**Software Development Forum**

**National School Categorisation System in Wales**

**24 September 2015**

**Background**

In September 2014 the Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the National School Categorisation System in Wales. The system, which covers both primary schools and secondary schools, brought together the Programme for Government commitment to introduce a primary school banding system and builds on the improvements already achieved by secondary school banding. Both secondary school banding and the commitment to introduce primary school banding have now been superseded by the National School Categorisation System.

Details of the National School Categorisation System can be found via the following link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/schoolbanding/?lang=en>

**Secondary schools – additional indicators introduced in the 2014 model, not previously calculated in Wales**

The National School Categorisation System for secondary schools includes some numerical calculations which result in each school being allocated to a standards group. These calculations involve existing indicators that have been in use in Wales for some time, but from 2014 also introduced two new measures:

1. Capped Points Score (best eight) including English/Welsh and Mathematics
2. 5A\*-A

Full details of how these indicators are calculated are provided in the attached PDF link (also linked from the above page):

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150121-guidance-en.pdf>

**Conclusion**

We understand that some school MIS systems include a suite of performance indicators which are calculated when a school uploads their examination results in August. As well as for their own use, schools also provide this information to local authorities and regional consortia for school improvement purposes. The two indicators detailed above now form part of the indicators that the Welsh Government considers ‘key’ and schools may therefore find it helpful if these were also included in this suite of indicators.