

MEETING	SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM
DATE	28 September 2020
TITLE	Schools' Final Accounts Financial Year 2019/20
PURPOSE	Presented for information
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
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1 Final Accounts 2019/20

1.1 Individual schools' balances as at 31 March 2020 is appended for your information (**appendix 1**).

1.2 Summary of schools' balances as at 31/03/2020 -

	percentage	31/03/2019	increase+/ reduction-	31/03/2020	percentage
Primary	7.08%	£2,481,037	-£11,844	£2,469,193	7.09%
Middle	17.06%	£484,789	-£85,895	£398,894	9.20%
Secondary	3.02%	£973,687	+£454,873	£1,428,560	4.39%
Special	1.62%	£60,860	-£24,517	£36,343	0.91%
Total	5.42%	£4,000,373	+£332,618	£4,332,991	5.72%

1.3 Apart from the increase of £454,873 in the secondary sector, balances in the other sectors has reduced.

1.4 In comparison with the situation at the end of 2018/19 when 7 schools had a total deficit of -£207,106, at the end of 2019/20 5 schools have a total deficit of -£136,608.

1.5 The total balances over 5% has increase from £1,736,732 (67 schools) at 31/03/2019 to £2,048,358 (60 schools) at 31/03/2020.

2 Use of Balances Guidance Plan

- 2.1 The Education Department has the power to instruct the governing body on how to spend the element of their balances that exceeds the £50,000 threshold for Primary Schools and £100,000 for Secondary and Special Schools. In the absence of any specific provision in the Regulations, the £100,000 threshold has also been applied to Middle Schools.
- 2.2 The implementation procedure remains the same as in previous years -
- every school with balances of over 5% or with balances above the threshold to complete a questionnaire on the proposed use of balances by 3 July 2020
 - dependent on the content of the questionnaire and a possible discussion with the school, the Education Department can direct schools on how to apply the balances by 30 September 2020
 - review that the school has applied the balances in line with the direction of the Education Department and if not to deduct the money by 31 December 2020
 - as a result of COVID-19 this timetable has slipped
 - also in June this year officers were given the opportunity to suggest how a school could best invest balances to improve itself
- 2.3 Appendix 1 highlights the sum of balances over the thresholds –
- 19 primary schools (varying between £314 and £66,579 above the threshold of £50k)
 - 1 middle school (£334,473 above the threshold of £100k)
 - 6 secondary schools (varying between £26,493 a £429,297 above the threshold of £100k)

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Welsh Governments' statistical release on schools' balances as at 31 March 2020 has not yet been published, but an exercise between Welsh schools' accountants, apart from one authority which had not responded, Gwynedd has the third lowest deficit balances and the third highest net total of balances.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 **The Education Department and Finance Department should closely collaborate with schools who have a financial deficit to ensure that they clear the deficit as soon as possible.**
- 4.2 **The Education Department and the Finance Department should continue to monitor schools' budgets.**