Department for Education

Education & Skills Funding Agency

Benchmarking Report Card 2020-21

This is the benchmarking report card for your school. It captures highlights of your school's spending compared with a small number of schools that share similar characteristics. The report card draws on published spending and staffing data from 2020-21 for local authority-maintained schools.

The first column in each chart shows your school. The school in the second column is the similar school that is geographically closest to your school. The remaining schools are those most statistically similar based on your school's free school meals (FSM) and special educational needs (SEN) rates. Primary, secondary, special schools are only compared with one another.

The report card can be used to stimulate discussion within the school leadership and governance team to discover where resources may be used more effectively, and to prompt more sharing of best practice among schools.

The report card might prompt you to look at the following:

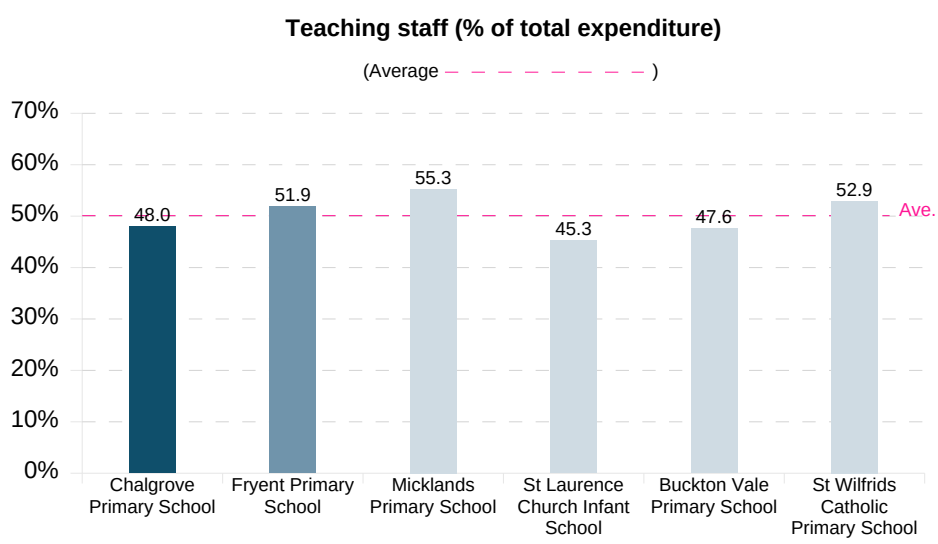
- Why are you spending more in a particular category than similar schools? Could you be more efficient or do you have unique circumstances compared with those schools?
- What might you do to achieve the greatest efficiency in that category?
- What could you learn by contacting the similar schools?

You can also use the schools financial benchmarking service on GOV.UK to compare similar schools' spending in more detail. This allows you to make a wide range of comparisons with other schools on different categories of spend, choose the criteria to identify schools to compare with and produce customised reports.

You can find further guidance and tools on school resource management on GOV.UK.

Areas of interest for all schools

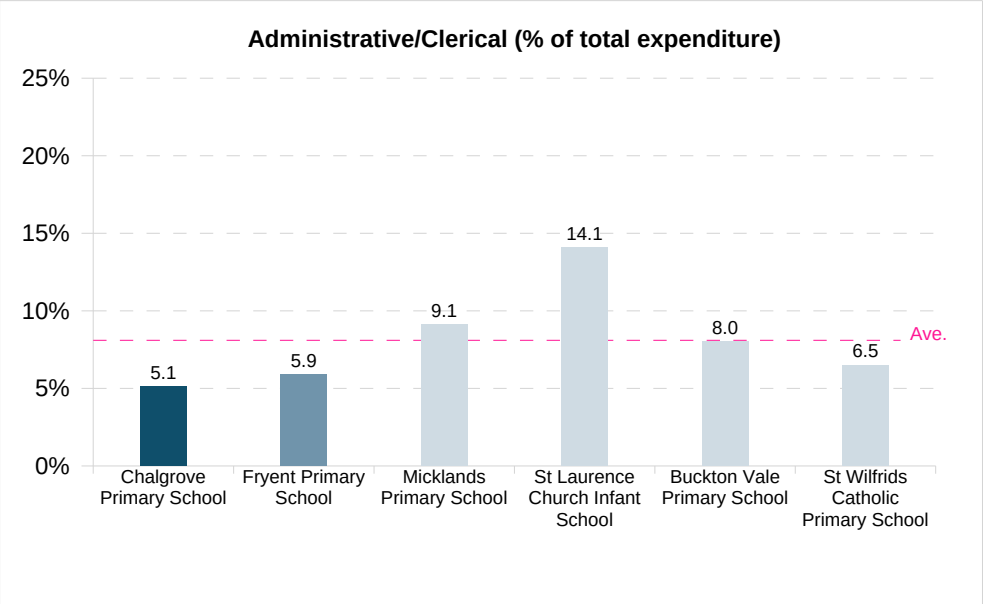
These charts identify areas that are likely to be relevant to all schools in ensuring they make the best use of their available resources.



