



## Appendix 1: Methodology

- 1 Our study methodology involved the following stages:
  - evidence gathering from the Assembly Government and Estyn;
  - interviews with stakeholders from other education organisations;
  - surveys of all LEAs and a sample of schools;
  - a focus group of head teachers and deputy head teachers;
  - visits to LEAs; and
  - expert panel discussions.

### Evidence gathering from the Assembly Government and Estyn

- 2 We interviewed Assembly Government officials about:
  - their contribution to the administration of GEST and the Better Schools Fund, and development of the annual circular;
  - their monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the scheme; and
  - their monitoring and evaluation of LEAs in receipt of funds.
- 3 We examined the scheme's bid, claim and payment files, and the recommendations of, and responses to, the Assembly Government's internal audit review and the Assembly Government's Department for Training and Education review of GEST.

- 4 We interviewed Estyn staff about:
  - their contribution to the administration of GEST through examination of LEA spending plans; and
  - their evaluation of the impact of funding in schools.
- 5 We examined Estyn evaluations of LEAs' spending plans.

### Interviews with stakeholders from other education organisations

- 6 We interviewed senior officials at the General Teaching Council for Wales and the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales about their organisations' involvement in the administration of GEST.

### Surveys

- 7 We sent all 22 LEAs a survey in 2004 in order to obtain information about the administration, funding, impact and evaluation of GEST and the Better Schools Fund. All LEAs responded.
- 8 We also surveyed a sample of 10 per cent of schools in Wales (186) across all 22 LEAs. This survey also asked about the administration, funding, impact and evaluation of GEST and the Better Schools Fund. Responses were received from 51 schools (27 per cent of the sample).
- 9 Conscious of schools' workload, we co-ordinated our sample with the Assembly Government's rolling survey of schools.

- 10** We consulted all seven teachers unions on the scope of the study and asked for their views on the main study issues. One union, the National Association of Head Teachers, responded with comments.

## Visits to LEAs

- 11** We visited the following five LEAs: Denbighshire; Gwynedd; Neath Port Talbot; Newport and Powys. We carried out semi-structured interviews with the appropriate Better Schools Fund coordinators, link officers (LEA advisers) and head teachers. As part of the LEA visits, we visited two schools to see how they had spent GEST and Better Schools Fund money and to gather additional views directly from teachers. We also carried out a semi-structured interview with the chair of the Newbridge/Cross Keys Consortia to document an example of consortia use of funds.
- 12** We examined and documented case examples of aspects of the administration of GEST and the Better Schools Fund in Cardiff, Pembrokeshire, Conwy, Powys and Swansea LEAs.

## Focus group

- 13** We organised a small focus group of head teachers and deputy head teachers to explore their views on the planning, administration and impact of the Better Schools Fund. The group included representatives from four LEAs and included primary and secondary schools.
- 14** We are grateful to the following members of our focus group:
- Alan Fowles, Deputy Headteacher, Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Vale of Glamorgan;
  - Marc Jones, Headteacher, Ysgol Croes Atti, Flintshire;

- Kevin McAnulty, Headteacher, Abercarn Primary School, Caerphilly; and
- Chris Tonkin, Headteacher, Llandrindod Wells County Primary School, Powys.

## Expert panel

- 15** We constituted a panel of experts to advise us during the course of the examination. The panel members sat in an individual and advisory capacity, and had no executive role in the Auditor General for Wales' examination. We selected individuals who, together, reflected an appropriate range of stakeholders.
- 16** The panel advised us at key stages of the study. We held two meetings, which discussed:
- the study scope and methodology; and
  - our emerging findings.
- 17** Panel members also provided advice remotely on the content of our surveys, and all panel members received drafts of our key findings and recommendations for comment.
- 18** We are grateful to the following members of our expert panel, who provided helpful advice and gave freely of their time and expertise:
- Hilary Anthony, Her Majesty's Inspector, Estyn;
  - Maria Boex, Continuing Professional Development Officer, General Teaching Council for Wales;
  - Gillian Coleman, Headteacher, Williamstown Primary School, Rhondda Cynon Taf;
  - Sylvia Jones, Senior Education Officer, Denbighshire Local Education Authority;



- Trevor Jones, Deputy Headteacher, Cyfarthfa High (Upper) School;
- Farrukh Khan, Her Majesty's Inspector, Estyn;
- Hugh Knight, Association of Directors of Education Wales, Chief School Services Officer, Cardiff County Council;
- John Wilkins, Deputy Headteacher, St Cyres Comprehensive School;
- John Valentine Williams, Chief Executive, Qualification, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales; and
- Seimon Williams, Education Officer, WLGA.

