

## **West Dunbartonshire Council**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

#### **Education and Lifelong Learning Committee:**

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**Subject: Summary statistics for Schools in Scotland -1<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

#### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** This report provides information to members on the Scottish Government's annual summary of statistics for schools.

#### **2. Background**

**2.1** The Scottish Government has produced the first issue of its Statistical Bulletin which brings together information from a range of sources including:

- The annual census of pupils in publicly funded schools in Scotland, conducted on 23rd September 2010
- The annual census of teachers in publicly funded schools in Scotland, conducted on 23rd September 2010
- Attendance and absence in Scottish Schools in the 2009/10 academic year
- Exclusions from Scottish Schools in the 2009/10 academic year.

**2.2** The Scottish Government will no longer publish separate reports on attendance and absence figures for schools.

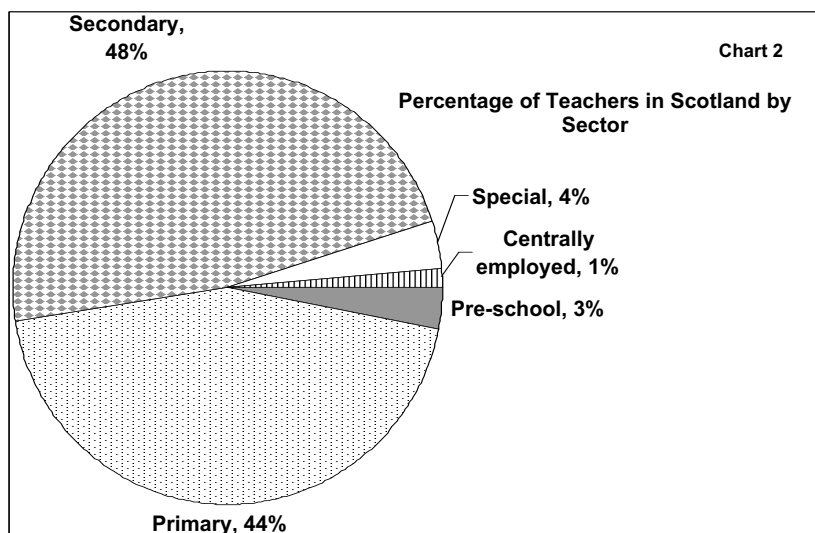
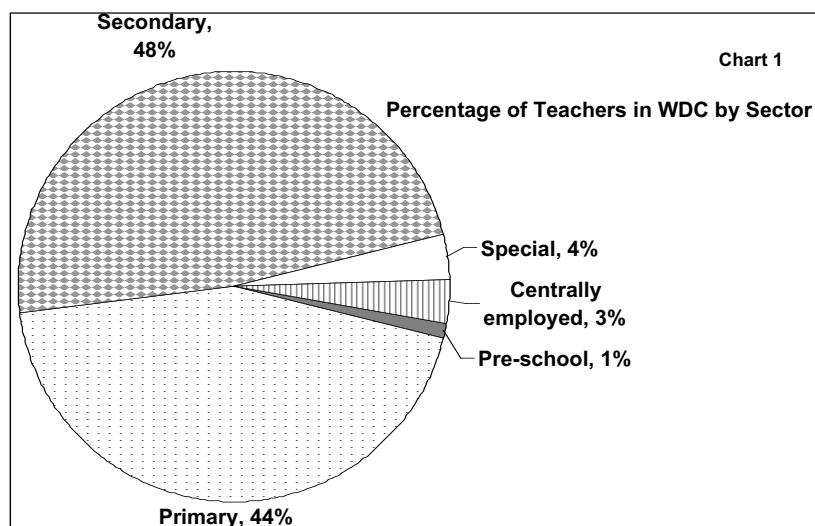
**2.3** The maximum class sizes in primary schools are as follows:

- 30 for single stage classes in primary 1, 2 and 3 with 25 set as a norm for primary 1;
- 33 for single stage classes in primary 4, 5, 6 and 7;
- 25 for composite stage classes

