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## **PUPIL ABSENCE IN SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND, AUTUMN TERM 2010 AND SPRING TERM 2011**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) reports on absence in state-funded primary and secondary schools in England in autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011.

This release provides information on the levels of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school, persistent absentees, on absence by reason, and absence by pupil characteristics.

The main changes from last year's SFR are:

The Department recently reduced the threshold at which a pupil is classified as a persistent absentee (PA) and it is now defined in terms of those missing around 15 per cent overall absence, down from around 20 per cent overall absence. See Technical Note 7 for full details.

Data on the new threshold has been included in this release, along with data on the old threshold. In addition, we have added a new table showing the impact of different PA thresholds ie the numbers of pupils who miss 12.5 per cent, 10 per cent and five per cent of sessions.

Tables on the characteristics and ethnicity of PAs have been added.

### **KEY POINTS**

#### **PERSISTENT ABSENTEES**

Across autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011, pupils are classed as **PAs** if absent for around 15 per cent of all possible sessions (38 or more half days). Term lengths vary from year to year and this affects PA rates, particularly when looking at data for just one or two terms. See Technical Note 18 for further details. The latest figures show that:

- Across the two terms 5.2 per cent of pupil enrolments were persistent absentees (174,830 enrolments) in state-funded primary schools and 9.5 per cent of pupil enrolments (275,500 enrolments) in state-funded secondary schools. (Table 2a)
- The rate of overall absence (authorised and unauthorised) for persistent absentees was 23.5 per cent, over 4 times higher than the rate for all pupils. (Table 2a)

- Across state-funded primary and secondary schools, persistent absentees accounted for 29.2 per cent of overall absence – 23.5 per cent of authorised absence and 55.6 per cent of unauthorised absence. (Table 2a)

Using the old PA definition of pupils absent around 20 per cent of possible sessions (52 or more of all half days), the latest figures show that:

- Across the two terms 1.9 per cent of pupil enrolments (62,330 enrolments) were persistent absentees in state-funded primary schools and 4.7 per cent of pupil enrolments (137,040 enrolments) in state-funded secondary schools. (Table 2b)
- The rate of overall absence (authorised and unauthorised) for persistent absentees was 32.0 per cent, over 6 times higher than the rate for all pupils. (Table 2b)
- Across state-funded primary and secondary schools, persistent absentees accounted for 17.5 per cent of overall absence – 12.4 per cent of authorised absence and 41.1 per cent of unauthorised absence. (Table 2b)

## **ABSENCE RATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2010 AND SPRING TERM 2011**

For state-funded primary and secondary schools, absence rates (percentage of half days missed) for the combined autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 were (figures in brackets refer to autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010):

Authorised Absence	4.76 per cent (5.03 per cent)
Unauthorised Absence	1.03 per cent (1.01 per cent)
Overall Absence	5.78 per cent (6.04 per cent)

For state-funded primary schools, absence rates were:

Authorised Absence	4.45 per cent (4.67 per cent)
Unauthorised Absence	0.69 per cent (0.68 per cent)
Overall Absence	5.14 per cent (5.34 per cent)

For state-funded secondary schools absence rates were:

Authorised Absence	5.11 per cent (5.44 per cent)
Unauthorised Absence	1.41 per cent (1.40 per cent)
Overall Absence	6.52 per cent (6.84 per cent)

## REASON FOR ABSENCE

- The most commonly reported reason for absence was “**illness (not medical or dental appointments)**”, which accounted for 61 per cent of all absence (where reason was provided). (Table 3)
- Absence for family holidays accounted for 9 per cent of all absence. (Table 3)

## ABSENCE BY PUPIL CHARACTERISTICS

- The rate of overall absence for those pupils who are eligible for and claiming free school meals (8.37 per cent) was 1.4 times higher than that for all pupils (5.78 per cent). (Table 4a)
- The occurrence of PAs was higher amongst pupils who were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals (FSM). 14.8 per cent of pupils who were known to be eligible for and claiming FSM were PAs, compared with 5.5 per cent for the rest of the school population. (Table 4b)
- For pupils with special educational needs, the highest rates of overall absence were amongst those pupils at *School Action Plus* (8.91 per cent). This is 1.7 times that for those pupils with no identified special educational needs (5.17 per cent). (Table 4a)
- Of all pupils with a statement of special educational needs 14.5 per cent were persistent absentees, compared to 5.4 per cent for those pupils with no identified special educational need. Of pupils at *School Action* 11.4 per cent were persistent absentees and of pupils at *School Action Plus* 16.3 per cent were persistent absentees. (Table 4b)
- Absence rates start to increase at secondary school age. The rate of overall absence for pupils in national curriculum year group 11 (7.69 per cent) was 1.5 times the rate of overall absence for those pupils in national curriculum year group 7 (5.14 per cent). (Table 4a)
- Absence rates were highest for Traveller of Irish Heritage (22.58 per cent overall absence) and Gypsy /Roma (17.22 per cent overall absence) ethnic groups. The rate of overall absence for pupils of Asian and Mixed ethnic origin were above the national average (6.07 per cent and 6.18 per cent, respectively); for pupils of Black and Chinese ethnic origin the rates were well below the national average (4.56 per cent and 3.36 per cent, respectively). The overall absence rate for all pupils was 5.78 per cent. Caution is recommended in interpreting the data for Traveller of Irish Heritage children and Gypsy/Roma children due to potential under-reporting for these ethnic classifications. (Table 5a)