**1999-00**

**2000-01**

**Activity 1: GEST management**

1a: Management of 1999-2000 programme

**Activity 1: GEST management**

1a: Management of 2000-01 programme

**Activity 2: Welsh in the national curriculum/support for transferring to welsh medium teaching**

- 2a: Development of teachers' linguistic skills
- 2b: Improving standards of attainment in Welsh in primary schools
- 2c: Inter-authority programmes
- 2d: Assistance to transfer to welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 2: Welsh in the national curriculum/support for transferring to Welsh medium teaching**

- 2a: Development of teachers' linguistic skills
- 2b: Improving standards of attainment in welsh in primary schools
- 2c: Inter-authority programmes
- 2d: Assistance to transfer to welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 3: Raising standards through the curriculum**

- 3a: Improving standards at primary level
- 3b: Improving standards at secondary level
- 3c: National curriculum assessment
- 3d: Not used – see activity 11
- 3e: Not used – see activity 12
- 3f: Physical, personal and social education
- 3g: Religious education
- 3h: Child protection
- 3i: Baseline assessment

**Activity 3: Raising standards through the curriculum**

- 3a: The primary sector: national curriculum review 2000
- 3b: The secondary sector: national curriculum review 2000 and post -16 qualification reforms
- 3c: National curriculum assessment
- 3d: Personal and social education
- 3e: Work related education
- 3f: Religious education
- 3g: Baseline assessment
- 3h: physical education and sport

**Activity 4: Improving performance through new materials and technology**

- 4a: Books and other published curriculum materials
- 4b: Not used
- 4c: Improving teachers' skills in information technology
- 4d: Across the curriculum
- 4e: Not used

**Activity 4: Improving performance through new materials and technology**

- 4a: Books and other published curriculum materials
- 4b: Improving teacher's skills in information technology across the curriculum

**Activity 13: National grid for learning**

- 13a: National grid for learning
- 13b: NGFL innovative projects (collaborative bids)

**Activity 13: National grid for learning**

- 13a: National grid for learning
- 13b: Collaborative projects for the innovative use of ICT to support teaching and learning

**Activity 5: School management and leadership**

- 5a: Setting and monitoring targets
- 5b: Development of school management and leadership skills
- 5c: Implementation of fair funding in schools including management information systems
- 5d: Truancy and discipline
- 5e: National professional qualification for headship
- 5f: Training for serving head teachers

**Activity 5: School leadership and management**

- 5a: Setting and monitoring targets
- 5b: Implementation of fair funding in schools including management information systems
- 5c: Development of school management and leadership skills
- 5d: Professional qualification for headship
- 5e: Professional headship induction programme
- 5f: Leadership programme for serving head teachers
- 5g: Training to support the review of performance and pay of head and deputy head teachers
- 5h: Training to support development of schools performance management policies

**Activity 6: Support for teacher development**

- 6a: Teachers' professional development
- 6b: Employment-based route into teaching
- 6c: Induction of newly qualified teachers

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- 6a: Teachers' professional development
- 6b: Employment-based route into teaching
- 6c: Induction of newly qualified teachers
- 6d: Advance skills teacher
- 6e: Fast track teachers

**Activity 7: Provision for the under 5s**

- 7a: Co-ordination of provision and enhancement of staff skills

**Activity 7: Provision for the under 5s**

- 7a: Co-ordination of provision and enhancement of staff skills

**Activity 8: Youth and community workers**

- 8a: Training to support the work of youth and community workers

**Activity 10: Youth access initiative**

- 10a: Youth access initiative

**Activity 8: Youth and community workers**

- 8a: Training to support the work of youth and community workers

**Activity 10: Youth access initiative**

- 10a: Youth access initiative

**Activity 19: School attendance and behaviour**

- 19a: School attendance and behaviour
- 19b: Child protection

**Activity 16: English as an additional language**

- 16a: English as an additional language

**Activity 16: Ethnic minority achievement**

- 16a: Ethnic minority achievement

**Activity 9: Special educational needs**

- 9a: Enhancement of the skills of teachers of children with Special educational needs
- 9b: School SEN policies/code of practice
- 9c: Named persons/independent parental supporters and local conciliation arrangements
- 9d: Regional planning of SEN provision

**Activity 9: Special educational needs**

- 9a: Enhancement of the skills of teachers of children with special educational needs
- 9b: School SEN policies/code of practice
- 9c: Named persons/independent parental supporters and local conciliation arrangements
- 9d: Regional planning of SEN provision

**Activity 11: Raising standards of literacy**

- 11a: Raising standards of literacy
- 11b: Family literacy
- 11c: Summer literacy
- 11d: Library authorities