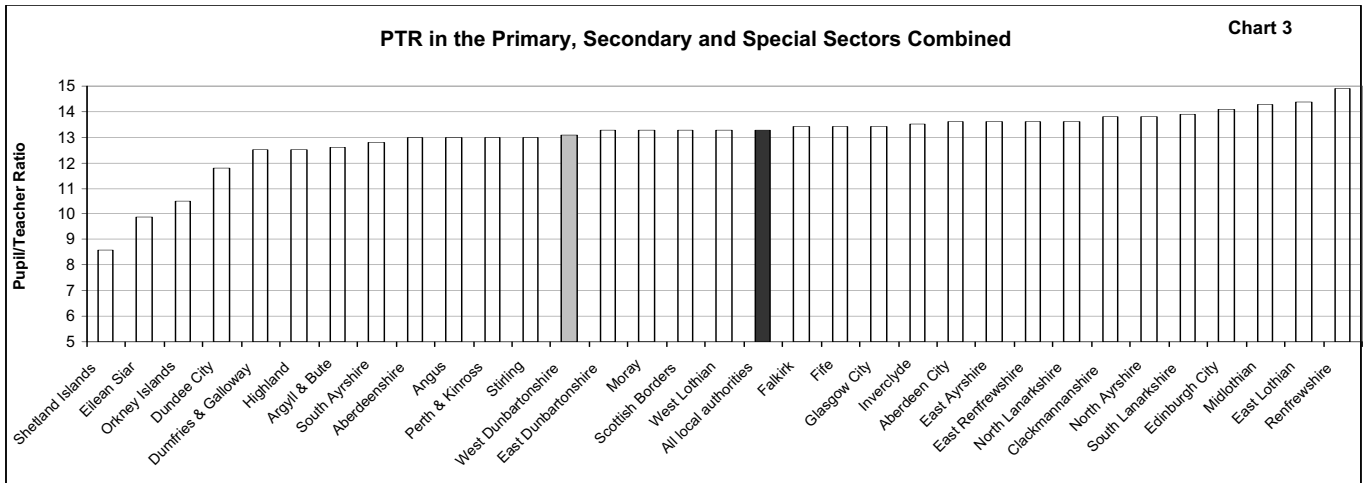
### 3. Main Issue

3.1 Table 1.1 (Appendix 1) shows the number of schools, pupils, teachers and pupil teacher ratios by school sector. In the last year West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) has had a 1.1% decline in pupil numbers compared to a 0.5% decline nationally. In the primary sector, the ratio of the number of pupils to each full-time equivalent teacher or Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) was 15.6, improved by 0.2 from 15.8 last year. Nationally the figure remained at 15.8. In the secondary sector the PTR was 12.4, a decline of 0.2 from 12.2 last year. Nationally this figure also declined by 0.2 from 11.9 to 12.1.

