

SEN statistics: Numbers of pupils, budgeted expenditure, and academic achievement

August 2015

Introduction

This paper provides some statistics on learners in Wales with Special Educational Needs (SEN): how many there are and what tier of support is provided, how much money is budgeted to meet their needs, and how well they achieve compared to their peers.

The **latest school census data on SEN (StatsWales)**, published in July 2015, shows that in the school year 2014/15, there were **104,957 pupils** with SEN in maintained schools in Wales, equating to over one in five schoolchildren. Only a minority of them (**12%**) had a **statement** of SEN and the large majority (88%) were assisted through one of the first two tiers of intervention, *School Action* and *School Action Plus*.

According to **the latest annual statistics on budgeted SEN expenditure**, published on 24 June 2015, **£356 million** has been budgeted in 2015-16 to provide for pupils' SEN.¹

Background

The Welsh Government is currently **consulting on a Draft Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Bill** until 18 December 2015. This sets out **proposed reform of the current legal framework** for assessing and providing for SEN. The

¹ Note budgeted expenditure is reported on a financial year rather than academic year basis – the latest figure is for 2015-16. Note also this is expenditure that is budgeted and is not necessarily the same as what is actually spent.

Welsh Government also plans to legally establish the term **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)** as a replacement for SEN, an approach which to some extent has already been adopted in policy and practice if not yet in law.

In June 2015, the Research Service published a Research Paper, **Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales**, giving the background to the anticipated introduction of legislation, which was expected in the summer of 2015.

The Welsh Government decided to publish a **Draft Bill** only at this stage in order to undertake **further consultation**. The legislation will therefore not be brought forward until the **Fifth Assembly** (after the May 2016 election).² This depends on which party (or parties) is in government although cross-party agreement on the need to reform the current system means that some form of legislation is likely.

In addition to explaining current provisions and processes and the journey of review and reform to date, the Research Paper included a number of statistics.

This paper **updates the statistics** on the numbers of learners with SEN and levels of budgeted expenditure following the release of the new data. It also re-presents statistics on the relative academic performance of pupils with SEN.³

² See the Research Service blog article, **Minister to explain delay in ALN Bill to Members**, 19 June 2015, and the Minister for Education and Skills' **Oral Statement on 23 June 2015** for more information and background on the decision.

³ This data is unchanged from what was published in the June 2015 Research Paper but is included here for ease of reference. The Welsh Government publishes a Statistical Bulletin, **Academic Achievement by pupil characteristics**, annually in March. Data on the performance of pupils with SEN in summer 2015 will therefore be available in March 2016.



Numbers of pupils with SEN

The all-Wales position regarding numbers of pupils with SEN over the last six years is presented in **Table 1**, whilst a breakdown by local authority for 2014/15 is given in **Table 2**.

Table 1: Number of pupils with SEN in maintained schools in Wales

	<i>number</i>				
	School Action	School Action Plus	Total pupils with SEN but without statement	Statements	All pupils with SEN
2014/15	59,245	33,275	92,520	12,437	104,957
2013/14	58,146	34,627	92,773	12,530	105,303
2012/13	56,000	35,053	91,053	12,738	103,791
2011/12	56,511	33,429	89,940	13,098	103,038
2010/11	54,468	32,055	86,523	13,407	99,930
2009/10	54,256	30,981	85,237	13,767	99,004

Source: Welsh Government, StatsWales, [Pupils with special educational needs by local authority, region and type of provision](#) [accessed 7 August 2015]

Table 2: Number of pupils with SEN in maintained schools, by local authority, 2014/15