## TABLES

<b>Table 1</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Rates of absence in England, autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 to autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 2a</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Persistent absentees in England, autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 to autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 2b</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Persistent absentees in England (old definition), autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 to autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 2c</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Persistent absentees in England - comparison by different rates of absence, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 3</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Absence by reason and gender in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 4a</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Pupil absence by characteristics in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 4b</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Persistent absentees - pupil absence by characteristics in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 5a</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Pupil absence by ethnic group in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
<b>Table 5b</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Persistent absentees - pupil absence by ethnic group in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A supplementary table containing figures at Local Authority (LA) and Government Office Region (GOR) level are available on the DfE statistics website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001030/index.shtml>

<b>Table 6</b>	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: Pupil Absence by type of school, by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England, autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011
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In line with the Government's data transparency agenda, underlying data (including some summary school level analyses) will be published at

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001030/index.shtml> on 19 October 2011 in the 'Publication's Underlying Data' section.

## **RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

DfE: Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2009/10  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml>

DfE: Pupil Absence in Schools in England - Spring Term 2011  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001020/index.shtml>

DfE: Statistical Release - Pupil Absence in Autumn Term 2010  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001003/index.shtml>

Guidance on school and pupil characteristics collected via the School Census is available on the DfE Statistics website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/schoolcensus.shtml>

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Definitions

1. The measures of absence used here are rates of authorised, unauthorised and overall absence and persistent absentees. Some cases of unauthorised absence may change to authorised absence at a later stage (once an explanation has been reported to the school). However, if this is supplied to the school after the School Census (SC) database has closed, the absence will still be recorded as “no reason yet”. In this respect, using overall absence rates and the rate of persistent absentees gives more suitable data for performance reporting.
2. The Department has published specific guidance ‘Keeping Pupil Registers’, which provides guidance on applying the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006; and ‘Absence and Attendance Codes’ which provides guidance on the use of codes to record pupil attendance and absence in schools. Both are available at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/schoolattendancedata/a0010008/pupil-registration-regulations-and-guidance>.
3. In law, parents of children of compulsory school age (aged 5 to 15 at the start of the school year) are required to ensure that they receive a suitable education by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Failure to comply with this statutory duty can lead to prosecution. Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible in law for making sure that pupils attend school.
4. Schools are required to take attendance registers twice a day: once at the beginning of the morning session and once during the afternoon session. In their register, schools are required to distinguish whether pupils are present, engaged in an approved educational activity or are absent. Where a day pupil of compulsory school age is absent, schools have to indicate in their register whether the absence is authorised by the school or unauthorised.
5. Authorised absence is absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absences for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (for example, illness).
6. Unauthorised absence is absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences. Arriving late for school, after the register has closed, is recorded as unauthorised absence.
7. The Department’s key measure of PA relates to the school year. The Department recently reduced the threshold at which a pupil is classified as PA. For the school year, this is now defined in terms of those missing around 15 per cent overall absence (46 or more sessions), down from around 20 per cent overall absence (64 or more sessions). For autumn term and spring term figures, the PA threshold is based on 38 or more sessions, previously this was 52 or more sessions. For autumn term 2007 and spring term 2008 a persistent absentee was taken as being absent for 36 or more possible sessions. This reduction was needed because of the unusually short spring term in 2008. This term was shorter by approximately 20 possible sessions in the majority (approximately 82 per cent) of schools. To aid transparency and simplicity our termly PA thresholds don’t tend to change from year to year (unless there are exceptional circumstances).
8. Data on the new threshold has been included in this release, along with data on the old threshold. In addition, we have also released national figures showing other potential PA thresholds ie the numbers of pupils who miss 12.5 per cent, 10 per cent and five per cent of sessions.

## Data Collection

9. The tables include city technology colleges, sponsor-led academies and secondary converter academies along with Local Authority (LA) maintained schools in a category labelled “state-funded secondary”, and LA maintained primary schools and primary converter academies in a category labelled “state-funded primary”. Due to large numbers of schools converting to academies during the spring term 2011, tables showing maintained schools only are not included in this release. Figures for academies and city technology colleges are not shown separately. Analyses of absence in academies were published in SFR 03/2011 (<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml>).
10. In 2006 the School Census (SC) started to collect pupil level absence data on a termly basis (spring, summer and autumn collections) from maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies relating to absence during the 2005/06 school year. For the 2006/07 school year the scope of collection of the SC was extended to include maintained primary schools and special schools. The SC collects information for a pupil's attendance in the term prior to the census. For example, the spring SC collects information on absence during the autumn term. Special schools provide annual absence data in the autumn SC and are therefore not included in this release.
11. Reason for absence was collected for the first time for the autumn term 2006. Schools are able to provide absence data using a reason code or by using total figures for the number of sessions missed due to authorised or unauthorised absence. A small proportion of schools have provided both a breakdown of absence by reason and totals. In addition, some schools do not have the required software to provide absence data by reason, and therefore are only able to provide overall totals. To derive absence rates, the sum of absence by reason has been used unless this is missing or is less than the total provided, in which case overall totals have been used.
12. For autumn term 2010, there were around 10 pupil enrolments for whom reason for absence data was submitted but no possible sessions were reported. As all of these pupils had an entry date of January 2011, and were therefore not attending the respective schools during the autumn term, their reason for absence data has been removed from this analysis.
13. Data are collected a term in arrears, meaning that where a school closes, data are not collected for the last term the school was open. For schools which close at the end of the autumn term, data for the autumn term will not be collected. Four sponsor-led academies opened at the beginning of January, of which two mistakenly returned data for the autumn term. The autumn term data for these two schools has been excluded from this analysis. Also, one sponsor-led academy opened half way through the spring term. As the absence data related to both the academy and its' predecessor school it has been removed from this analysis. Year on year comparisons of local authority data may be affected due to schools converting to academies.

