

Item 13**TITLE OF REPORT: Diversity in Schools Data Collection****Purpose of the Report**

To provide Schools Forum with information on diversity in schools data collection and the impact this can have on English as an Additional Language (EAL) funding in mainstream schools.

Background

At appendix 1 is a report produced by Gateshead's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), which highlights the data collection variables between Gateshead schools in recording the diversity of ethnic origins and languages spoken in Gateshead Schools.

This report links the data collection variables noted in the attached report to the possible impact on mainstream school funding. Although the main language and ethnicity data collection is via the January school census, it is the October school census that drives funding.

The October census collects the language of each individual child, the data is then filtered into 3 groups "1_ENG" English speaking children, "3_UNK" pupils whose language is unknown or undeclared and "2_OTH" all other pupils. It is only children in the "2_OTH" category that have been in the school system for less than 3 years that will attract funding.

Funding levels for EAL children increased significantly from 2017/18 to 2018/19 with primary funding increasing from £260 to £515 per eligible EAL child, and secondary school funding increasing from £260 to £1,385 per eligible child, and therefore it has become increasingly important to collect this information correctly.

The report also highlights the different data collection formats that Gateshead schools use to collect statutory and non-statutory data from parents, carers and children.

A small officer group met to discuss the above issues and it was proposed that a standard form for data collection be developed for optional adoption by Gateshead Schools. There are many benefits of using a standard form: -

- Adoption of the form will ensure General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) compliance, and the standard form can quickly be updated and disseminated when data requirements change
- Standard information will be provided to parents carers and children on why the data is collected and what the data will be used for
- Ease of use for parents carers and children at different data collection points
- Ease of data input into data collection systems for school census and other data returns

Information on the link between data collection and funding was also presented at a recent head teacher meeting. There was general support for the development of a standard data collection form, however the involvement of Schools Forum was questioned.

Proposal

The proposals are that Schools Forum notes the content of the reports and that officers work on producing a draft standard form for data collection that Gateshead schools can adopt. Officers would like to work with Schools Forum to receive feedback on data to be collected, the format of draft standard forms and the level of detail on why the information is being collected.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the content of the reports and considers the proposal to work with officers on the creation of standard data collection form.

For the following reason(s):

- To inform Schools Forum of how collection can affect the school census returns.
- To inform Schools Forum on affect that under reporting or incorrect reporting of EAL can have a direct effect on individual school funding
- To ask for input form Schools Forum on the data collected, format and level of detail proposed in the standard data collection form.

CONTACT: Carole Smith ext. 2747