	<i>number</i>				
	School Action	School Action Plus	Total pupils with SEN but without statement	Statements	All pupils with SEN
Isle of Anglesey	1,026	765	1,791	278	2,069
Gwynedd	1,705	1,663	3,368	544	3,912
Conwy	1,592	1,613	3,205	318	3,523
Denbighshire	1,979	1,806	3,785	396	4,181
Flintshire	2,679	1,280	3,959	532	4,491
Wrexham	1,984	1,044	3,028	553	3,581
Powys	2,071	1,447	3,518	445	3,963
Ceredigion	1,955	703	2,658	181	2,839
Pembrokeshire	2,412	1,493	3,905	367	4,272
Carmarthenshire	4,180	2,397	6,577	1,006	7,583
Swansea	5,206	2,271	7,477	1,424	8,901
Neath Port Talbot	2,983	1,760	4,743	747	5,490
Bridgend	3,254	1,318	4,572	317	4,889
Vale of Glamorgan	2,701	1,048	3,749	428	4,177
Cardiff	7,042	3,011	10,053	1,569	11,622
Rhondda Cynon Taf	6,373	2,167	8,540	715	9,255
Merthyr Tydfil	1,319	996	2,315	186	2,501
Caerphilly	2,822	2,155	4,977	686	5,663
Blaenau Gwent	988	862	1,850	328	2,178
Torfaen	1,507	1,206	2,713	234	2,947
Monmouthshire	887	625	1,512	339	1,851
Newport	2,580	1,645	4,225	844	5,069
Wales	59,245	33,275	92,520	12,437	104,957

Source: Welsh Government, StatsWales, [Pupils with special educational needs by local authority, region and type of provision](#) [accessed 7 August 2015]

Tables 3 and 4 present the data in relative terms, i.e. the **proportion** of pupils who have SEN and, of the pupils who have SEN, the proportion who have a statement. Table 3 shows the all-Wales position over the past six years and Table 4 breaks this down by local authority for 2014/15, enabling some analysis of their comparative use of statements.

Policy and practice towards meeting SEN, or Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as they are increasingly referred to, has **evolved** in recent years. This has brought about a **shift away from a reliance on statements** and to some extent a return to regarding statements as a last resort in the most serious of cases, which was the original intention of the **SEN Code of Practice for Wales** when it was introduced in 2002. Consequently, local authorities use statements to varying extents, which is reflected in the statistics.

When making any analysis of differing 'statementing rates', one should note that Estyn has reported 'there is not necessarily a correlation between the percentage of statements and the quality of ALN services being provided'.⁴

- In 2014/15, there were **104,957 pupils with SEN** in maintained schools in Wales, which is **22.5%** of all pupils.
- The large majority (88.2%) of pupils did not have a statement.
- **11.8% of pupils with SEN did have a statement.** The proportion of learners with SEN who have a statement is broadly the same as the previous year, but a **fall from 13.9% back in 2009/10.**

- The relative issuing of statements to learners with SEN **varies amongst local authorities.** Whilst the average across Wales in 2014/15 was 11.8%, **five authorities** had statements for **over 15%** of their learners with SEN. These were the same five authorities with the highest 'statementing' rate in 2013/14 (Monmouthshire, Newport, Wrexham, Swansea and Blaenau Gwent), although all five had proportionately fewer statements for pupils with SEN in 2014/15 than 2013/14.
- **Five local authorities** had statements for **fewer than 8%** of their pupils with SEN. Four of these were the same as in 2013/14 (Bridgend, Ceredigion, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf) with Torfaen replacing Pembrokeshire amongst the authorities with the five lowest statementing rates.
- In 2014/15, Monmouthshire had the **lowest proportion of learners with SEN** that have been identified, but the same authority has issued the **highest proportion of statements** amongst this SEN cohort. This was the same as in 2013/14.
- Conversely, Ceredigion had the **highest proportion of learners with SEN** but, of their SEN cohort, have the **joint lowest proportion with statements.** Similarly, Merthyr Tydfil had the second highest prevalence of SEN but the third lowest statementing rate amongst its SEN cohort.

⁴ National Assembly for Wales, Education(Wales) Act 2014, **Consultation Response EB06 Estyn (pdf 380KB)**, p4



Table 3: Proportions of pupils with SEN and proportions of pupils with statements of SEN in maintained schools in Wales

	Total pupils	Total pupils with SEN	Total pupils with SEN statements	Percentage of total pupils who have SEN	Percentage of total pupils who have statements of SEN	Percentage of pupils with SEN who have statements
2014/15	465,704	104,957	12,437	22.5%	2.7%	11.8%
2013/14	465,081	105,303	12,530	22.6%	2.7%	11.9%
2012/13	464,868	103,791	12,738	22.3%	2.7%	12.3%
2011/12	465,943	103,038	13,098	22.1%	2.8%	12.7%
2010/11	466,172	99,930	13,407	21.4%	2.9%	13.4%
2009/10	467,141	99,004	13,767	21.2%	3.0%	13.9%