**Activity 14: Numeracy**

- 14a: Raising standards of numeracy
- 14b: Summer numeracy

**Activity 11: Literacy**

- 11a: Raising standards of literacy
- 11b: Family literacy
- 11c: Summer literacy
- 11d: Library authorities

**Activity 14: Numeracy**

- 14a: Raising standards of numeracy
- 14b: Summer numeracy

**Activity 12: Vocational education**

- 12a: Vocational education
- 12b: National record of achievement
- 12c: Careers education

**Activity 12: Vocational and careers education**

- 12a: Vocational education
- 12b: National record of achievement
- 12c: Careers education

**Activity 15: School improvement fund**

- 15a: School improvement fund

**Activity 15: School improvement fund**

- 15a: School improvement fund

**Activity 18: Classroom support fund**

- 18a: Classroom support fund

**Activity 17: Music development fund**

- 17a: Music development fund

**Activity 17: Music development fund**

- 17a: Music development fund

**Activity 7: Welsh in the national curriculum/transferring to Welsh-medium teaching**

- 7a: Raising standards across key stages
- 7b: Inter-authority programmes
- 7c: Assisting transfer to Welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 1: Raising standards**

- 1a: Revised national curriculum (primary)
- 1b: Revised national curriculum (secondary)
- 1c: Pupil assessment
- 1d: Books and other materials
- 1e: Work related education
- 1f: Personal and social education
- 1g: Religious education
- 1h: Physical education
- 1i: Post 16 qualifications

**Activity 9: Information and communications technologies in schools**

- 9a: National grid for learning
- 9b: Effective use of ICT in schools
- 9c: Joint authority projects

**Activity 10: Professional development**

- 10a: National headship development programme
- 10b: Teachers' continuing professional development
- 10c: Governor training and support for school performance management

**Activity 3: Early years learning**

- 3a: Early years learning

**Activity 5: Tackling social disadvantage**

- 5a: Youth and community workers
- 5b: Youth access
- 5c: Ethnic minority achievement
- 5d: School attendance and behaviour
- 5e: Child protection
- 5f: Looked after children

**Activity 6: Special educational needs**

- 6a: Enhancement of the skills of teachers of children with special educational needs, learning support assistants and training of welsh speaking SEN specialists
- 6b: School SEN policies/revised SEN code of practice
- 6c: Named persons/independent parental supporters and local conciliation arrangements
- 6d: Regional planning of SEN provision

**Activity 4: Literacy and numeracy**

- 4a: Raising standards of literacy
- 4b: Family literacy and numeracy
- 4c: Summer literacy
- 4d: Support for library authorities
- 4e: Raising standards of numeracy
- 4f: Summer numeracy

**Activity 2: Planning for success**

- 2a: School improvement fund
- 2b: Setting and monitoring targets
- 2c: Leadership and management skills for school governors
- 2d: Classroom support fund

**Activity 8: Out of hours prospectus**

- 8a: Music development fund
- 8b: Out of hours learning

**Activity 7: Welsh in the national curriculum/ transferring to Welsh-medium teaching**

- 7a: Raising standards across key stages
- 7b: Inter-authority programmes
- 7c: Assisting transfer to Welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 1: Raising standards**

- 1a: Revised national curriculum (primary)
- 1b: Revised national curriculum (secondary)
- 1c: Pupil assessment
- 1d: Books and other materials
- 1e: Work related education
- 1f: Personal and social education
- 1g: Religious education
- 1h: Physical education
- 1i: Post 16 qualifications

**Activity 9: Information and communications technologies in schools**

- 9a: National grid for learning
- 9b: Effective use of ICT in schools
- 9c: Joint authority projects

**Activity 10: Professional development**

- 10a: National headship development programme (NHDP) and school leadership modules (SLMs)
- 10b: Teachers' continuing professional development
- 10c: Governor training and support for school performance management

**Activity 3: Early years learning**

- 3a: Early years learning

**Activity 5: Tackling social disadvantage**

- 5a: Youth and community workers
- 5b: Youth access
- 5c: Ethnic minority achievement
- 5d: School attendance and behaviour
- 5e: Child protection
- 5f: Looked after children

**Activity 6: Special educational needs**

- 6a: Enhancement of the skills of teachers of children with special educational needs, learning support assistants and training of welsh speaking SEN specialists
- 6b: School SEN policies/revised SEN code of practice
- 6c: Named persons/independent parental supporters and local conciliation arrangements
- 6d: Speech and language therapy provision for children with SEN

**Activity 4: Literacy and numeracy**

- 4a: Raising standards of literacy
- 4b: Family literacy and numeracy
- 4c: Summer literacy
- 4d: Support for library authorities
- 4e: Raising standards of numeracy
- 4f: Summer numeracy

