

DP 705/02 - 07

**Jane Davidson AM**

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning  
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes

Cardiff Bay / Bae Caerdydd  
Cardiff / Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: MB/JD/0134/05

William Graham AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

7<sup>th</sup> February 2005

Dear William,

I am writing to follow up the commitment I gave in my response to your written Assembly question number 41336, in which you requested a statement on the projected number of pupils attending schools within South Wales East.

Whilst all Wales pupil projections are prepared by the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate, these are not currently available on an area basis.

Local Education Authorities are statutorily required to publish School Organisation Plans once every 3 years at present, and these contain projections of pupils for their own areas. I have therefore arranged for information to be extracted from the plans published between 16 December 2003 and 11 February 2004 by the Local Education Authorities in the South Wales East constituency area. These are the most recent plans published.

The information is shown on the attached table, by LEA and by sector. You will note that not all authorities use the same date for their projections. It should also be borne in mind that LEAs take individual decisions as to the method by which they prepare projections of pupil numbers. Authorities use as a basis for their projections, figures from various sources, including the NHS Trusts, Unitary Development Plans, or Health Authority Census figures. There would also be variations between authorities in the factors which would be applied to the base data, as some LEAs are experiencing out-migration, whereas for others, the opposite is true.

Should you require more information about how an individual LEA has produced its projections, the School Organisation Plans are published documents, available on the Web-Sites of the LEAs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

**Jane Davidson AM**  
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

**Primary School Pupils S Wales East Authority projections**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Merthyr Tydfil	5530	5407	5388	5352 *
Blaenau Gwent	5643	5540	5400	5589 **
Caerphilly	17121	16973	16965	16849 **
Torfaen	7737	7532	7361	7146 **
Monmouthshire	6566	6467	6383	6188 **
Newport	12504	12216	11984	11815 **
<b>Total Primary Pupils on roll</b>	<b>55101</b>	<b>54135</b>	<b>53481</b>	<b>52939</b>

**Secondary school Pupils S Wales East Authority projections**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Merthyr Tydfil	4516	4510	4411	4335 *
Blaenau Gwent	4777	4618	4462	4338 **
Caerphilly	13427	13437	13278	13054 **
Torfaen	8244	8236	8122	8119 **
Monmouthshire	5877	5862	5863	5848 **
Newport	10715	10769	10738	10598 **
<b>Total Secondary Pupils on roll</b>	<b>47556</b>	<b>47432</b>	<b>46874</b>	<b>46292</b>

**Total all pupils**      **102657**      **101567**      **100355**      **99231**

\* = at Jan

\*\* = at September

Data extracted from School Organisation Plans 2004- 2009 published between 16 December 2003 and 11 February 2004