Source: Research Service calculations from Welsh Government, StatsWales, **Pupils with special educational needs by local authority, region and type of provision**, and Welsh Government, Statistical First Release: **School census results, 2015**, 23 July 2015, Table 3 [accessed 7 August 2015]

Table 4: Proportions of pupils with SEN and proportions of pupils with statements of SEN in maintained schools in Wales, by local authority, 2014/15

	Total pupils	Total pupils with SEN	Total pupils with SEN statements	Percentage of total pupils who have SEN	Percentage of total pupils who have statements of SEN	Percentage of pupils with SEN who have statements
Isle of Anglesey	9,611	2,069	278	21.5%	2.9%	13.4%
Gwynedd	17,043	3,912	544	23.0%	3.2%	13.9%
Conwy	15,934	3,523	318	22.1%	2.0%	9.0%
Denbighshire	15,758	4,181	396	26.5%	2.5%	9.5%
Flintshire	23,726	4,491	532	18.9%	2.2%	11.8%
Wrexham	19,534	3,581	553	18.3%	2.8%	15.4%
Powys	18,273	3,963	445	21.7%	2.4%	11.2%
Ceredigion	9,604	2,839	181	29.6%	1.9%	6.4%
Pembrokeshire	17,951	4,272	367	23.8%	2.0%	8.6%
Carmarthenshire	27,055	7,583	1,006	28.0%	3.7%	13.3%
Swansea	35,489	8,901	1,424	25.1%	4.0%	16.0%
Neath Port Talbot	20,670	5,490	747	26.6%	3.6%	13.6%
Bridgend	22,830	4,889	317	21.4%	1.4%	6.5%
Vale of Glamorgan	22,094	4,177	428	18.9%	1.9%	10.2%
Cardiff	53,007	11,622	1,569	21.9%	3.0%	13.5%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	38,805	9,255	715	23.9%	1.8%	7.7%
Merthyr Tydfil	8,695	2,501	186	28.8%	2.1%	7.4%
Caerphilly	28,629	5,663	686	19.8%	2.4%	12.1%
Blaenau Gwent	9,404	2,178	328	23.2%	3.5%	15.1%
Torfaen	15,138	2,947	234	19.5%	1.5%	7.9%
Monmouthshire	11,543	1,851	339	16.0%	2.9%	18.3%
Newport	24,911	5,069	844	20.3%	3.4%	16.7%
Wales	465,704	104,957	12,437	22.5%	2.7%	11.8%

Source: Research Service calculations from Welsh Government, StatsWales, **Pupils with special educational needs by local authority, region and type of provision**; and Welsh Government, Statistical First Release: **School census results, 2015**, 23 July 2015, Table 5 [accessed 7 August 2015]



Budgeted expenditure on SEN

Table 5 shows how much money in total was budgeted by local authorities for SEN provision, the amount per pupil (all pupils not only those with SEN), and the delegation rate, i.e. how much of local authorities' SEN budgets was passed directly to schools. The data covers a six year period.

- **Total budgeted expenditure** on SEN in 2015-16 across Wales is **£356.306 million**. This is a 0.2% decrease from 2014-15 and 0.8% fall from 2013-14 when funding was at its highest. However, budgeted expenditure has risen by 4.3% since 2010-11.
- **£789** is budgeted for SEN in 2015-16 **per pupil** (all pupils not SEN cohort). This has reduced from £792 in 2014-15 and £796 in 2013-14 but has increased from £754 in 2010-11.
- The **delegation rate** for SEN expenditure across Wales in 2015-16 is **72%**. This means that £72 of every £100 budgeted for SEN is passed by local authorities to schools themselves. The delegation rate has **risen** in each of the last five years from 55% in 2010-11.

Table 5: Gross budgeted expenditure on SEN provision by local authorities in Wales

	£ Million Budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision	£ Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision	% delegated to individual schools' budgets
2015-16	356.306	789	72%
2014-15	357.099	792	70%
2013-14	(r) 359.217	796	69%
2012-13	346.862	769	67%
2011-12	(r) 347.100	770	60%
2010-11	341.755	754	55%

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical First Releases: **Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision**, (several years' editions)

Notes:

a) Includes notional allocations to schools for SEN provision as part of local authorities' formulae for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual expenditure within schools may vary from these notional allocations.

b) The £ per pupil expenditure is based on the whole cohort of pupils on roll rather than only pupils with SEN.

