

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 4 December 2019**

Subject: 2019 Census – Pupil and Teacher Numbers**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report provides Committee with an update on the data reported to Scottish Government in relation to the annual census of pupil and teacher numbers. The report also outlines the pupil teacher ratio (PTR) for 2019/2020 which will be published in December 2019.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee notes:

- (i) the authority has met the objective to maintain a PTR of 13.5 (or lower),
- (ii) the figures submitted to Scottish Government and validated on 14 November 2019 will be published in December.

3. Background

- 3.1** Scottish Government undertakes an annual teacher workforce planning exercise to monitor key measures and commitment to protecting teacher numbers. The information submitted to Scottish Government is based on data collected in a pre-set date in September and returned on a pre-set date in October. The dates this year were 18 September 2019, with a submission date of 15 October 2019.
- 3.2** The key objective for local authorities is to ensure a national PTR is achieved. The national PTR in 2018 was 13.6 meaning an average of 13.6 pupils per teacher per class. If the overall national commitment is not met then individual authorities who have contributed to this by reducing their PTR from the 2015 census data may receive a sanction. Our published PTR in 2015 was 13.5 and each year we aim to maintain or improve on this figure.

4. Main IssuesPupil Teacher Ratio

- 4.1** Table 1 shows the actual 2018/19 figures as shown within the published census data and the 2019/20 teacher and pupil numbers as calculated for the statistical return for Scottish Government. The figures for primary and

secondary schools include posts funded from Scottish Government monies, the Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Fund.

There has been an increase of 27 teachers in comparison with the previous year. The main reason for this is the increase in our probationer teacher allocation, an increase in SAC/PEF funded posts, and a lower than projected increase in the pupil roll.

Table 1 - Teachers in schools – All sectors (including Early Learning and Childcare)

Year	ELC	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Centrally Employed	Total FTE
2018/19	9	460	430	49	17	965
2019/20	12	468	450	49	13	992

(figures may not sum to total due to rounding).

- 4.3** Table 2 shows total teacher numbers (including primary, secondary, special and centrally employed but **excluding** ELC). The PTR is calculated by dividing the number of pupils by the total of teachers at Census date, **excluding** those within ELC centres. As this figure includes posts funded from Scottish Government monies this reflects favourably on the PTR.

Table 2 – Teachers in schools / PTR (all sectors excluding ELC)

Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Centrally Employed	Total FTE	Pupil Nos.	PTR
2018/19	460	430	49	17	956	12560	13.1
2019/20	468	450	49	13	980	12569	12.8

(figures may not sum to total due to rounding).

- 4.4** To monitor whether our commitment to maintain a PTR of 13.5 or improve the PTR, posts funded from Scottish Government monies require to be excluded. Table 3 provides the PTR when these posts are removed, and shows an increase of 17 FTE which resulted in the PTR moving from 13.5 to 13.3.

Table 3 – Teachers in schools / PTR (all sectors excluding ELC and funded posts)

Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Centrally Employed	LESS Funded Posts	Total FTE	Pupil Nos.	PTR
2018/19	460	430	49	17	26	930	12560	13.5
2019/20	468	450	49	13	33	947	12569	13.3

(figures may not sum to total due to rounding).

Issues Impacting on Teacher Numbers

- 4.5** Whilst all efforts are made to maintain teacher numbers it is recognised that factors such as teacher shortages and probationer allocation can impact on numbers. The previous recruitment initiatives undertaken, which included offering permanent to authority posts, commencing recruitment earlier to retain probationer teachers, co-ordinating volunteer placements and working/

closely with the Return to Teaching Course at Strathclyde University enabled us to manage recruitment requirements.

Probationer Allocation

- 4.6** The Scottish Government sets an annual target for the number of places for probationers that each local authority needs in order to contribute to the national deployment of probationers and contribute to the development of the future workforce. Table 4 details our bid for probationers for 2019/20 and the allocation.

Table 4 – Probationer Teacher Breakdown

Sector	Target	WDC Bid	Allocated	Actual at Census
Primary	41	38	48	42
Secondary	36	43	46	42
Total	77	81	94	84

- 4.7** The WDC bid is normally higher than the target as there is an expected 12% drop off from the number of probationers allocated and the final number who come to the authority.
- 4.8** At census date 84 probationers were in post (42 primary and 42 secondary), a significant increase of 26 allocated probationers from the previous year. This demonstrates that the efforts made by Scottish Government to promote teaching as a career have been effective and encouraged individuals to train in the profession. This increase contributed to the improved PTR for 2019, and recognition of the increase in probationer allocation will be factored into the annual staffing exercise for 2020/2021.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no specific people implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** There may be potential financial sanctions as part of the local government settlement for failing to maintain teacher numbers. The allocation of probationers was met from the existing staffing budgets.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Failure to maintain an adequate PTR may result in a financial penalty to WDC.
- 7.2** Failure to maintain an adequate PTR would impact on the learning and teaching environment.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** There was no requirement to undertake an EIA as the report provides an update on teacher numbers and is not a new policy or function or a significant change to an existing policy or function.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** The Legal Services Officer and Section 95 Officer were consulted in relation to the content of the report.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The review exercise directly supports the Council's strategic priorities relating to open, accountable and accessible local government.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All