

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Special School Funding Formula 2025/26



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Vale of Glamorgan Council Funding Formula for Special Schools 2025/26

1. Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's special school funding formula was revised for the 2017/18 financial year and is subject to regular review by the Head of Additional Learning Needs and the Head Teacher of Ysgol Y Deri.

This formula was constructed in accordance with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Fair Funding Scheme for Schools, the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This formula will continue to be reviewed throughout the 2025/26 financial year and will remain a regular item on the Budget Forum programme of work in order to ensure that it remains relevant and responds to changes in central government funding.

The formula allocation for the 2025/26 financial year is **£20,551,333**, although this budget is not entirely for the Ysgol Y Deri special school alone and covers other provision delegated to the school, including the Derw Newydd and Hafan specialist educational provisions for pupils with social and emotional mental health needs, the engagement and outreach services to mainstream schools, the Horizon provision for pupils with high levels of anxiety, the early intervention base and the specialist resource base located at St Joseph's primary.

The total budget delegated to Ysgol Y Deri is Identified below

• Delegated special school budget (Y Deri)	£16,423,201
• Derw Newydd SEMH (Secondary provision)	£ 1,854,181
• Hafan SEMH (primary provision)	£ 841,833
• Engagement and outreach to mainstream	£ 765,402
• Horizon Learning and Wellbeing Anxiety Class	£ 295,898
• Early intervention base (St Joseph's)	£ 226,418
• Special resource base (St Joseph's)	£ 144,400

2. Pupil Numbers

In order to ensure the school has sufficient funding to cover the September intake, funding is based on a weighted average combining the January numbers on roll and the projection for the September intake.

Adjusted pupil numbers are calculated as shown below

- Current number on role * 5/12ths (5 months/12 months)
- Plus September projection * 7/12ths (7 months/12 months)

The pupil numbers included in the 2025/26 formula are identified in the table below

Y Deri Special School	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	TOTAL
Pupils on roll Jan 2025 (5/12 Apr – Aug)	0	121	240	67	10	438
Pupil no. estimated Sep 2025 (7/12 Sep – Mar)	1	123	277	76	10	487
Weighted average Y Deri special school	0.6	122.2	261.6	72.3	10	466.6

The table below identifies total places for the 2025/26 financial year, which includes places in the special school, Derw Newydd and other Additional Learning Provision delegated to Ysgol y Deri.

Provision	Pupils/ places 2025/26	
Ysgol Y Deri Special School	466.6	Weighted average based on current pupils and estimated placed required in September
Derw Newydd (Secondary SEMH)	56	Capacity places available (FTEs)
Hafan (Primary SEMH)	32	Capacity places available (FTEs)
Horizon (anxiety)	16	Capacity places available (FTEs)
Early Intervention base	10	Capacity places available (FTEs)
St Josephs resource base	8	Capacity places available (FTEs)
GRAND TOTAL	588.6	

3. Band Weighted Pupil Unit – (BWPU)

The special school funding formula is primarily allocated based on pupil bands which are dependent on levels of need. Each year, the Complex Casework Management Team will assess the new intake with staff from the special school to ensure that pupils are in the correct banding. 74.2% of the budget is allocated via the BWPU.

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E
Pupil Allocation	£14,308.38	£14,308.38	£34,649.91	£46,838.53	£77,310.09

The table below shows the staffing weighting applied to the BWPU

	Teaching Ratio	LSA Ratio	Overall Staff Ratio
Band A	1 : 10	1 : 5	3 : 10
Band B	1 : 10	1 : 5	3 : 10
Band C	1 : 5	3 : 5	4 : 5
Band D	1 : 5	1 : 1	6 : 5
Band E	1 : 5	2 : 1	11 : 5

The breakdown of the Band Weighted Pupil Unit is Identified below

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E
Teachers	£7,065.46	£7,065.46	£14,130.92	£14,130.92	£14,130.92
LSA's	£5,899.62	£5,899.62	£17,698.87	£29,498.12	£58,996.24
Long Term Supply/maternity	£427.85	£427.85	£1,050.38	£1,439.76	£2,413.20
Therapists/ Nurse/OT			£854.28	£854.28	£854.28
Resources & transport	£1,665.00	£1,665.00	£1,665.00	£1,665.00	£1,665.00
Efficiency Savings	-£749.54	-£749.54	-£749.54	-£749.54	-£749.54
TOTAL	£14,308.38	£14,308.38	£34,649.91	£46,838.53	£77,310.09