(r) These are the revised 2013-14 and 2011-12 budgeted gross expenditure figures that were published in the subsequent year's release. Updated £ per pupil and delegation rates were not published, hence some caution is advised in comparing these two fields with gross budgets for these years.



Table 6 breaks the data down **by local authority**, for the latest year, 2015-16. **Table 7** shows how much each local authority has budgeted for SEN in each of the last six financial years.

- **Anglesey** (£1,059) and **Blaenau Gwent** (£1,019) budgeted the **most** for SEN per pupil (all pupils not just SEN cohort) in 2015-16. **Torfaen** (£579), **Vale of Glamorgan** (£595) and **Rhondda Cynon Taf** (£604) budgeted the **least** per pupil.
- This is the same position as last year. However, because this is how much is budgeted per head of the total pupil population rather than per head of the SEN total, **this does not necessarily mean these authorities are spending relatively more or less than others on SEN provision**. To examine this more closely, one would need to cross reference the per pupil expenditure with the proportions of pupils with SEN shown by Table 3.
- **Denbighshire** (90%) delegated the **highest** proportion of its SEN budget to schools in 2015-16. **Caerphilly** (52%) and **Flintshire** (56%) had the **lowest** delegation rates. This is the same as last year.

Table 6: Local authorities' gross budgeted expenditure on SEN provision, 2015-16

	<u>£ Million Budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision</u>	<u>£ Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision</u>	<u>% delegated to individual schools' budgets</u>
Isle of Anglesey	9.811	1,059	65%
Gwynedd	13.494	820	75%
Conwy	12.324	798	82%
Denbighshire	11.625	763	90%
Flintshire	19.043	833	56%
Wrexham	15.563	829	79%
Powys	16.279	904	73%
Ceredigion	7.834	832	68%
Pembrokeshire	14.644	840	78%
Cardiff	21.275	791	77%
Swansea	31.828	936	67%
Neath Port Talbot	14.450	739	77%
Bridgend	18.722	821	69%
Vale of Glamorgan	12.775	595	82%
Cardiff	44.734	881	81%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	23.449	604	63%
Merthyr Tydfil	7.273	878	73%
Caerphilly	19.029	688	52%
Blaenau Gwent	8.998	1,019	71%
Torfaen	8.345	579	75%
Monmouthshire	8.439	745	69%
Newport	16.372	685	65%
Wales	356.306	789	72%

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical First Release: **Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision 2015-16**, 24 June 2015

Notes:

a) Includes notional allocations to schools for SEN provision as part of local authorities' formulae for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual expenditure within schools may vary from these notional allocations.

b) The £ per pupil expenditure is based on the whole cohort of pupils on roll rather than only pupils with SEN.

Table 7: Local authorities' gross budgeted expenditure on SEN provision

	<i>£ Million</i>					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Isle of Anglesey	9.259	9.500	8.675	(r) 9.775	10.069	9.811
Gwynedd	13.197	13.359	14.032	13.938	13.776	13.494
Conwy	12.459	13.536	13.200	12.838	12.484	12.324
Denbighshire	10.057	10.310	10.025	11.843	12.128	11.625
Flintshire	19.785	20.666	20.000	21.030	20.419	19.043
Wrexham	15.002	14.721	14.601	15.467	15.462	15.563
Powys	15.647	16.735	16.410	17.167	15.468	16.279
Ceredigion	7.877	8.511	8.962	8.614	8.520	7.834
Pembrokeshire	15.269	15.893	15.541	14.576	14.348	14.644
Carmarthenshire	20.778	21.424	21.090	22.179	21.720	21.275
Swansea	30.658	29.981	29.577	30.448	31.322	31.828
Neath Port Talbot	16.342	15.127	15.305	14.562	14.603	14.450
Bridgend	16.753	16.516	16.542	18.787	18.626	18.722
Vale of Glamorgan	11.785	11.612	11.662	12.425	12.599	12.775
Cardiff	35.348	37.269	39.444	41.903	42.343	44.734
Rhondda Cynon Taf	23.522	24.408	27.730	24.250	24.203	23.449
Merthyr Tydfil	7.357	(r) 7.401	7.455	7.525	7.261	7.273
Caerphilly	18.808	18.364	18.311	18.949	19.370	19.029
Blaenau Gwent	8.795	8.776	9.196	9.541	9.171	8.998
Torfaen	8.650	8.428	8.194	8.118	7.908	8.345
Monmouthshire	7.954	8.584	8.601	8.593	8.327	8.439
Newport	16.453	15.979	16.308	16.688	16.973	16.372
Wales	341.755	(r) 347.1	346.862	(r) 359.217	357.099	356.306