## Data Coverage and Quality

14. Schools have provided, via the SC, individual level attendance data relating to the autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 for pupils aged 5 to 15 (at the start of the school year), who are non-boarders at the time of the census. In each term, the SC has collected the number of possible sessions of attendance; and the number of sessions missed, broken down by reason for absence, and overall totals of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence.
15. The School Census collects information for a pupil's attendance in the term prior to the census. Absence data for the autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 have been derived by linking pupil records collected in the spring 2011 SC and summer 2011 SC to derive overall two-term totals for the number of possible sessions; the number of sessions missed by reason for absence and the number of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence for each enrolment. Pupil characteristic data are not collected retrospectively. For example, the spring 2011 SC collects a pupil's national curriculum year group as at spring 2011 together with their attendance in the previous autumn 2010 term. Derived two-term absence totals have been linked to characteristic data collected in the spring SC. Where characteristic data are missing in the spring SC, information collected in the summer SC has been used. For free school meals and special educational needs, where this characteristic data was still missing, information collected in the autumn 2010 census, or, finally, the spring 2010 census has been used.
16. Information relating to pupil absence counts the number of pupil enrolments rather than the number of pupils. Where a pupil has moved school throughout the year, they will be counted more than once as they have recorded attendance data in more than one school. Pupil absence is recorded for the period a pupil is enrolled at a school. Where a pupil has a dual registration their absence may be returned from both schools, if both schools return absence data via the School Census.
17. For a pupil enrolment, if the number of possible sessions in a term is zero/missing or is less than the total number of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence, or if the total number of possible sessions exceeds the limit for the term, then the absence variables have been set to zero for that term only, and that term's information has been discounted from this SFR. If the total number of possible sessions for each and every term equals zero, then the enrolment has not been included.
18. Termly data can be affected by changes in term length and this appears to be the case for autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 when compared to autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010. Our data shows higher numbers of possible sessions across autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 when compared to the previous autumn and spring. Higher numbers of possible sessions provide more opportunity for pupils to become PAs based on the fixed threshold of 38 sessions, no adjustments have been made to account for this. Consequently, comparisons between two-term data should be treated with caution. End year results provide the definitive view of PA.
19. The information shown for attendance and absence is for two terms of the 2010/11 academic year. Data for schools which have since closed is included for the reporting period prior to their closure.



20. The information in this SFR is based on data returned by schools as part of the School Census. It does not include data which has been submitted by local authorities or schools outside of the School Census data collection.
21. The data presented here are based on the attendance registers which are taken twice a day: once at the beginning of the morning session and once during the afternoon session. It therefore does not include "internal unauthorised absence". This is defined as unauthorised absence by pupils between the school's twice daily registrations, i.e. a pupil is effectively recorded as attending during morning or afternoon registration but is physically not present at another part of the relevant session. The Department's current data systems are limited insofar as they only record and measure the registrations, not any subsequent absence.
22. The data contained in this SFR relates only to those pupils on the roll of a state-funded primary or secondary school. It does not include those children who are not registered at a school or who attend special schools.

## General

23. For national tables (tables 1 to 5) enrolment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
24. For the local authority table (table 6), national and regional enrolment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. Enrolment numbers of 1 and 2 have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by an "x". Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure was also zero. Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on enrolment numbers is 1 or 2, this has been replaced by an "x". "x" has also been used for secondary suppression to prevent disclosure.
25. All percentages have been rounded to two decimal places.
26. The following symbols have been used within this publication:  

0	– zero
x	– small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality (see Technical Notes 18 and 19)
.	– not applicable
27. Final absence statistics relating to the full 2010/11 school year are intended for publication as National Statistics in March 2012. This product will add value to the emerging findings published in the termly reports and this SFR by presenting whole year findings (cumulative results from the three termly collections) and providing more detailed analyses of absence by pupil characteristics and persistent absentees.
28. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

29. Further information, including local authority level analyses are available through the following link:- <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001020/index.shtml>
30. There are no planned revisions to this Statistical First Release, however, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the departmental revisions policy which is published at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>.
31. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to Schools Data Unit, Room 1F Area H, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail [schools.statistics@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:schools.statistics@education.gsi.gov.uk)
32. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7925 6789.

Table 1

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):  
RATES OF ABSENCE**Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007 to Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007	Autumn Term 2007 and Spring Term 2008	Autumn Term 2008 and Spring Term 2009	Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010	Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011
<b>State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments (4)	6,444,625	6,352,355	6,287,410	6,265,000	6,267,410
Percentage of half days missed due to: (5)					
Authorised absence	5.47	5.29	5.28	5.03	4.76
Unauthorised absence	0.97	0.97	1.03	1.01	1.03
Overall absence	6.44	6.26	6.31	6.04	5.78
<b>State-funded primary schools (1)(2)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments (4)	3,428,385	3,377,685	3,346,350	3,344,410	3,368,745
Percentage of half days missed due to: (5)					
Authorised absence	4.73	4.79	4.81	4.67	4.45
Unauthorised absence	0.52	0.56	0.65	0.68	0.69
Overall absence	5.26	5.35	5.46	5.34	5.14
<b>State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments (4)	3,016,240	2,974,670	2,941,055	2,920,590	2,898,665
Percentage of half days missed due to: (5)					
Authorised absence	6.30	5.86	5.81	5.44	5.11
Unauthorised absence	1.48	1.43	1.47	1.40	1.41
Overall absence	7.78	7.30	7.28	6.84	6.52

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term each year, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.

