

Summary of meeting note

Cabinet Secretary for Education Bilateral Meeting with the WLGA

Tuesday 17 March 2026

10:00-10:45

Attendees

Lynne Neagle MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education (**LN**), Special Advisor, Welsh Government officials and WLGA.

Note of meeting

There were 6 agenda items. Agenda item 2 was regarding School Funding and led by WG.

During that agenda item **LN** acknowledged the significant financial challenges facing local authorities and schools. Noted that while decisions on school funding are made locally, the Welsh Government has increased investment through grants and the Local Government Settlement. Highlighted that the 2026–27 funding settlement will deliver a further substantial uplift following extensive collaboration and scrutiny. Following the budget agreement with Plaid Cymru, **LN** expressed a strong desire for as much funding as possible to reach schools directly.

The WLGA noted that they are very supportive of the work undertaken over the past two years in relation school funding.

Later, under the agenda item 4 on ALNco Pay (WLGA led), the WLGA raised concerns from some local authorities regarding the level of funding available. **LN** explained that following consultation and stakeholder support for moving ALNco onto the leadership pay scale, the Welsh Government has allocated additional funding to support implementation.

Under the agenda item 5 on Food and Fun School Holiday Enrichment Programme (WLGA led), **LN** thanked the WLGA for its support of the programme and highlighted the additional funding provided in recent years despite wider financial pressures, recognising the programme's significant value to learners and families.