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical First Releases: **Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision** (several years' editions)

Notes:

a) These figures include notional allocations to schools for SEN provision as part of local authorities' formulae for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual expenditure within schools may vary from these notional allocations.

(r) These are the revised 2013-14 and 2011-12 budgeted gross expenditure figures that were published in the subsequent year's release.

When the Welsh Government consulted in 2014 on a **White Paper setting out its plans for legislation**, funding featured heavily in the **resource and capacity issues** raised by stakeholders. The Minister for Education and Skills has said that any additional costs would be **met from existing resources** within his department's budget and therefore 'may require the **re-prioritisation** of budgets once costs are quantified'.⁵ The Welsh Government commissioned **Deloitte** to undertake a study of the **costs of the current system**, details of which are included in the **Regulatory Impact Assessment (pdf 1.08MB)** accompanying the Draft Bill.

⁵ National Assembly for Wales, Children, Young People and Education Committee, **CYPE(4)-25-14-Paper 5: Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals for 2015-16 (pdf 599KB)**, 23 October 2014



Achievement of pupils with SEN

Tables 8-10 provide some information on the **achievement of learners in Wales with SEN**.

Tables 8 and 9 present statistics on the percentage of all pupils with SEN achieving the expected level at **Key Stage 2 and 3** respectively, as well as breaking these down for each of the three levels of intervention. **Table 10** presents statistics on achievement at **Key Stage 4**.

Statistics for all pupils are also given, enabling some **comparisons to be made between the achievement of pupils with SEN with their peers**⁷. The data covers the last five years. The data for 2015 will be published by the Welsh Government in March 2016.

- In 2014, at **Key Stage 2, 57.7% of all pupils with SEN achieved the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)**, which is the expected level in English/Welsh, Mathematics and Science combined. This **compares to 86.2% of all pupils**, meaning there is a 28.5 percentage point gap. This **gap has narrowed** since 2010 when it was 39.8 percentage points.
- At **Key Stage 3, 49.2% of all pupils with SEN achieved the CSI** in 2014, compared with **81.3% of all pupils**. This **gap has also narrowed** from 40.9 percentage points in 2010 to 32.1 percentage points in 2014.
- At **Key Stage 4**, in 2014, **19.7% of all pupils with SEN achieved the Level 2 threshold inclusive** (5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent). This compares with **56.2% of all pupils**. The gap of 36.5 percentage points is broadly the same as in 2010 when it was 36.8 percentage points.

- As would be expected, **fewer pupils with statements achieve** either the CSI at Key Stages 2 and 3, or the Level 2 threshold inclusive at Key Stage 4, than other learners having their SEN supported through *School Action Plus* or *School Action*. Similarly, fewer pupils requiring support through *School Action Plus* achieve these measures than those only receiving *School Action*. **9.3% of pupils with statements achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C** (or equivalent), compared to 17.3% at *School Action Plus* at 24.1% at *School Action*.
- At each of Key Stages 2, 3 and 4, the **cohort of pupils with SEN** receiving any of the three levels of intervention **achieved higher in 2014 than 2010** (using these two measures).