Your current expenditure on teaching staff is below the average for your comparison group by 2.1 percentage points.

There is some evidence that greater relative spend on teachers tends to be associated with higher attainment. Of course, simply spending a greater proportion of a school budget on teaching does not guarantee results. The most efficient schools deploy their workforce effectively; taking care to review their staffing structures, focus on improving the quality of teaching and consider the best use of teachers' time.

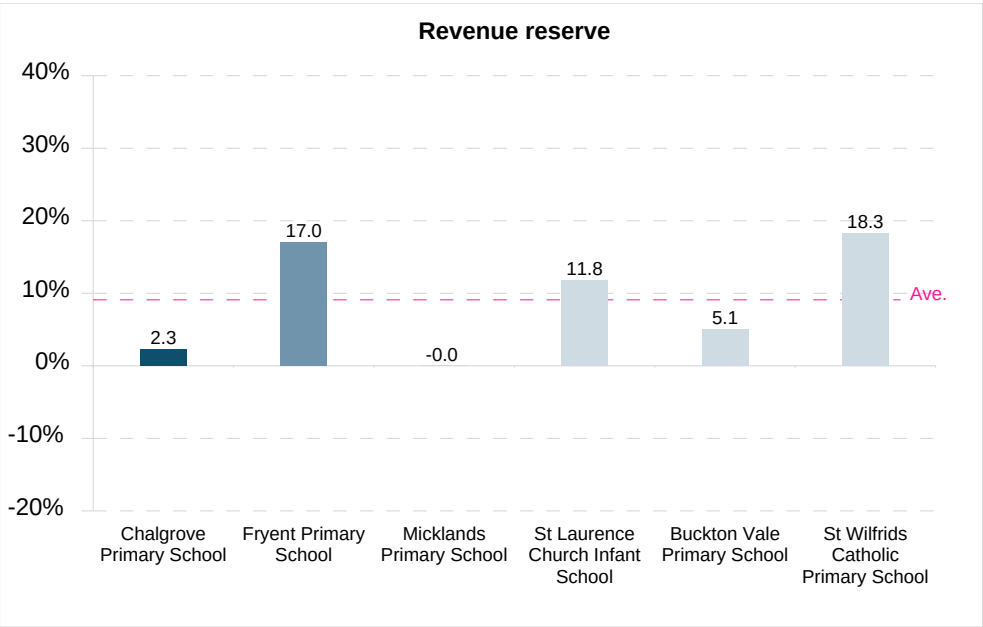
Given that spending on teachers makes up the majority of school spending, it's especially important to make sure you're managing your resources in the best way possible.



Your current expenditure on administrative/clerical functions is below the average for your comparison group by 3.0 percentage points.