(5) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component part because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 2a  
**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):**  
**PERSISTENT ABSENTEES, THOSE MISSING AROUND 15 PER CENT OF SESSIONS (NEW DEFINITION) (4)**  
Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007 to Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007	Autumn Term 2007 and Spring Term 2008	Autumn Term 2008 and Spring Term 2009	Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010	Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011
<b>State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	566,115	532,185	528,095	439,105	450,330
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	6,444,625	6,352,355	6,287,410	6,265,000	6,267,410
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	8.8	8.4	8.4	7.0	7.2
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	18.7	17.9	16.8	16.6	15.6
Unauthorised Absence	7.2	7.3	7.4	8.0	7.9
Overall absence	25.9	25.3	24.2	24.6	23.5
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	30.2	28.5	26.9	23.2	23.5
Unauthorised Absence	65.1	63.4	59.9	55.1	55.6
Overall absence	35.4	33.9	32.3	28.5	29.2
<b>State-funded primary schools (1)(2)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	188,225	193,600	196,850	168,765	174,835
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	3,428,385	3,377,685	3,346,350	3,344,410	3,368,745
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.0	5.2
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	17.9	17.5	16.5	16.5	15.4
Unauthorised Absence	4.3	4.4	4.6	5.1	5.2
Overall absence	22.2	21.9	21.1	21.6	20.6
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	21.0	21.1	20.3	17.9	18.1
Unauthorised Absence	45.6	45.8	42.5	38.6	39.2
Overall absence	23.4	23.7	23.0	20.5	20.9
<b>State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	377,890	338,585	331,245	270,340	275,500
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	3,016,240	2,974,670	2,941,055	2,920,590	2,898,665
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	12.5	11.4	11.3	9.3	9.5
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	19.1	18.2	17.0	16.7	15.7
Unauthorised Absence	8.6	9.0	9.0	9.7	9.7
Overall absence	27.8	27.2	26.0	26.4	25.3
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	38.0	35.3	33.0	28.3	29.0
Unauthorised Absence	72.8	71.2	68.6	64.2	64.9
Overall absence	44.6	42.3	40.2	35.7	36.8

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) Persistent Absentees are defined as having an overall absence rate of around **15 per cent** or more. This equates to 38 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. (36 or more sessions in 07/08). See Technical Note 7.

(5) Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term each year, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(7) The total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by all pupil enrolments.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 2b

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):****PERSISTENT ABSENTEES, THOSE MISSING AROUND 20 PER CENT OF SESSIONS (OLD DEFINITION) (4)**

Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007 to Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011

England

	Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007	Autumn Term 2007 and Spring Term 2008	Autumn Term 2008 and Spring Term 2009	Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010	Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011
<b>State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	283,085	272,760	241,195	190,305	199,370
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	6,444,625	6,352,355	6,287,410	6,265,000	6,267,410
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.0	3.2
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	22.6	21.2	20.2	19.9	18.7
Unauthorised Absence	11.7	11.7	12.5	13.6	13.3
Overall absence	34.3	32.9	32.6	33.5	32.0
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	18.1	17.2	14.6	12.0	12.4
Unauthorised Absence	52.9	51.7	46.1	40.6	41.1
Overall absence	23.4	22.5	19.8	16.8	17.5
<b>State-funded primary schools (1)(2)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	73,940	81,525	72,595	59,375	62,330
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	3,428,385	3,377,685	3,346,350	3,344,410	3,368,745
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	2.2	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.9
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	22.4	21.3	20.4	20.5	19.3
Unauthorised Absence	7.2	7.2	7.7	8.5	8.5
Overall absence	29.6	28.5	28.2	29.0	27.8
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	10.2	10.8	9.2	7.8	8.0
Unauthorised Absence	29.9	30.9	26.0	22.3	22.5
Overall absence	12.2	12.9	11.2	9.6	9.9
<b>State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)</b>					
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (4)(5)	209,140	191,235	168,600	130,930	137,040
Total number of pupil enrolments (5)	3,016,240	2,974,670	2,941,055	2,920,590	2,898,665
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	6.9	6.4	5.7	4.5	4.7
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (6):					
Authorised Absence	22.7	21.2	20.1	19.6	18.4
Unauthorised Absence	13.3	13.7	14.5	16.0	15.5
Overall absence	36.0	34.9	34.6	35.6	33.9
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (7):					
Authorised Absence	24.8	23.1	19.7	16.1	16.9
Unauthorised Absence	62.1	60.8	56.2	50.8	51.7
Overall absence	31.9	30.5	27.1	23.2	24.4

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) Persistent Absentees (old definition) are defined as having an overall absence rate of around **20 per cent** or more. This equates to 52 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(5) Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term each year, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(7) The total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by all pupil enrolments.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 2c