4. Pupil banding Descriptions

A description relating to each band is shown in the table below

Band	Description
Band A	<p>Pupils within Band A will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be unable to cope in a mainstream setting and require the adapted environment and curriculum of a special school or resource base • Exhibit no challenging behaviour <p>Pupils may also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have moderate learning difficulties but have the ability to work independently • Present with low well-being concerns <p>Band A pupils will require a level of staffing that provides minimal levels of support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access periods of intervention if needed within the school year • Engage with learning
Band B	<p>Pupils in Band B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have moderate learning/communication/sensory needs that require a smaller class setting and a differentiated curriculum • May present with infrequent low-level behaviours related to identified needs as per entry criteria • May have low level health or personal care needs <p>Band B pupils will require a level of staffing that provides occasional support to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce positive behaviour • Assist with personal care • Access therapy programmes • Achieve the calm, alert state and focus necessary to engage with learning throughout the day
Band C	<p>Pupils within Band C will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have severe learning/communication/sensory needs that require small group support to access differentiated activities within the classroom • Have learning needs that require periods of supported integration into a mainstream setting • Present with infrequent challenging behaviour or frequent lower-level behaviour including non-compliance related to identified need as per entry criteria • Have non-complex health, physical or personal care needs • Have identified concerns relating to mental health or wellbeing (Anxiety/anger/self-Esteem)

	<p>Band C pupils will require a level of staffing that provides regular small group support and/or individual support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce positive behaviour • Meet personal care, toilet training, feeding, positioning and manual handling needs and support developing independence • Access therapists and therapy programmes (OT/Physio/SALT/music) inside or outside the classroom • Access interventions including Learning Coach/ELSA/Nurture Group/Launchpad • Ensure the achievement of the calm, alert state and focus necessary to engage with learning throughout the day • Facilitate the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems (including PECS and Makaton) • Adapt the curriculum and/or structure learning • Access integration into a mainstream setting once or twice a week
Band D	<p>Pupils within Band D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will present with frequent/regular challenging behaviours related to identified need as per entry criteria. Behaviours may include endangering themselves or others, a potential flight risk or an excessive need to control their environment. • May be self-absorbed and very difficult to engage • Have complex medical or physical needs and be fully reliant on others to meet their care needs or to facilitate access to the curriculum • May present with mental health difficulties or may be diagnosed with a mental health condition that may require a care and treatment plan • May refuse to attend school • May have learning needs that require regular periods of supported integration <p>Band D Pupils will require a high (enhanced) level of staffing to provide the support needed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement positive behaviour strategies • Meet complex personal care, feeding, positioning and manual handling needs • Access daily therapies (OT/Physio/SALT/Music) inside or outside the classroom • Access daily interventions • Achieve the calm, alert state necessary to engage with learning • Facilitate the use of complex augmentative and alternative communication systems • Meet complex health needs as identified in their care plan • Access integration into mainstream several times a week

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Band E	<p>Pupils within band E will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present severe challenging behaviours, related to identified need as per entry criteria, that pose a significant risk to themselves or others within school or the community <p>Band E pupils will require a very high level of staffing to provide bespoke and intensive individual support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement positive behaviour strategies intensively• Provide alternative curriculum/therapies/interventions often delivered outside the classroom

5. Y Deri Main School Total Budget

In addition to the band weighted pupil units, there are a number of lump sum allocations within the formula which are identified in the table below:

	Allocation	Notes
Leadership	£389,250	Contribution towards leadership structure
Administration	£290,000	Including annual review staff
Caretakers	£110,000	
Utilities	£229,834	
Repairs & Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	£200,000	
Cleaning, Refuse and Recycling	£210,000	
Central service level agreements	£16,739	Includes HR, Payroll, LMS, Eteach, DBS, ICT and Licence fees
Catering (free school meals)	£0	Not delegated for 2025/26
Band Weighted Pupil Units	£14,977,378	Total of per pupil funding
Total School Budget	£16,423,201	

6. Other ALN Provision Delegated to Y Deri

There are six further budgets delegated to the special school as identified in the table below.

	Allocation
Derw Newydd SEMH secondary provision	£1,854,181
Hafan SEMH primary provision	£841,833
Engagement Team and Outreach provision to mainstream schools	£765,402
Horizon anxiety Class	£295,898
Early intervention base	£226,418
Special Resource Base at St Joseph's primary	£144,400
TOTAL	£4,128,132