2.402M Mainstream)
Efficiency Savings Apr 2025	-£46.37	-£46.37	-£46.37	£1.2M efficiency savings target set by the Council – ongoing from April 2025 (£932k via AWPUP)
TOTAL	£4,033.15	£5,332.60	£5,474.30	

Appendix C – Mainstream schools Formula Summary

Allocation	Method	Budget £'000	%
Teachers (Inc. PPA)	AWPU	£62,260	57.64%
Head teacher	Lump sum based on HT range	£6,930	6.42%
LSA (Found. Phase)	AWPU	£3,083	2.85%
Technicians	AWPU	£2,992	2.77%
Admin	Lump sum based on Capacity and AWPU	£4,378	4.05%
Caretaker	Lump sum based on Capacity	£2,312	2.14%
Midday Supervisors	AWPU	£2,469	2.29%
DBS checks	AWPU	£26	0.02%
Sickness/Maternity	AWPU	£2,070	1.92%
Split Site Allowance	Lump Sum to cover deputy head teacher, additional admin and additional caretaking	£519	0.48%
Smaller Schools	Lump Sum	£1,059	0.98%
Breakfast Club	Lump Sum and AWPU	£1,006	0.93%
ALN (majority spent on staffing)	Resource base lump sums and school allocations based on number of IDPs, Pupil numbers and WIMD	£8,287	7.67%
TOTAL STAFFING	(including ALN)	£97,392	90.16%
Efficiency Savings	AWPU	-£3,333	-3.09%
NET STAFFING	(Net of Efficiency Savings)	£94,059	87.08%
Premises /Grounds	AWPU, Lump sum allowances and floor area	£10,123	9.37%
Resources	AWPU	£2,769	2.56%
School Meals	FSM entitlement (not delegated in 25/26)	£0	0%
Welsh Medium uplift	Welsh translation and immersion	£101	0.09%
Central Support	Lump Sums	£966	0.89%
Transition	One off support for transitional projects	£0	0.00%
TOTAL Budget		£108,017	100%
Post 16	Post 16 Grant included in delegated formula	£8,157	
TOTAL formula		£116,174	