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):**  
**PERSISTENT ABSENTEES - COMPARISON BY DIFFERENT RATES OF ABSENCE**  
 Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
 England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)	State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)	State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)
Number of pupil enrolments having around 5 per cent or more overall absence (4)(9)	1,451,470	1,407,120	2,858,590
Percentage of pupil enrolments having around 5 per cent or more overall absence (4)	43.1	48.5	45.6
Number of pupil enrolments having around 10 per cent or more overall absence (5)(9)	461,275	564,105	1,025,385
Percentage of pupil enrolments having around 10 per cent or more overall absence (5)	13.7	19.5	16.4
Number of pupil enrolments having around 12.5 per cent or more overall absence (6)(9)	281,880	388,845	670,730
Percentage of pupil enrolments having around 12.5 per cent or more overall absence (6)	8.4	13.4	10.7
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees having around 15 per cent or more overall absence (7)(9)	174,835	275,500	450,330
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees having around 15 per cent or more overall absence (7)	5.2	9.5	7.2
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (old definition) having around 20 per cent or more overall absence (8)(9)	62,330	137,040	199,370
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (old definition) having around 20 per cent or more overall absence (8)(10)	1.9	4.7	3.2

*Source: School Census*

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) 5 per cent or more overall absence equates to 12 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(5) 10 per cent or more overall absence equates to 26 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(6) 12.5 per cent or more overall absence equates to 32 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(7) Persistent Absentees are defined as having an overall absence rate of around 15 per cent or more. This equates to 38 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(8) Persistent Absentees (old definition) are defined as having an overall absence rate of around 20 per cent or more. This equates to 52 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

(9) Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term each year, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.

*Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.*

Table 3  
**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):**  
**ABSENCE BY REASON AND GENDER**  
Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)			State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)			State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
<b><u>DISTRIBUTION OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE</u></b>									
Percentage of absent sessions due to (4):									
Illness (NOT medical or dental appointments)	63.78	64.60	64.18	57.22	58.90	58.07	60.39	61.57	60.98
Medical/dental appointments	5.11	4.75	4.94	5.91	6.70	6.31	5.52	5.79	5.65
Religious observance	2.32	2.31	2.31	1.45	1.25	1.35	1.87	1.75	1.81
Study leave	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.18	0.19	0.19
Traveller absence	0.36	0.39	0.38	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.23	0.23	0.23
Agreed family holiday	8.69	9.03	8.85	3.17	3.16	3.17	5.84	5.91	5.87
Agreed extended family holiday	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.16	0.16	0.16
Excluded, no alternative provision	0.58	0.06	0.33	3.36	1.20	2.27	2.01	0.67	1.34
Other authorised circumstances	5.36	5.13	5.25	6.87	6.59	6.73	6.14	5.91	6.02
<b>Total Authorised Absence</b>	<b>86.48</b>	<b>86.55</b>	<b>86.52</b>	<b>78.49</b>	<b>78.29</b>	<b>78.39</b>	<b>82.36</b>	<b>82.16</b>	<b>82.26</b>
Percentage of absent sessions due to (4):									
Family holiday not agreed	2.94	3.07	3.00	2.10	2.13	2.11	2.50	2.57	2.54
Arrived late	1.23	1.24	1.23	1.18	1.16	1.17	1.20	1.19	1.20
Other unauthorised circumstances	7.37	7.19	7.28	14.95	15.24	15.10	11.28	11.48	11.38
No reason yet	1.98	1.95	1.97	3.29	3.18	3.23	2.66	2.60	2.63
<b>Total Unauthorised Absence</b>	<b>13.52</b>	<b>13.45</b>	<b>13.48</b>	<b>21.51</b>	<b>21.71</b>	<b>21.61</b>	<b>17.64</b>	<b>17.84</b>	<b>17.74</b>
<b>Total Overall Absence</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b><u>ABSENCE RATES BY REASON</u></b>									
Percentage of possible sessions missed due to (5):									
Illness (NOT medical or dental appointments)	3.28	3.31	3.29	3.64	3.93	3.78	3.44	3.60	3.52
Medical/dental appointments	0.26	0.24	0.25	0.38	0.45	0.41	0.31	0.34	0.33
Religious observance	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.10
Study leave	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Traveller absence	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Agreed family holiday	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.33	0.34	0.34
Agreed extended family holiday	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Excluded, no alternative provision	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.21	0.08	0.15	0.11	0.04	0.08
Other authorised circumstances	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.35	0.35	0.35
Unclassified (6)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
<b>Total Authorised Absence</b>	<b>4.46</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.22</b>	<b>5.11</b>	<b>4.71</b>	<b>4.81</b>	<b>4.76</b>
Percentage of possible sessions missed due to (5):									
Family holiday not agreed	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15
Arrived late	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Other unauthorised circumstances	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.95	1.02	0.98	0.64	0.67	0.66
No reason yet	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.15	0.15	0.15
Unclassified (6)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Unauthorised Absence</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>1.03</b>
<b>Total Overall Absence</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>5.13</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>6.37</b>	<b>6.67</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>5.78</b>

Source: School Census

- (1) Includes middle schools as deemed.  
(2) Includes primary academies.  
(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.  
(4) The number of sessions absent by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions absent as reported by reason (not overall totals). See Technical Notes 11, 12 and 14.  
(5) The number of sessions absent by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions possible. See Technical Notes 11, 12 and 14.  
(6) Includes absence returned as either authorised or unauthorised totals but not broken down by reason.