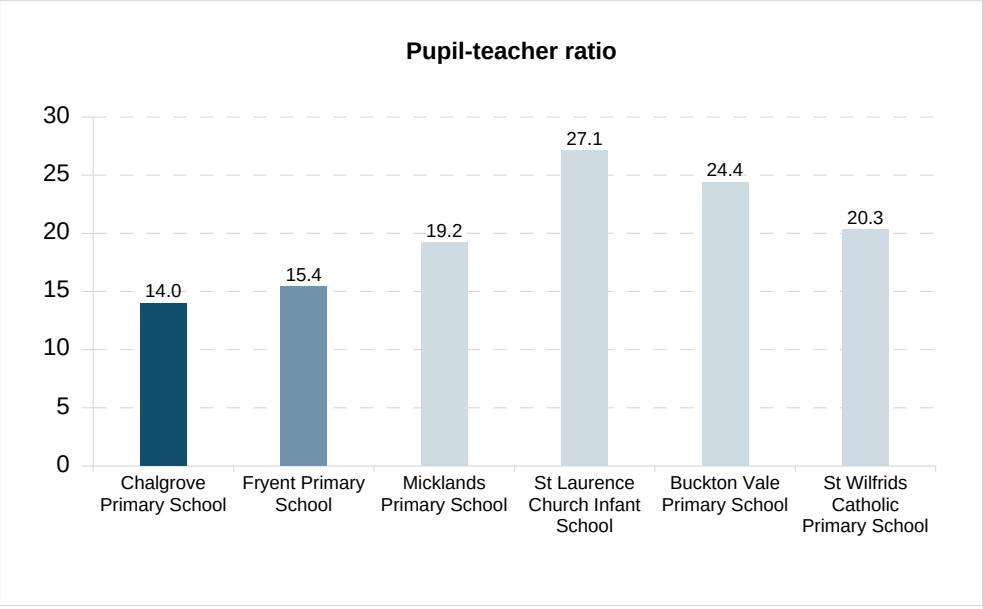
This category refers to spend on administrative and clerical staff, administrative supplies and bought-in services such as legal and auditor costs.

Efficiencies in administrative/clerical expenditure could be made by upskilling staff, changing professional services supplier or reducing waste. Greater collaboration can also achieve greater efficiency and increase buying power. For more procurement guidance please click here.



Your current revenue reserve is below the average for your comparison group by 6.8 percentage points.

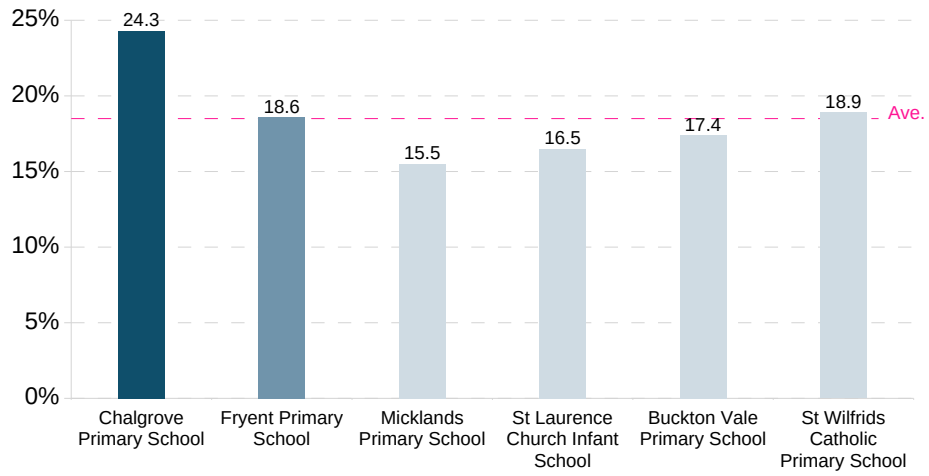
Keeping a modest level of revenue reserves from year to year is prudent, but if a school or trust is building up a substantial surplus there should be a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit pupils.



This graph shows the number of pupils to teachers. When reviewing staffing structures schools should consider pupil-teacher ratios in comparable schools, as well as allocation of classroom-based support staff.

