



**National Assembly for Wales
Enterprise and Learning Committee**

**Implementation of Recommendations on
School Funding (OR988)
Follow-Up Report: Call for Evidence**

Submission by PAT Cymru

The Professional Association of Teachers Cymru, feels that funding should meet the needs of individual schools. All schools should receive a basic level of funding to enable it to fulfil the statutory requirements placed upon it. A component part of the funding should enable schools to meet any additional costs for effective teaching and learning in every school.

There needs to be a thorough assessment to review all the costs encountered by schools to deliver high quality education.

The Professional Association of Teachers believes that education should be funded on a needs basis. Care must be taken to include any additional resources that a school needs to meet its own individual needs.

School funding needs to reflect the actual costs of factors such as class sizes, specific non-contact time and initiatives such as the Foundation phase and 14-19 Learning Pathways.

There is unfortunately, still a lack of transparency. Schools are invited to bid for specific funds for specific projects. The time and effort submitting these bids, reduce the time that is spent on other core areas.

There is still the need for additional funding to be allocated in areas of deprivation. The Community First areas seem a reasonable way of identifying deprivation. The obvious way of distributing these monies to schools would be by the local authorities, however there needs to be transparency to ensure that the funds allocated for the purpose intended. Special needs funding needs to be assessed and some of the funding may need to be shared by several authorities.

The Professional Association of Teachers welcomes the fact that the Committee is considering investment in school buildings.

School Budget Fora, provide a valuable way in which all stakeholders can participate in discussions on a funding mechanism for school related spending. The teacher unions are not sufficiently represented on these fora. Such representation should be mandatory.

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