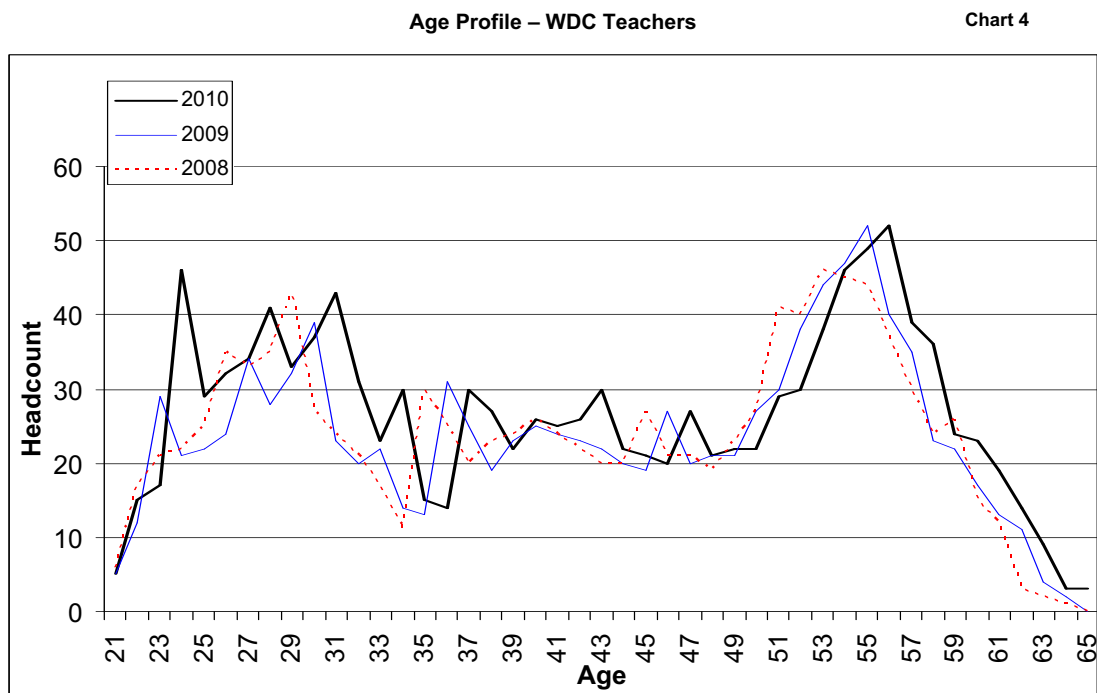
3.2 Table 2.1 (Appendix 1) and the charts 1 and 2 below show the distribution of teachers over the various teaching sectors. WDC has 44% of its teachers in the primary sector, 48% in the secondary sector, 4% in the special sector; these three figures reflect the national average. The 3% of teachers employed centrally is above the national average of 1%. The remaining 1% of teachers are employed in the Early Years Sector.



**3.3** Table 2.2 (Appendix 1) and chart 3 below shows the PTR in the primary, secondary and special sectors combined. WDC's PTR has risen slightly in the past year from 12.8 pupils per teacher to 13.1 which is marginally better than the national average of 13.3. WDC is currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> of the 32 local authorities. The range in PTRs goes from Shetland which has the lowest, 8.6, to Renfrewshire with the highest at 14.9.

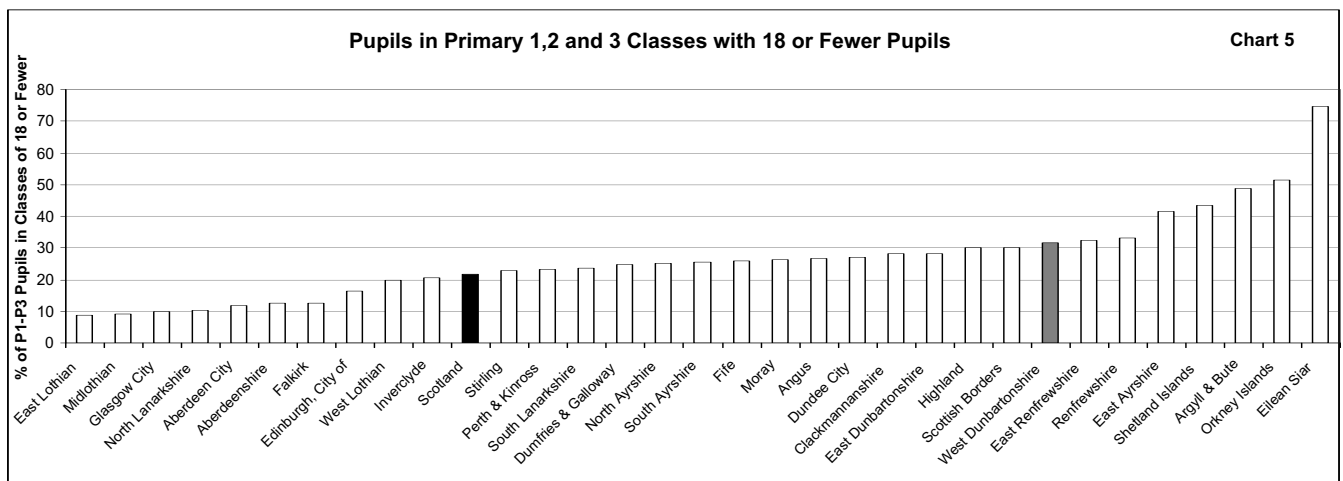


**3.4** Chart 4 below shows the age profile of school teachers. WDC is very similar to the national profile, with a major peak of teachers in their mid fifties and increased numbers in their twenties.