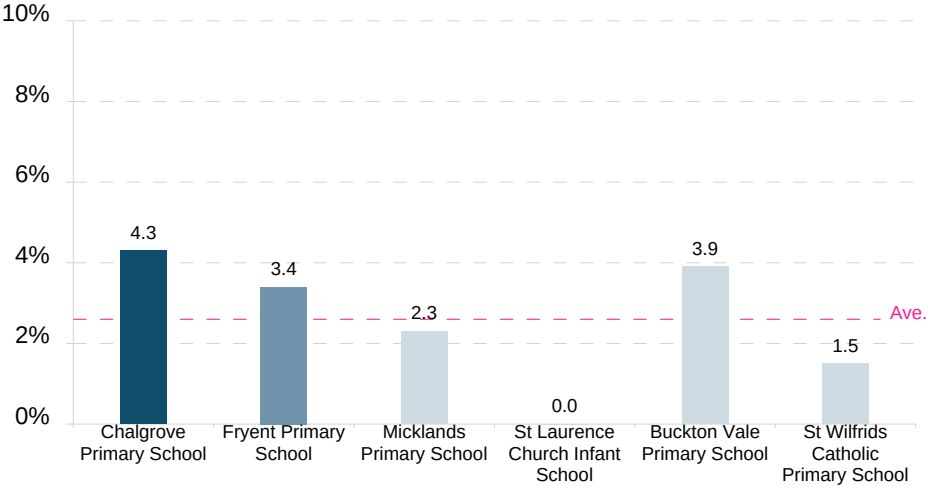
Areas for further investigation

The following areas have been identified as ones where your school may be able to improve the use of available resources. These are the expenditure categories where your expenditure is highest compared with the average of your comparison group.



Your current expenditure on support staff is above the average for your comparison group by 5.8 percentage points.

Support staff can play an important role in the all-round education of pupils, but it could be possible to make better use of resources by training existing staff in multiple roles or through timetabling improvements. In order to maximise the impact on pupil outcomes, support staff need to be carefully deployed. Schools could consider the Education Endowment Foundation's advice on teaching assistants here.



Your current expenditure on education consultancy is above the average for your comparison group by 1.7 percentage points.

Also known as "bought-in professional services - curriculum", this spending category includes spending in areas such as self-employed music teachers, paid support for underachieving groups, library and museum services as well as traditional curriculum consultancy services.