Table 8: Key Stage 2 achievement by level of SEN provision (percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 4) in teacher assessments)

	SEN provision	Cohort	English	Maths	Science	CSI (a)	Welsh First Language	
			%	%	%	%	Cohort	%
2010	Total pupils on SEN register	9,023	45.6	51.5	58.7	38.5	1,867	48.6
	Statemented	1,161	17.8	22.2	24.5	14.9	177	26.0
	School Action Plus	3,022	38.4	47.2	55.1	32.3	623	36.0
	School Action	4,840	56.8	61.1	69.2	48.0	1,067	59.8
	All pupils (b)	33,449	82.1	83.4	86.6	78.3	6,542	81.2
2011	Total pupils on SEN register	8,845	49.2	55.4	60.6	42.4	1,762	50.8
	Statemented	1,066	20.0	22.3	24.0	16.4	157	18.5
	School Action Plus	3,006	42.6	51.6	57.2	36.8	603	40.1
	School Action	4,773	59.9	65.2	70.9	51.7	1,002	62.3
	All pupils (b)	32,388	83.5	85.0	87.2	80.1	6,349	82.1
2012	Total pupils on SEN register	8,997	54.5	60.6	65.0	49.0	1,855	55.6
	Statemented	992	21.0	24.8	25.3	17.4	118	25.4
	School Action Plus	3,231	46.9	54.9	59.6	42.0	696	47.8
	School Action	4,774	66.5	72.0	76.9	60.3	1,041	64.2
	All pupils (b)	31,807	85.3	86.9	88.7	82.7	6,451	84.1
2013	Total pupils on SEN register	8,787	59.7	62.3	67.8	53.1	1,730	59.6
	Statemented	950	21.1	22.1	24.1	17.3	108	23.1
	School Action Plus	3,260	53.0	57.6	63.6	46.8	686	45.3
	School Action	4,577	72.5	74.0	79.8	65.1	936	74.3
	All pupils (b)	30,896	87.2	87.6	89.8	84.4	6,188	86.7
2014	Total pupils on SEN register	8,933	63.5	65.8	69.7	57.7	1,816	63.9
	Statemented	986	22.9	24.4	24.1	19.7	131	27.5
	School Action Plus	3,181	55.5	59.6	63.9	49.5	672	52.5
	School Action	4,766	77.2	78.5	83.0	71.0	1,013	76.1
	All pupils (b)	31,670	88.5	89.0	90.5	86.2	6,400	88.2

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical Bulletin: **Academic achievement by pupil characteristics**, 31 March 2015, Table 14

Notes:

- (a) The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or above in English or Welsh (First Language), Mathematics and Science in combination.
- (b) 'All pupils' represents the attainment of all pupils in maintained primary, secondary, special schools or PRUs whose Pupil Level Annual School Census or Education Otherwise Than At School collection and attainment data were successfully matched within the National Pupil Database.



Table 9: Key Stage 3 achievement by level of SEN provision (percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 5) in teacher assessments)

SEN provision	Cohort	English	Maths	Science	CSI (a)	Welsh First Language		
		%	%	%	%	Cohort	%	
2010	Total pupils on SEN register	8,104	32.7	40.3	43.7	23.0	1,085	36.8
	Statemented	1,451	14.0	18.6	19.7	8.8	133	14.3
	School Action Plus	2,269	29.6	38.5	41.8	20.8	306	36.9
	School Action	4,384	40.6	48.4	52.5	28.8	646	41.3
	All pupils (b)	34,419	72.7	75.6	77.3	63.9	5,546	76.8
2011	Total pupils on SEN register	8,319	37.2	42.8	48.2	26.6	1,147	44.4
	Statemented	1,482	17.1	20.8	24.1	11.9	124	28.2
	School Action Plus	2,572	33.8	41.2	45.3	23.7	329	32.5
	School Action	4,265	46.1	51.3	58.4	33.4	694	52.9
	All pupils (b)	35,724	76.1	78.0	80.4	68.1	5,858	81.4
2012	Total pupils on SEN register	8,192	43.8	48.5	53.9	33.3	1,150	49.9
	Statemented	1,311	18.0	21.4	24.9	13.3	111	25.2
	School Action Plus	2,599	41.1	48.2	51.4	31.3	365	43.6
	School Action	4,282	53.3	56.9	64.3	40.7	674	57.4
	All pupils (b)	34,289	79.5	81.3	83.9	72.8	5,783	84.2
2013	Total pupils on SEN register	8,230	50.6	53.9	61.3	39.7	1,120	57.9
	Statemented	1,287	20.4	25.1	29.7	16.2	119	31.1
	School Action Plus	2,526	46.1	51.4	57.6	36.2	321	53.9
	School Action	4,417	61.9	63.6	72.7	48.6	680	64.6
	All pupils (b)	33,193	83.0	84.0	87.2	77.2	5,667	87.6
2014	Total pupils on SEN register	8,518	59.2	61.8	71.2	49.2	1,294	68.4
	Statemented	1,236	24.0	27.6	32.1	19.2	101	27.7
	School Action Plus	2,523	54.3	58.3	68.7	44.7	328	61.9
	School Action	4,759	70.9	72.5	82.7	59.4	865	75.6
	All pupils (b)	32,162	86.1	86.7	90.6	81.3	5,537	90.1

