

MEETING	SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM
DATE	24 June 2019
TITLE	Schools' Final Accounts Financial Year 2018/19
PURPOSE	Presented for information
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
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CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams

1 **Final Accounts 2018/19**

1.1 Details of schools' individual balances as at 31 March 2019 are appended (appendix 1).

1.2 Summary of schools balances at 31/03/2019 -

	percentage	31/03/2018	increase+/ reduction-	31/03/2019	percentage
Primary	7.92%	£2,743,044	-£262,007	£2,481,037	7.08%
Middle	13.05%	£425,372	+£59,418	£484,789	17.06%
Secondary	2.80%	£893,695	+£79,991	£973,687	3.02%
Special	-1.30%	-£43,633	+£104,493	£60,860	1.62%
Total	5.49%	£4,018,478	-£18,105	£4,000,373	5.42%

1.3 Generally, the total balances of all Gwynedd's schools has remained at £4.0m equivalent to 5.42% of their total allocation.

1.4 7 schools are in deficit at the end of 2018/19 with a total value of -£207,106 in comparison with 6 schools at the end of 2017/18 with a total value of -£306,394.

- 4 Primary Schools with a total deficit of -£35,271 (ranging between -£1,090 and -£28,084)
- 2 Secondary Schools with a total deficit of -£159,374 (ranging between -£8,233 and -£151,140)
- 1 Special School with a deficit of -£12,461

1.5 The total value of balances over 5% has reduced from £1,838,398 (67 schools) at 31/03/2018 to £1,736,732 (67 schools) at 31/03/2019.

2 Use of Balances Guidance Plan

- 2.1 The Education Department has the power to instruct the governing body on how to spend the element of their balances that exceeds the £50,000 threshold for Primary Schools and £100,000 for Secondary and Special Schools.
- 2.2 The implementation procedure remains the same as in previous years.
- 2.3 Column 'D' (yellow) in appendix 1 highlights the sums over and above the thresholds –
- 15 primary schools (ranging between £1,127 and £66,428 above the threshold)
 - 1 middle school (£384,789 above the threshold)
 - 4 secondary schools (ranging between £40,776 and £242,722 above the threshold)

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 In October 2018, Welsh Government published an annual statistical release stating the balances of all schools at 31 March 2018, with a summary of the key points stating “... ***Gwynedd had the highest level of reserves per pupil ...***”
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the next Welsh Government statement on schools' balances at 31 March 2019 will continue to identify Gwynedd schools with the highest balances in Wales.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 **The Education Department and Finance Department should closely collaborate with schools who have a financial deficit to ensure that they clear the deficit as soon as possible.**
- 4.2 **The Education Department and the Finance Department should continue to monitor schools' budgets.**