Table 4a  
**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):**  
**PUPIL ABSENCE BY CHARACTERISTICS (4)**  
Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)				State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)				State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)			
	Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):		
		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
<b>Gender</b>												
Boys	1,719,765	4.46	0.70	5.15	1,470,700	5.00	1.37	6.37	3,190,465	4.71	1.01	5.72
Girls	1,648,980	4.44	0.69	5.13	1,427,970	5.22	1.45	6.67	3,076,945	4.81	1.04	5.85
Total	3,368,745	4.45	0.69	5.14	2,898,665	5.11	1.41	6.52	6,267,410	4.76	1.03	5.78
<b>Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility</b>												
Known to be eligible for FSM	657,405	5.58	1.59	7.17	466,340	6.71	3.33	10.04	1,123,745	6.05	2.32	8.37
Other pupils (7)	2,711,335	4.18	0.48	4.66	2,432,330	4.81	1.05	5.86	5,143,665	4.48	0.75	5.23
Total (7)	3,368,745	4.45	0.69	5.14	2,898,665	5.11	1.41	6.52	6,267,410	4.76	1.03	5.78
<b>National Curriculum Year Group:</b>												
1 and below	586,310	5.06	0.74	5.80	1,985	5.33	1.27	6.60	588,295	5.06	0.74	5.81
2	573,275	4.50	0.68	5.19	1,905	4.66	1.05	5.71	575,180	4.50	0.69	5.19
3	554,870	4.25	0.66	4.91	1,775	4.38	1.01	5.38	556,645	4.25	0.66	4.91
4	534,160	4.23	0.64	4.87	1,685	4.21	1.15	5.35	535,845	4.23	0.65	4.87
5	520,115	4.20	0.64	4.84	18,885	4.31	0.41	4.72	539,000	4.20	0.63	4.83
6	523,015	4.21	0.63	4.84	24,430	4.68	0.49	5.17	547,445	4.23	0.63	4.86
7	2,595	4.60	0.36	4.96	551,200	4.49	0.65	5.14	553,800	4.49	0.65	5.14
8	75	5.53	1.46	6.99	560,655	5.07	0.96	6.04	560,730	5.07	0.96	6.04
9	15	5.97	0.88	6.85	573,955	5.27	1.31	6.58	573,970	5.27	1.31	6.58
10	20	2.48	0.00	2.48	563,995	5.18	1.72	6.90	564,015	5.18	1.72	6.90
11	25	1.23	0.17	1.40	556,180	5.41	2.27	7.69	556,205	5.41	2.27	7.69
12 and above	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	630	5.23	4.60	9.82	630	5.23	4.60	9.82
Total (7)	3,368,745	4.45	0.69	5.14	2,898,665	5.11	1.41	6.52	6,267,410	4.76	1.03	5.78
<b>First Language</b>												
First language is known or believed to be other than English	576,630	4.86	1.10	5.96	356,795	4.46	1.46	5.91	933,425	4.71	1.23	5.94
First language is known or believed to be English	2,786,605	4.36	0.61	4.98	2,531,075	5.20	1.40	6.60	5,317,675	4.76	0.99	5.75
Total (7)	3,368,745	4.45	0.69	5.14	2,898,665	5.11	1.41	6.52	6,267,410	4.76	1.03	5.78
<b>Special Educational Needs</b>												
Statements of SEN	55,170	6.55	0.85	7.40	61,575	6.69	2.10	8.79	116,745	6.62	1.51	8.13
School Action Plus	252,685	5.58	1.17	6.75	213,370	7.41	4.06	11.47	466,055	6.42	2.49	8.91
School Action	446,470	5.13	1.12	6.25	402,595	5.99	2.25	8.24	849,065	5.54	1.66	7.20
No identified SEN	2,606,655	4.18	0.57	4.74	2,214,910	4.69	0.98	5.67	4,821,565	4.41	0.76	5.17
Total (7)	3,368,745	4.45	0.69	5.14	2,898,665	5.11	1.41	6.52	6,267,410	4.76	1.03	5.78

Source: School Census

- (1) Includes middle schools as deemed.  
(2) Includes primary academies.  
(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.  
(4) See Technical Note 15 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.  
(5) Includes pupils age 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.  
(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/ unauthorised/ overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.  
(7) Includes pupil enrolments for whom characteristic data were unclassified or missing. Total rates may be higher than rates for each subgroup.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.