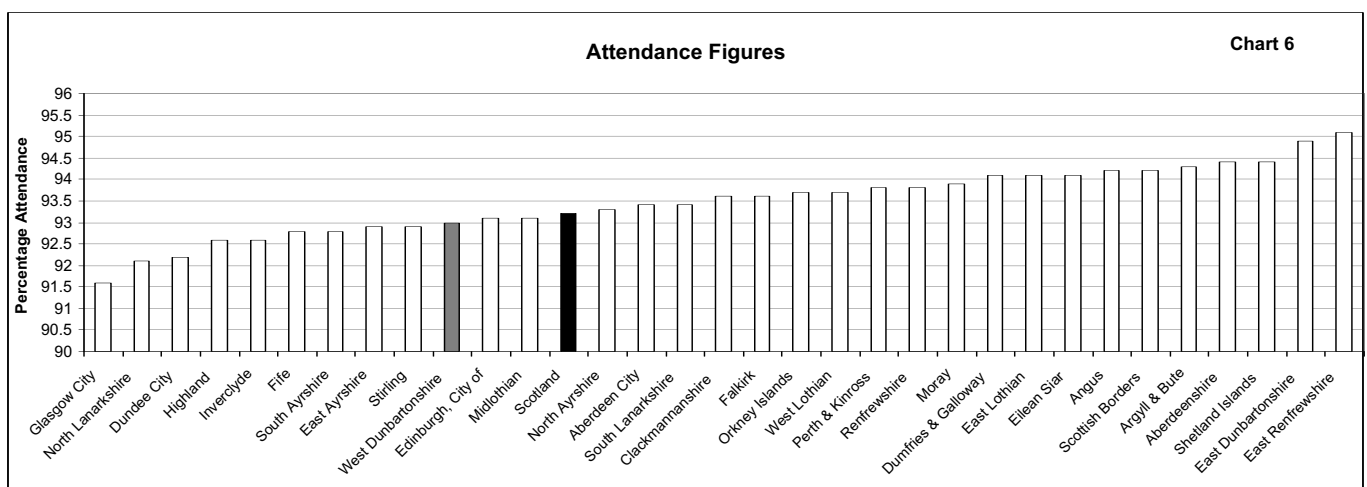


**3.5** Table 3.1 (Appendix 1) shows the number of primary 1, 2 and 3 **classes** in each class size band. Nationally 18% of classes from primary 1 to 3 have 18 or fewer pupils. In WDC 39% of classes from primary 1 to 3 have 18 or fewer pupils.

