

Members of the School Forum are requested to receive this report for information

Benchmarking

DCSF do an annual benchmarking exercise to compare Section 52s.

Forum members will be aware that the design of Section 52 allows for a degree of subjectivity that can result in sums used for similar activities being placed in different parts of the return by different LAs. It is necessary therefore if sums appear to be significantly below or above the average spend to compare other parts of the table that could have been used to record that expenditure. The DCSF website (www.dfes.gov.uk) has links to Section 52 benchmarking.

Table one below shows the way the Walsall formula distributes money across the key stages. In all LAs Key Stage 2 is the standard at 1. This table shows that Walsall's formula largely follows those of other LAs in the distribution of money across the key stages, with a small weighing in favour of KS3 at the cost of KS4.

Table one

AWPU Funding Ratio 2007/08

	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4
National	1.03	1.00	1.30	1.56
Walsall	1.00	1.00	1.36	1.36

Table two below shows the ISB (including SSG, SSGP, School Development Grant, Standards Fund, School meals grant, and performance pay) per child and the comparison with the England mean and median and the median of Metropolitan Authorities. It shows that Walsall pupils receive more money than the average.

Table two

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£4, 143	£4, 021	£3, 991	£4, 085

Table three over shows percentage of total resources available delegated to schools in Walsall compared to the England mean and median and the median for the Metropolitan Authorities and shows that Walsall Council and Education Walsall retain a lower percentage of the DSG than many other LAs.

Table three:

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
91.4%	89.6%	89.7%	90.6%

Table four below and over shows some services provided by the Council and Education Walsall and demonstrates area where the local cost is above or below the average. The sums are costs per annum per pupil on roll in a maintained Walsall school.

Table four

Education Psychologists

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£21	£19	£19	£18

SEN Administration

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£12	£10	£10	£9

School Improvement*

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£43	£39	£37	£38

Asset Management

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£7	£17	£15	£14

Supply of School Places

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£2	£4	£3	£3

Home to school transport – SEN**

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£52	£69	£65	£59

Total Strategic Management***

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£114	£106	£100	£128

Education Welfare Service

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£21	£15	£15	£18

Music Service (not standards fund)

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£8	£4	£2	£3

Outdoor Education

Walsall	England Mean	England Median	Metropolitan Authorities Median
£10	£2	£0	£2

*Most LAs but not Walsall delegate some of the school improvement service.

** In Walsall unlike most other LAs this line includes that non SEN transport that pays for 'aided' pupils to go to aided schools and the cost of pupils having to travel over 2 (3) miles to school.

*** In Walsall this line includes school insurance costs that in the significant majority of other LAs has been delegated.