Table 4b

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):  
PUPIL ABSENCE BY CHARACTERISTICS (4): PERSISTENT ABSENTEES (5)**  
Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)				State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)				State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)			
	Number of persistent absentees having 38 or more sessions of absence (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):			Number of persistent absentees having 38 or more sessions of absence (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):			Number of persistent absentees having 38 or more sessions of absence (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):		
		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
<b>Gender</b>												
Boys	90,490	15.6	5.2	20.8	134,340	15.6	9.6	25.2	224,830	15.6	7.8	23.4
Girls	84,345	15.2	5.2	20.4	141,160	15.7	9.7	25.4	225,505	15.5	8.0	23.6
Total	174,835	15.4	5.2	20.6	275,500	15.7	9.7	25.3	450,330	15.6	7.9	23.5
<b>Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility</b>												
Known to be eligible for FSM	72,075	14.4	6.8	21.2	94,035	14.6	12.2	26.8	166,105	14.5	9.9	24.4
Other pupils (7)	102,760	16.2	4.1	20.3	181,465	16.2	8.3	24.5	284,225	16.2	6.8	23.0
Total (7)	174,835	15.4	5.2	20.6	275,500	15.7	9.7	25.3	450,330	15.6	7.9	23.5
<b>National Curriculum Year Group:</b>												
1 and below	40,755	15.7	4.8	20.5	170	15.0	6.2	21.2	40,925	15.7	4.8	20.5
2	30,270	15.1	5.1	20.2	130	14.1	5.9	20.0	30,405	15.1	5.1	20.2
3	25,915	15.0	5.3	20.3	100	14.3	5.9	20.2	26,010	15.0	5.3	20.3
4	24,800	15.2	5.0	20.3	105	13.4	7.1	20.5	24,905	15.2	5.1	20.3
5	24,310	15.3	5.0	20.3	800	17.5	3.5	21.0	25,115	15.4	4.9	20.3
6	24,550	15.5	5.0	20.5	1,320	17.2	3.9	21.1	25,870	15.6	4.9	20.5
7	115	17.2	3.1	20.4	31,765	16.3	5.7	22.0	31,880	16.3	5.7	22.0
8	10	15.5	7.7	23.2	44,325	16.1	6.9	23.0	44,335	16.1	6.9	23.0
9	x	x	x	x	54,860	15.7	8.6	24.3	54,860	15.7	8.6	24.3
10	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	61,670	15.2	10.7	25.9	61,670	15.2	10.7	25.9
11	x	x	x	x	74,070	14.9	12.3	27.3	74,070	14.9	12.3	27.3
12 and above	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	110	13.9	15.1	29.0	110	13.9	15.1	29.0
Total (7)	174,835	15.4	5.2	20.6	275,500	15.7	9.7	25.3	450,330	15.6	7.9	23.5
<b>First Language</b>												
First language is known or believed to be other than English	38,190	14.4	6.1	20.5	25,855	13.5	9.7	23.2	64,040	14.0	7.6	21.6
First language is known or believed to be English	136,290	15.7	5.0	20.7	248,520	15.9	9.6	25.5	384,810	15.8	8.0	23.8
Total (7)	174,835	15.4	5.2	20.6	275,500	15.7	9.7	25.3	450,330	15.6	7.9	23.5
<b>Special Educational Needs</b>												
Statements of SEN	6,720	19.6	3.8	23.4	10,195	18.3	9.6	27.9	16,915	18.8	7.3	26.1
School Action Plus	25,040	16.3	5.9	22.3	50,795	16.3	14.1	30.4	75,835	16.3	11.4	27.7
School Action	37,275	14.7	6.2	20.9	59,845	14.8	10.5	25.3	97,120	14.8	8.9	23.6
No identified SEN	105,565	15.2	4.8	20.0	154,400	15.6	7.9	23.5	259,970	15.4	6.6	22.0
Total (7)	174,835	15.4	5.2	20.6	275,500	15.7	9.7	25.3	450,330	15.6	7.9	23.5

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) See Technical Note 15 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.

(5) Persistent Absentees are defined as having an overall absence rate of around **5 per cent** or more. This equates to 38 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.

Technical Note 7.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/ unauthorised/ overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(7) Includes pupil enrolments for whom characteristic data were unclassified or missing. Total rates may be higher than rates for each subgroup.

x - 1 or 2 pupils, or a percentage based on 1 or 2 pupils

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 5a

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):****PUPIL ABSENCE BY ETHNIC GROUP (4)**

Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011

England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)			State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)			State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)					
	Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed (6):		
Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	
<b>White</b>	<b>2,581,335</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>2,327,765</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>6.67</b>	<b>4,909,100</b>	<b>4.81</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>5.80</b>
White British	2,416,215	4.33	0.55	4.88	2,212,885	5.25	1.38	6.62	4,629,105	4.77	0.95	5.71
Irish	10,290	4.72	0.80	5.52	9,855	5.47	1.63	7.11	20,145	5.09	1.21	6.30
Traveller of Irish heritage	3,450	15.35	5.90	21.25	1,250	14.71	11.44	26.15	4,700	15.17	7.41	22.58
Gypsy/ Roma	9,265	10.70	5.42	16.12	4,605	9.87	9.54	19.41	13,870	10.42	6.80	17.22
Any other White background	142,110	5.08	1.08	6.16	99,170	5.13	1.92	7.05	241,280	5.10	1.43	6.53
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>153,525</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>5.64</b>	<b>107,895</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>6.95</b>	<b>261,420</b>	<b>4.87</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>6.18</b>
White and Black Caribbean	45,390	4.69	1.24	5.93	36,985	5.60	2.28	7.88	82,375	5.10	1.71	6.81
White and Black African	18,235	4.33	0.95	5.28	11,430	4.76	1.53	6.29	29,665	4.50	1.18	5.67
White and Asian	33,945	4.67	0.79	5.46	22,365	5.00	1.34	6.34	56,310	4.80	1.01	5.81
Any other Mixed background	55,960	4.68	0.95	5.63	37,115	5.05	1.56	6.61	93,075	4.83	1.19	6.02
<b>Asian</b>	<b>331,830</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>230,365</b>	<b>4.69</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>5.89</b>	<b>562,195</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>6.07</b>
Indian	85,975	4.58	0.68	5.26	66,340	3.95	0.70	4.66	152,310	4.30	0.69	5.00
Pakistani	139,965	5.55	1.21	6.76	89,820	5.49	1.55	7.04	229,785	5.53	1.34	6.87
Bangladeshi	56,755	5.75	1.25	6.99	38,345	4.94	1.48	6.42	95,100	5.42	1.34	6.76
Any other Asian background	49,135	4.54	0.79	5.32	35,865	3.82	0.90	4.73	85,000	4.23	0.84	5.07
<b>Black</b>	<b>177,830</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>133,205</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>311,035</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>4.56</b>
Black Caribbean	46,160	3.86	1.31	5.17	40,315	4.29	1.56	5.85	86,475	4.06	1.43	5.49
Black African	109,925	3.27	0.78	4.05	78,015	3.08	0.96	4.04	187,940	3.19	0.85	4.04
Any other Black background	21,745	3.61	1.07	4.68	14,875	3.98	1.47	5.45	36,620	3.76	1.23	4.99
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>11,810</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>10,325</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>22,130</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>3.36</b>
<b>Any other ethnic group</b>	<b>52,215</b>	<b>4.80</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>6.08</b>	<b>35,775</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>5.87</b>	<b>87,990</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>6.00</b>
<b>Minority Ethnic Pupils (7)</b>	<b>892,325</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>632,440</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>6.11</b>	<b>1,524,765</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>5.95</b>
<b>All pupils (8)</b>	<b>3,368,745</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>2,898,665</b>	<b>5.11</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>6,267,410</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>5.78</b>