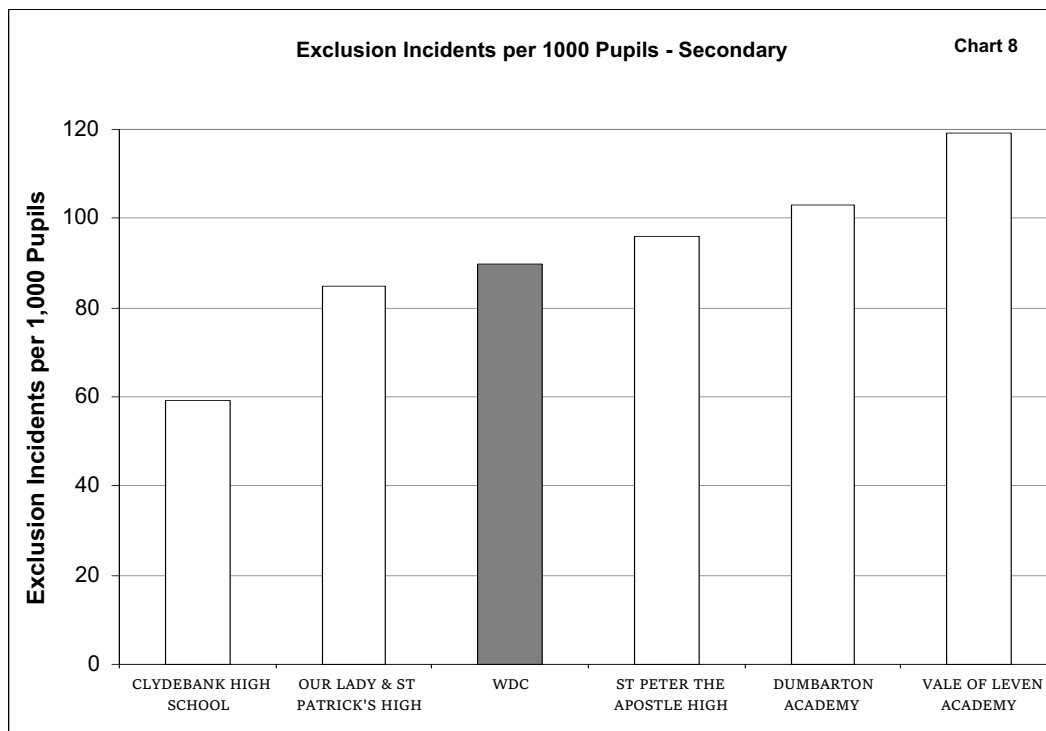
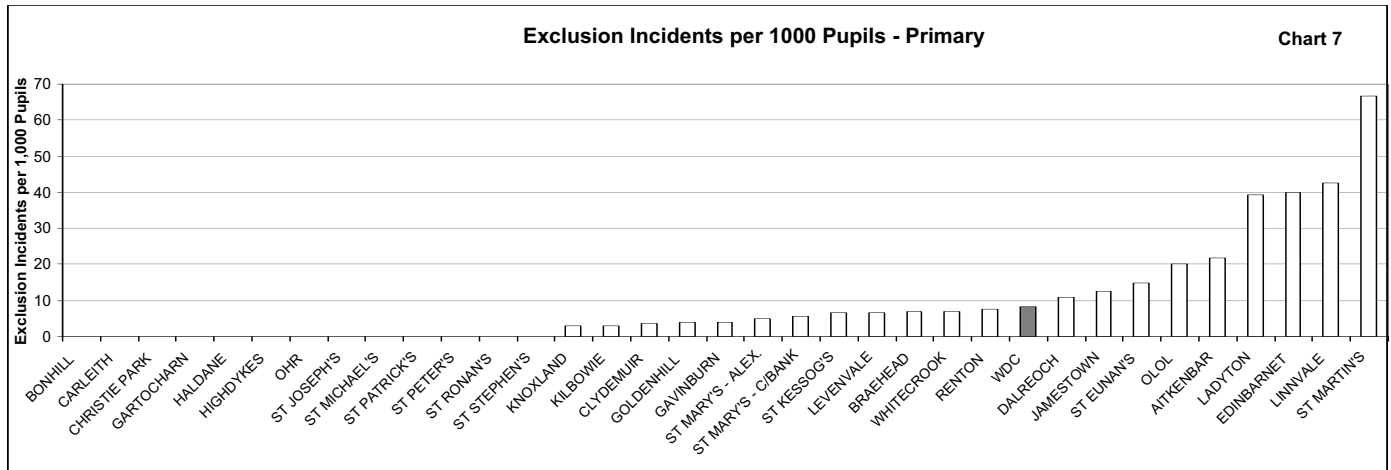
**3.6** Table 3.2 (Appendix 1) and chart 5 below shows the percentage of **pupils** in primary 1, 2 and 3 classes with 18 or fewer pupils. WDC has 31.6 % of primary 1 to 3 pupils in classes with 18 or fewer pupils. This is significantly higher than the national average of 21.7%. WDC is currently ranked 8<sup>th</sup> highest of the 32 local authorities.