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical Bulletin: [Academic achievement by pupil characteristics](#), 31 March 2015, Table 15

Notes:

- (a) The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or above in English or Welsh (First Language), Mathematics and Science in combination.
- (b) 'All pupils' represents the attainment of all pupils in maintained primary, secondary, special schools or PRUs whose Pupil Level Annual School Census or Education Otherwise Than At School collection and attainment data were successfully matched within the National Pupil Database.

Table 10: Key Stage 4 achievement by level of SEN provision (percentage of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year)

	SEN provision	Cohort	Percentage of pupils achieving:			CSI (b)
			Level 1 threshold (a)	Level 2 threshold (a)	Level 2 threshold inclusive (a)	
2010	Total pupils on SEN register	6,643	71.2	25.1	12.9	12.5
	Stated	1,186	44.8	13.6	7.4	7.7
	School Action Plus	2,034	67.4	23.7	11.7	11.5
	School Action	3,423	82.6	29.8	15.5	14.7
	All pupils (c)	35,254	91.7	64.6	49.7	48.4
2011	Total pupils on SEN register	6,952	75.4	33.2	15.5	14.9
	Stated	1,221	52.9	19.7	8.7	8.5
	School Action Plus	2,040	68.1	28.4	14.3	13.9
	School Action	3,691	86.9	40.3	18.4	17.6
	All pupils (c)	34,345	92.4	68.4	50.5	49.0
2012	Total pupils on SEN register	7,059	79.4	41.6	16.5	15.5
	Stated	1,173	55.8	24.2	8.4	8.4
	School Action Plus	2,108	74.3	37.3	13.9	13.1
	School Action	3,778	89.5	49.4	20.5	19.0
	All pupils (c)	33,770	93.6	73.8	51.5	49.7
2013	Total pupils on SEN register	7,583	82.7	50.6	16.8	15.3
	Stated	1,239	60.5	29.0	10.6	10.2
	School Action Plus	2,461	77.9	46.0	15.5	14.1
	School Action	3,883	92.8	60.4	19.6	17.8
	All pupils (c)	35,154	94.7	78.9	53.2	50.1
2014	Total pupils on SEN register	7,576	86.4	60.4	19.7	18.4
	Stated	1,118	61.4	35.2	9.3	8.6
	School Action Plus	2,450	83.3	55.8	17.3	15.8
	School Action	4,008	95.3	70.3	24.1	22.8
	All pupils (c)	33,708	95.8	83.9	56.2	53.9

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical Bulletin: [Academic achievement by pupil characteristics](#), 31 March 2015, Table 16

Notes:

- (a) Level thresholds represent a volume, or 'size', of qualifications at a specific level on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Three thresholds have been established: Level 1 – a volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade D-G; Level 2 – a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C; Level 2 inclusive – a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C including English/Welsh first language and Mathematics.
- (b) The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or above in English or Welsh (First Language), Mathematics and Science in combination.
- (c) 'All pupils' represents the attainment of all pupils in maintained primary, secondary, special schools or PRUs whose Pupil Level Annual School Census or Education Otherwise Than At School collection and attainment data were successfully matched within the National Pupil Database.



Further information

The links below provide further information about the data sources used in this briefing, and further information about SEN in Wales.

- Welsh Government, Statistical First Releases: **School census results**
- Welsh Government, StatsWales, **Pupils with special educational needs by local authority, region and type of provision**
- Welsh Government Statistical First Releases: **Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision**
- Welsh Government, Statistical Bulletins: **Academic achievement by pupil characteristics**
- Research Service, **Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales**, June 2015
- Welsh Government, **Consultation: Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill**

For further information and statistics on Special Educational Needs (SEN) please contact **Michael Dauncey** (Michael.Dauncey@Assembly.Wales), **Research Service**.

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