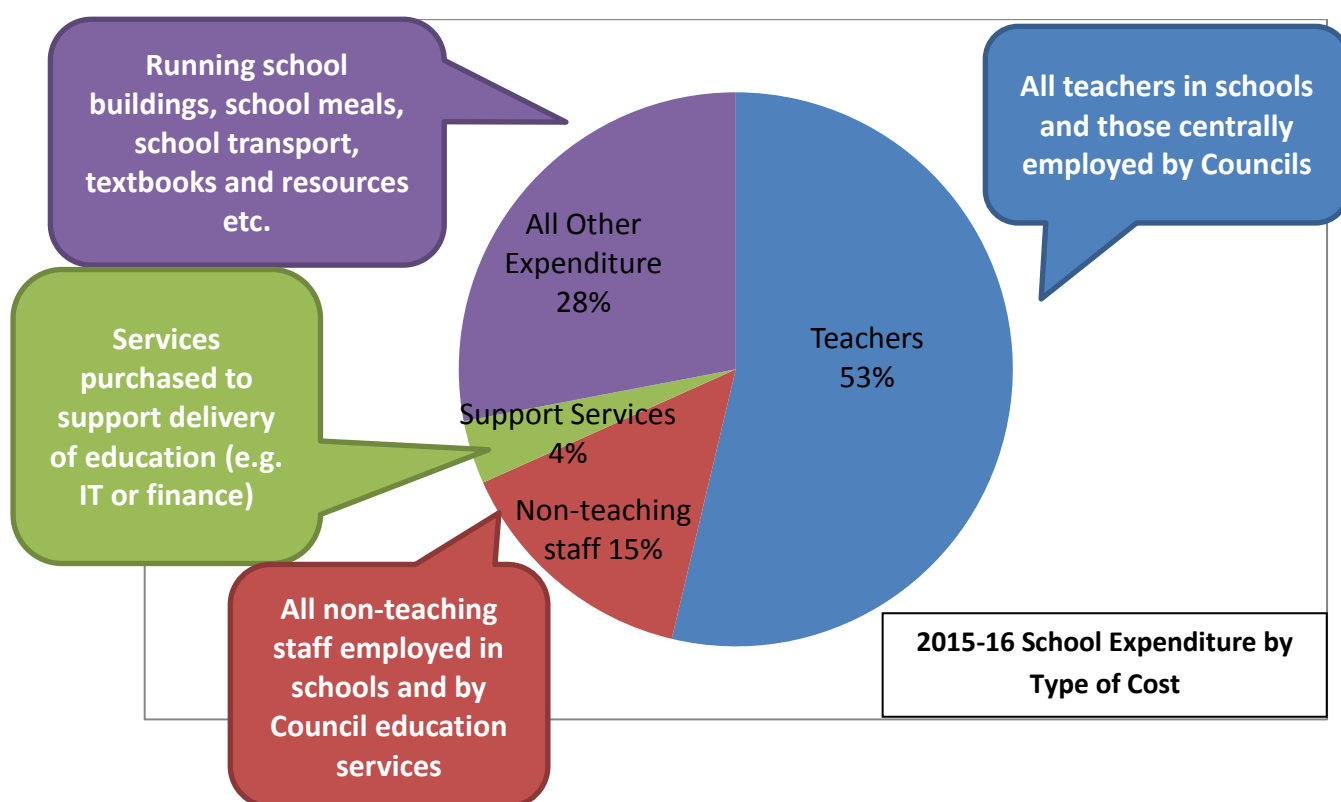


## Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education

The Scottish Government is consulting on how schools should be funded in the future. We are keen to hear parents' views, and this is a brief summary of the consultation. It is based on the Government's vision for an education system that is a school and teacher-led, where decisions about learning and teaching are taken at school level. We want to ensure that the way schools are funded supports that vision. Your views are invited by 13 October 2017.

### How are schools currently funded?

The Scottish Government allocates money for a wide range of public services to local authorities who then decide how much to spend on education and then on individual schools. Nearly £5 billion is spent every year by Councils on education. There is wide variation in the level and method of allocation of schools funding across Scotland.



**Question 1: What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of the current system of funding schools?**

### Scottish Government's Vision and Aims

The Scottish Government is determined to improve education and the life chances of all our children and young people. This is set out in the National Improvement Framework:

**Excellence through raising attainment:** ensuring every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy; and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and

**Achieving equity:** ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.

**Question 2: How can funding for schools be best targeted to support excellence and equity for all?**

### **Responsibilities of Headteachers**

Some school funding is already the responsibility of headteachers, while other areas of spending are dealt with centrally by the local authority. The Scottish Government plans to create a Headteachers' Charter, to define headteachers' responsibilities and support and empower them to raise attainment in their school. This Charter could be used to set out a national approach to devolving funding to school level, defining nationally the funding responsibilities which should be for headteachers.

**Question 3: What elements of school spending should headteachers be responsible for managing, and what elements shouldn't they be responsible for managing?**

### **Targeted Funding**

Pupil Equity Funding is specific funding available to headteachers to use for additional staff or resources they consider will help raise attainment for children and young people who are affected by poverty. This funding is provided to 95% of schools in Scotland on the basis of £1,200 per pupil in P1 to S3 known to be eligible for free school meals.

We could build on the approach taken in the Pupil Equity Fund and target funding at schools on the basis of particular need factors known to impact on pupil outcomes.

**Question 4: What would be the advantages and disadvantages of greater funding allocated directly to schools?**

You can find more details on this at

- *Education Governance: Next Steps - Empowering Our Teachers, Parents and Communities to Deliver Excellence and Equity for Our Children: Executive Summary*  
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/7994>
- *Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education*  
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/2057>

Please email your responses to [FairFunding@gov.scot](mailto:FairFunding@gov.scot) or write to us at Empowering Schools Unit, Scottish Government, 2A-South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, by **13 October 2017**.