



Promoting and developing high quality school governance

Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals 2017-2018

1. Governors Wales promotes the effective governance of schools in Wales and provides support to individual governors, local governors associations, fora and other groupings. Governors Wales is committed to the promotion and effective management of quality provision in schools in Wales.
2. Governors Wales welcomes the opportunity to provide information to help the committee general of the National Assembly for Wales scrutinise the Welsh Government's 2017-2018 draft budget proposals and offers the following general comments for consideration.
3. The Welsh Government has previously indicated a standing commitment to ensure that the funding allocation to schools each year is at a level 1% above any change in the overall level of block grant made to the Welsh Government. Governors Wales would like to see that this commitment continued in the 2017-2018 budget.
4. Sufficient funding must be allocated to deliver high quality support services via regional consortia /LAs etc., as they seek to help schools drive up standards.
5. It is essential that the level of the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) made to schools is also maintained in real terms. We welcome the latest statement about the increase in PDG funds.
6. Governors Wales urges that sufficient financial resources are set aside for continuing professional development of the teaching profession and support staff to respond to the new curriculum in Wales etc and the new deal etc.
7. Governing bodies play a crucial role in raising standards within schools. To ensure, however, that governing bodies are effective in fulfilling all their responsibilities, and with the forthcoming consultation on governance, they need continuing access to high quality expertise and advice. Governors Wales hopes that the level of funding for governance activities and support, including funding for Governors Wales, will continue to be recognised to ensure and sustain strong educational outcomes.
8. Lastly, Governors Wales recognises the importance of school to school support, collaboration and partnership working at all levels, and the sharing of best practice. Building on the good work already undertaken at local and regional levels, working more closely together will understandably be developed further as the new curriculum is established.