Your comparator schools

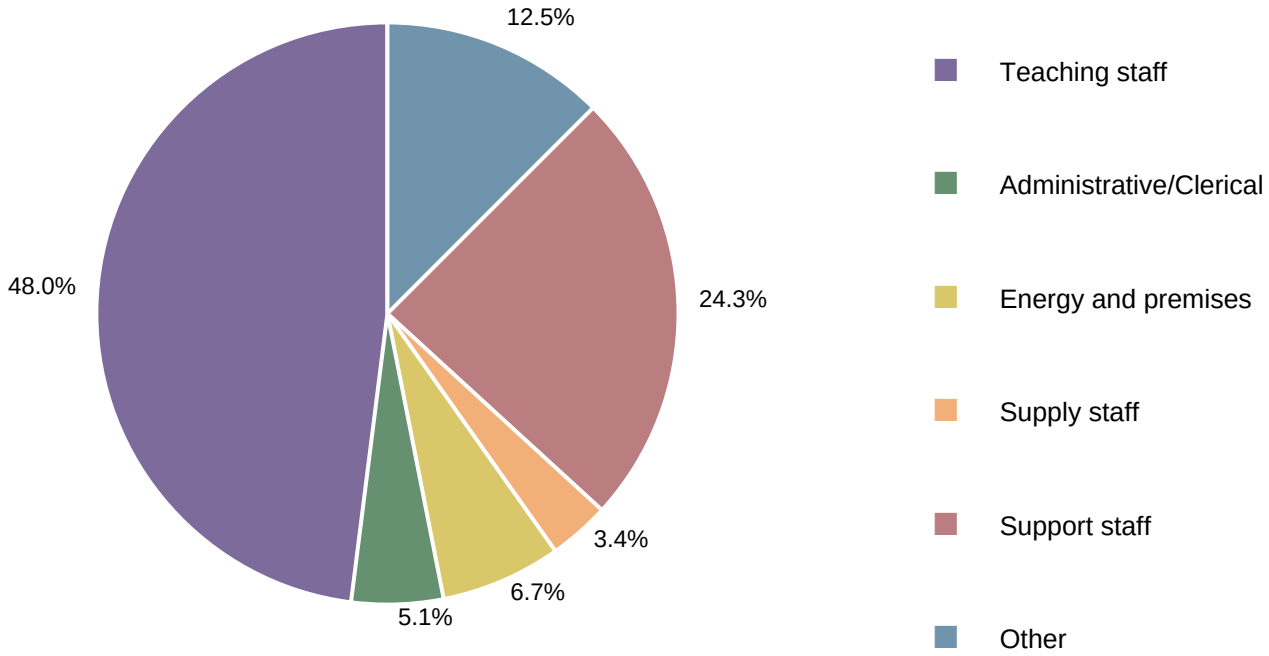
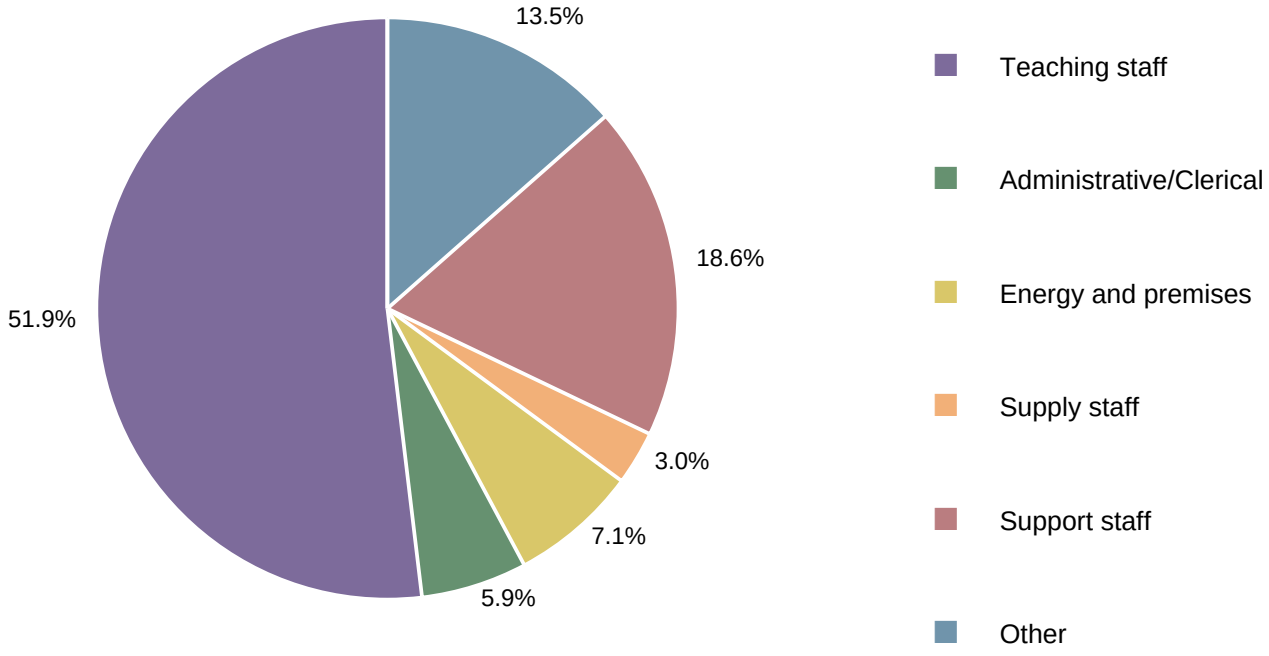
The following schools have been chosen on the basis that they have the most similar contextual information. The first comparator in the list is your school, the second is the closest school with similar SEN and FSM data, and the remaining schools are those of the same type with the most similar SEN and FSM data to yours.

School Name	LAESTAB	FSM %	SEN %	FTE pupils	Distance in miles	Spend per pupil (pounds)
Chalgrove Primary School	3022067	16.8	18.5	238	N/A	6,842
Fryent Primary School	3042074	16.5	17.8	678	2.7	6,985
Micklands Primary School	8702234	16.9	18.6	372	33.2	5,149
St Laurence Church Infant School	3303371	17.0	18.4	271	94.1	4,931
Buckton Vale Primary School	3572021	17.1	18.5	281	152.9	5,130
St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	3593414	16.4	18.4	195	166.2	5,224

The following charts provide a summary of the school's total expenditure split into 6 high-level categories.

We have also included a summary of total expenditure of the most local similar school. For a more detailed comparison please also use the schools financial benchmarking service on GOV.UK.

Expenditure: Chalgrove Primary School



Expenditure: Fryent Primary School