



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Collaboration & Federation

David Lloyd-Thomas
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Federate (verb): *unite for a common purpose*

Collaborate (verb): *work in partnership*



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“In union there is strength”

Aesop – 6 century BC



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**Education Reform
Act 1988**

Chapter 40

London

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONARY OFFICE

Reprinted 1989



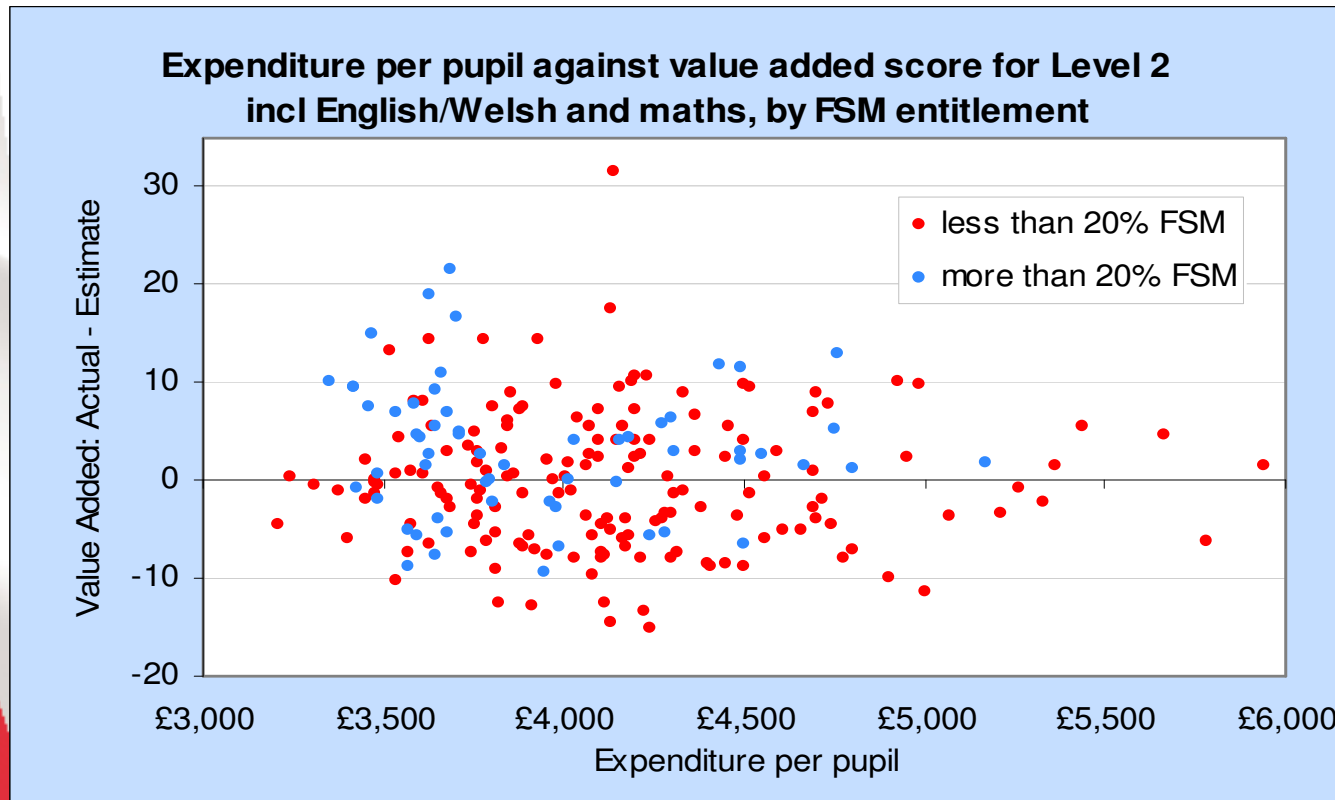
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How is Wales doing?

| | Wales | OECD mean | Wales Rank | Victoria AU | Ontario CA | Netherlands | Hong Kong | Finland |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Science | 505 | 500 | 22 | 513 | 537 | 525 | 542 | 563 |
| Reading | 481 | 492 | 30 | 504 | 534 | 507 | 536 | 547 |
| Mathematics | 484 | 498 | 34 | 513 | 526 | 531 | 547 | 548 |



It's not about money



The Welsh Agenda

- Attention on school improvement
- Working together – *SEF*



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**Education Act
2002**

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Ways of Working Together...



Informal
collaboration

GB
collaboration

GB
federation

Amalgamated
school



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Governing body collaboration

- The Collaboration of Between Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2008.
- The Collaboration Arrangements (Maintained Schools and Further Education Bodies) (Wales) Regulations 2008.



Main Features of Collaboration

- Your choice
- Two or more governing bodies
- Joint committee
- Can exercise GB functions
- Lasts one year but can be renewed.



Benefits of Collaboration

- Speeds up decision making
- Brings new thinking
- Strengthens capability of individual GBs
- Brings independence to GB business



Federation

- The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2010



Main features of Federation

- 2-5 schools
- Cross category
- Cross LA boundaries
- Not time bound
- Schools are legally separate entities



Federation Process

- GBs individually consider report
- Draw up and consult on proposal
- Consider consultation responses
- Decide what to do.
- Put into action.



Composition of GB

- 15-25 governors
- Same categories as individual schools
- Relaxed limits on membership
- Terms of office are the same
- Committee procedures are the same



Difficult bits

- Estyn inspection
- The budget
- Different categories of school
- Who's in charge?
- What if a school wants out?



Possible benefits

- Overview of schools
- Clusters of related schools
- Local perceptions of 'our school'
- Opportunities for head and school staff
- Social capital
- Can save cash



What next?

- Federation pilots
- Promote as part of SEF

