



INFANT AND JUNIOR **CLASS SIZE FUNDING**

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Background

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities and governing bodies to limit infant class sizes to no more than 30 pupils. This target was set to cover reception class, year 1 and year 2 and would be enforced from 2001 onwards. Furthermore, Welsh Government is committed to ensuring local education authorities and schools maintain primary class sizes of 30 or fewer. There is not a statutory requirement for class sizes to be capped at 30 at KS2 however Denbighshire are committed to enforcing this in line with the KS1 requirement.

This policy aims to set out the criteria by which schools in Denbighshire will be eligible for class size funding. Nursery pupils are excluded from this policy.

Class Size problems can arise when:

- A School teaches mixed aged classes and pupils have been admitted in excess of the admission number in particular year group(s) due to the remote locality of the school;
- Due to the size, layout and use of the school the admission number for the school results in too many pupils in particular year groups to organise single age classes;
- The Authority receives a high number of applications within the transition round for school(s) in a particular area;
- The Authority receives a high number of applications outside the transition round for school(s) in a particular area;
- The school has previously admitted additional pupils without the permission of the local Authority;
- There is high demand at schools providing bilingual/Welsh medium education;
- There is high demand at schools providing faith based education;
- It becomes necessary to create a class containing Foundation Phase (Y2) and KS2 (Y3) pupils;

In these cases schools may face budget problems if they cannot reduce class sizes to 30 pupils by the following academic year. Schools may have to employ additional staff to meet infant class size regulations or levels desired by Welsh Government at primary stage. This policy aims to address these issues and support schools with the allocation of additional funding within the formula to support additional staff where applicable and to ensure that enough funding is received to meet a threshold of 24 pupils in each class. This is deemed the optimum level of pupils in a class to make it financially viable.

This policy will protect schools to ensure the following:

- They do not have to mix classes across more than 2 consecutive year groups with the exception of KS1
- They do not mix classes across key stages
- They receive funding equivalent to an average of 24 pupils in a class across each key stage
- They are not disadvantaged through the school having low classroom capacity.

Funding will not be awarded in the following circumstances:

- If a school is categorised as a small schools in the < 50 threshold then it will not be eligible to apply for funding as the low class numbers have already been considered within the small schools protection. This is also because it is not financially viable to protect classes from being mixed across more than 2 consecutive year groups when the numbers in the whole key stage are so low.
- If a school is categorised as a small school in the 50 -70 threshold then it will be eligible to apply for funding but the allocation will be reduced by the amount that was received from small schools protection
- If a school already receives funding for being amalgamated on 2 sites and are within the 0 -105 threshold then they will not be eligible to apply for funding as this is already covered within the amalgamation allocation.

How is the funding calculated?

In the Funding Formula schools receive a per pupil allocation within the curriculum element. This funding would generally be used towards funding teacher staffing. Based on this allocation a school would receive enough funding for more than the average cost of a teacher for every 24 pupils it has on roll. Whilst it is accepted that some schools have staff high on the UPS scale it is impossible to fund on actual cost basis so the average cost will always be used.

The class size funding aims to provide a top up of funding to any school that does not have the equivalent of 24 pupils in each class across the whole key stage. The top up will be calculated at a rate of £1,500 per pupil which when used to top up existing funding would provide more than the average cost of a teacher.

Funding will be capped for all schools at £36,000 where applicable.

Application process

Funding will be time limited to 1 financial year and class sizes will be reconsidered for each financial year. This is to ensure that any changes in circumstances have been considered in order to make the best use of the funding available to schools.

Schools will submit the following table in September each year and that data will be used to inform the class size allocations for the next financial year (e.g. April 2014 allocations will be informed from Sept 2013 class sizes)

Class/Year group	No of Pupils	FTE teacher	Class capacity
Nursery			
Reception			
Year 1			
Year 2			
Year 3			
Year 4			
Year 5			
Year 6			

Indicative figures for future years will also be provided based on the best available class size data at that point in time but will be subject to change when the indicative budgets are recalculated each year.

Any pupils admitted outside of the normal admissions process (i.e. after 1st September) will not attract funding and will not be subject to the class size regulations during that academic year. Schools would however be required to make arrangements for reducing class sizes ready for the new academic year and may be eligible for funding as per this policy for that new academic year if they are still unable to meet the regulations at that point.

Funding Illustration:

Class/Year group	No of Pupils	FTE teacher	Class capacity
Nursery	14	1.00	30
Reception	25	1.00	30
Year 1	23	1.00	30
Year 2	25	1.00	30
Year 3	24	1.00	30
Year 4	18	1.00	30
Year 5	25	1.00	30
Year 6	24	1.00	30

Eligibility assessment

KS1 – not eligible

- Total pupils across KS1 (excluding nursery) are $(25 + 23 + 25) = 73$
- Optimum number of 24 per class is $(24 \times 3) = 72$ so the school is already drawing down enough funding from the funding formula to meet the average cost of a teacher for those 3 classes

KS2 – eligible for £7,500

- Total pupils across KS2 are $(24 + 18 + 25 + 24) = 91$
- School have to run 4 classes in order to meet the class size regulations of 30. Optimum number of 24 per class is $(24 \times 4) = 96$ so the school is not drawing down enough funding from the funding formula to meet the average cost of a teacher for those 4 classes. A top up of $(96 - 91) = 5 \times £1,500$ would be given

Considerations

- Class size funding will not be awarded to protect schools from having to have mixed age group classes unless there would be a need to mix across multiple age groups

in a single class. It is expected that where necessary consecutive classes should be mixed to make the most effective use of resources.

- Having a class of less than 24 does not result in automatic entitlement to class size funding as if the school has the equivalent of 24 per class across the whole key stage then the equivalent funding will have been received through the basic per pupil funding within the curriculum allocation
- Significant funding is already received with the funding formula for Foundation Phase which is outside of the basic per pupil allocation.
- There is not an expectation for classes to be restructured to have 24 in each class, the 24 is the minimum that would be deemed necessary to draw down enough funding for an average teacher in the class. Schools do not have to actually have 24 in each of their classes provided the total across the whole key stage equates to an average of 24 for funding purposes.