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Includes primary academies.

(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

(4) See Technical Note 15 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.

(5) Includes pupils age 5 to 15 who were on roll for at least one session between 1 September and the end of the Spring term, even if they are no longer on the school roll, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Technical Notes 14 to 16.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/ unauthorised/ overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(7) Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group, excluding White British.

(8) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on ethnic group was unclassified or missing.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 5b

**STATE-FUNDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (1)(2)(3):  
PUPIL ABSENCE BY ETHNIC GROUP (4): PERSISTENT ABSENTEES (5)**  
Autumn Term 2010 and Spring Term 2011  
England

	State-funded primary schools (1)(2)				State-funded secondary schools (1)(3)				State-funded primary and secondary schools (1)(2)(3)			
	Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):			Pupil enrolments in schools during autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 (5)	Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees (6):		
		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
<b>White</b>	<b>128,450</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>234,220</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>362,670</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>23.8</b>
White British	112,195	15.7	4.6	20.3	219,735	16.0	9.5	25.5	331,930	15.9	7.8	23.7
Irish	685	16.3	6.2	22.5	1,080	15.4	10.9	26.2	1,765	15.7	9.1	24.8
Traveller of Irish heritage	1,635	24.5	9.5	34.0	705	21.0	17.9	38.9	2,340	23.4	12.1	35.5
Gypsy/ Roma	3,490	18.5	10.2	28.7	2,115	14.6	17.1	31.8	5,605	17.1	12.8	29.9
Any other White background	10,450	15.1	6.0	21.0	10,585	13.8	11.0	24.7	21,030	14.4	8.5	22.9
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>10,355</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>11,755</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>22,110</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>23.4</b>
White and Black Caribbean	3,615	13.8	7.3	21.1	5,160	14.4	11.5	26.0	8,775	14.2	9.8	24.0
White and Black African	1,055	14.4	6.6	21.0	1,015	14.7	10.5	25.2	2,070	14.6	8.5	23.1
White and Asian	2,020	14.6	6.0	20.6	1,995	15.4	9.6	25.0	4,015	15.0	7.8	22.8
Any other Mixed background	3,665	14.9	6.1	21.0	3,585	15.1	10.2	25.2	7,250	15.0	8.1	23.1
<b>Asian</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>15,705</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>39,305</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>20.6</b>
Indian	4,475	15.0	4.3	19.3	2,810	15.0	6.3	21.3	7,285	15.0	5.1	20.1
Pakistani	11,680	14.0	5.8	19.8	8,260	14.2	7.7	21.9	19,935	14.0	6.6	20.6
Bangladeshi	4,870	14.3	5.4	19.7	2,935	13.5	8.7	22.2	7,805	14.0	6.6	20.6
Any other Asian background	2,575	14.9	5.1	20.1	1,705	14.4	7.8	22.2	4,280	14.7	6.2	20.9
<b>Black</b>	<b>7,090</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>7,170</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>14,260</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>
Black Caribbean	2,935	12.8	8.4	21.2	3,350	14.3	10.3	24.6	6,285	13.6	9.4	23.0
Black African	3,105	14.5	6.8	21.3	2,770	14.2	9.5	23.8	5,875	14.4	8.1	22.4
Any other Black background	1,050	13.7	7.4	21.0	1,050	14.2	10.6	24.9	2,100	14.0	9.0	23.0
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>21.2</b>
<b>Any other ethnic group</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>2,475</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>5,905</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>22.4</b>
<b>Minority Ethnic Pupils (7)</b>	<b>61,055</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>51,770</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>112,830</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>All pupils (8)</b>	<b>174,835</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>275,500</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>450,330</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>23.5</b>

Source: School Census

- (1) Includes middle schools as deemed.  
(2) Includes primary academies.  
(3) Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.  
(4) See Technical Note 15 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.  
(5) Persistent Absentees are defined as having an overall absence rate of around **5 per cent** or more. This equates to 38 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) across the two terms. See Technical Note 7.  
(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/ unauthorised/ overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.  
(7) Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group, excluding White British.  
(8) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on ethnic group was unclassified or missing.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.