**Activity 2: Planning for success**

- 2a: School improvement fund
- 2b: Setting and monitoring targets
- 2c: Leadership and management skills for school governors
- 2d: Classroom support fund

**Activity 8: Out of hours prospectus**

- 8a: Music development fund
- 8b: Out of hours learning

**Activity 7: Welsh in the national curriculum/ transferring to Welsh-medium teaching**

- 7a: Raising standards across key stages
- 7b: National welsh inset programme and national Welsh-medium inset programme
- 7c: Assisting transfer to welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 1: Raising standards**

- 1a: Broader-curriculum
- 1b: National curriculum
- 1c: Religious education and collective worship
- 1d: Pupil assessment
- 1e: Qualifications

**Activity 9: ICT in schools**

- 9a: National grid for learning
- 9b: Effective use of ICT in schools
- 9c: Joint authority projects
- 9d: Broadband network for lifelong learning

**Activity 10: Professional development**

- 10a: National headship development programme (NHDP) and school leadership modules (SLMs)
- 10b: Induction and early professional development
- 10c: Other teacher development and support

**Activity 3: Early years learning**

- 3a: Early years learning

**Activity 5: Pupil and youth support**

- 5a: Youth and community workers
- 5b: Youth access
- 5c: Ethnic minority achievement
- 5d: School attendance and behaviour
- 5e: Child protection
- 5f: Looked after children

**Activity 6: Special educational needs**

- 6a: Skills for working with SEN pupils
- 6b: School SEN policies/revised SEN code of practice
- 6c: Parental support and conciliation
- 6d: Speech and language therapy
- 6e: Multi-sensory impaired advisory scheme (Consortia Spending Plans only)

**Activity 4: Literacy and numeracy**

- 4a: Raising standards of literacy
- 4b: Family literacy and numeracy
- 4c: Summer literacy
- 4d: Support for library authorities
- 4e: Raising standards of numeracy
- 4f: Summer numeracy

**Activity 2: Planning for success**

- 2a: School improvement fund
- 2b: Setting and monitoring targets
- 2c: Leadership and management skills for school governors
- 2d: Classroom support fund

**Activity 8: Out of hours prospectus**

- 8a: Music development fund
- 8b: Out of hours learning

**Activity 5: Iaith pawb mewn ysgolion**

- 5a: Raising standards across key stages
- 5b: Assisting transfer to Welsh-medium teaching

**Activity 5: Iaith pawb mewn ysgolion**

- 5a: Raising standards across key stages
- 5b: Extending pupil opportunities to practice and experience Welsh

**Activity 7: ICT in schools**

- 7a: National grid for learning
- 7b: Effective use of ICT in schools
- 7c: Broadband network for lifelong learning

**Activity 6: ICT in schools**

- 6a: National grid for learning
- 6b: Effective use of ICT in schools
- 6c: Broadband network for lifelong learning

**Activity 8: Professional development**

- 8a: National headship development programme and school leadership modules
- 8b: Induction and early professional development

**Activity 7: Induction and early professional development**

- 7a: Induction and early professional development

**Activity 3: Pupil support**

- 3a: Ethnic minority achievement
- 3b: School attendance and behaviour
- 3c: Child protection
- 3d: Looked after children
- 3e: Out of hours learning

**Activity 3: Pupil support**

- 3a: Ethnic minority achievement grant
- 3b: School attendance and behaviour
- 3c: Child protection
- 3d: Looked after children
- 3e: Out of hours learning

**Activity 4: Special educational needs**

- 4a: Skills for working with SEN pupils
- 4b: School SEN policies/ revised SEN code of practice
- 4c: Parental partnership services and disagreement resolution services
- 4d: Speech and language therapy
- 4e: Multi-sensory impaired advisory scheme

**Activity 4: Additional educational needs**

- 4a: Skills for working with pupils with additional educational needs
- 4b: School inclusion (SEN) policies/ revised SEN code of practice for Wales
- 4c: Disagreement resolution services
- 4d: Speech and language services
- 4e: Multi-sensory impaired advisory scheme

**Activity 1: School curriculum**

- 1a: Literacy and numeracy
- 1b: Effective transition
- 1c: Key areas for curriculum development

**Activity 1: School curriculum**

- 1a: Literacy and numeracy
- 1b: Effective transition
- 1c: Key areas for curriculum development
- 1d: Joint working amongst small schools

**Activity 2: Governor training**

- 2a: Leadership skills for school governors

**Activity 2: Governor training**

- 2a: Leadership and strategic development skills for school Governors

**Activity 6: Music development fund**

- 6a: Music development fund