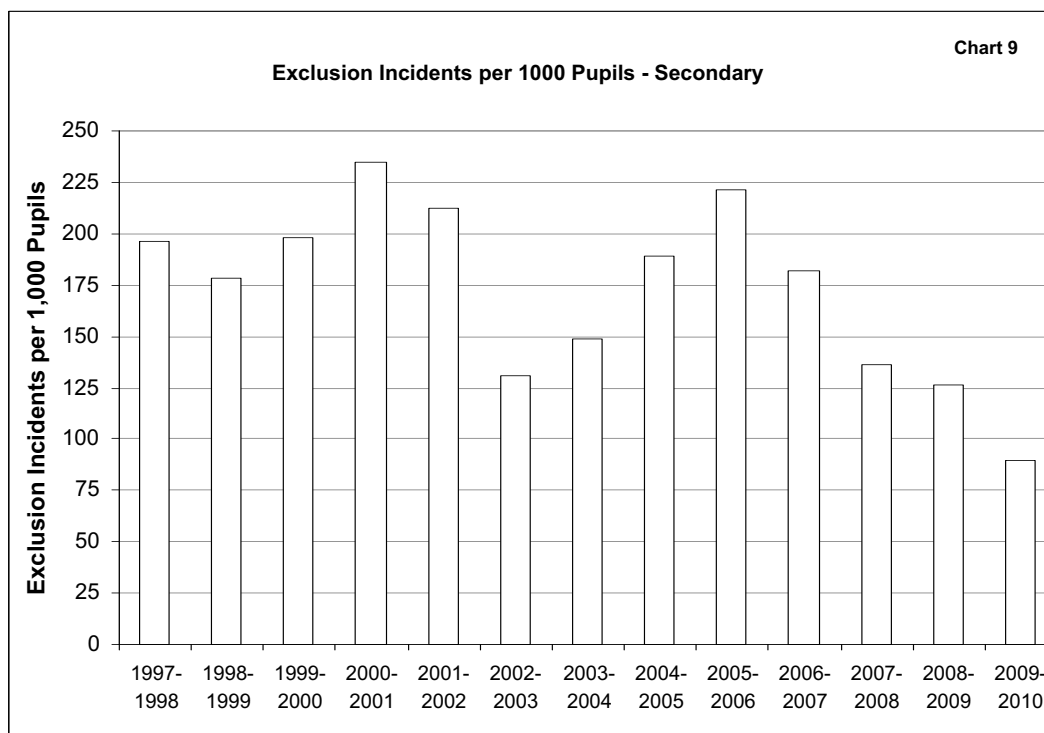


**3.7** Table 4.3 (Appendix 1) and chart 6 below shows the percentage attendance figures. Attendance in WDC has improved by 0.1% to 93% while nationally the figure has deteriorated by 0.1% to 93.2%. 20 of the 32 local authorities have seen a deterioration in their attendance rates over the last year. This has resulted in WDC moving up 6 places its ranking with other local authorities from 29<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is our highest level of attendance and therefore highest ranking in the last 5 years.



**3.8** Table 5.1 (Appendix 1) and charts 7, 8 and 9 below shows the cases of exclusions and rate per 1000. In WDC schools there were 47.5 temporary exclusions per 1000 pupils, compared with 2008/09 figure of 66.6, a reduction of 29%. Overall the national figure also reduced from 49.7 to 44.6 representing a 10% reduction. For the first time in a number of years the Council's exclusion figures are close to the national average.





#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** There are no people implications

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** There continues to be a significant financial investment in school based measures for children requiring additional support and at risk of being excluded or not attending. Many of the measures are dependent on enhanced pupil-staff ratios, and intensive input from specialist staff.

**5.2** The Pupil and Family Support Teams in school clusters and Social Work Family Support Services are key to meeting children's needs. These services require additional funding on top of the mainstream budget.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** Failure to deliver improved exclusion figures represents a risk to educational outcomes for a number of pupils.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

**7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact for this report.

## **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 8.1** The figures for the number of exclusions in the year 2010 show a significant and welcome decrease on the figures from the previous year. Overall the numbers of exclusions are now at their lowest level since figures began to be recorded in their present form in 1997.
- 8.2** The figures for attendance show an improved performance on the previous year.
- 8.3** The percentage of children in primary classes 1 to 3 that contain 18 pupils or less is almost 10% higher than the national average.

### Recommendations

**8.4** Members are asked to:

- 1) to note the contents of this report and,
- 2) to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff, pupils and parents which have contributed to this performance.

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**Executive Director of Educational Services**

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<b>Appendix:</b>	Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.1 - 2010 Edition
<b>Background Papers</b>	None
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards