



Department
for Education

Common transfer file

CTF 15 specification, version 1.0

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this specification

This document specifies the common transfer file, CTF 15, to be implemented in school systems from August 2015 and before 1 September 2015. This document will enable the suppliers of management information systems to schools to develop their software to generate and export CTFs from those systems.

The common transfer file (CTF) is the mechanism whereby schools transfer “common transfer information” to a subsequent school when a pupil leaves as specified in the [Education \(Pupil Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2005 Statutory Instrument \(S.I.\)](#) and subsequent amendments in [The Education \(Pupil Information\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) 2008](#). There is equivalent [legislation for Wales](#).

This document also includes information about xml data transfers. These are used as a mechanism for transferring pupil data within the education sector for pupils who are not moving school, for example when sending selected assessment records to the local authority or central government.

1.2 Coverage

All schools maintained by a local authority in England are required when a pupil ceases to be registered at their school, and becomes a registered pupil at another school in England or Wales, to send a CTF to the new school. Schools maintained by a local authority include all phases – e.g. nursery, primary, secondary – and types of schools - eg special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs). PRUs are legally defined as schools and so references to schools in this document should be regarded as applying to PRUs as well as to other schools. Academies (including free schools) are also strongly encouraged to send CTFs when a pupil leaves to attend another school.

Where a pupil transfers to a new school in Scotland, or Northern Ireland the old school in England is still required to send a CTF.

1.3 CTF specification documentation

The technical specification for CTF 15 consists of the following documents:

- This word document containing a narrative and sample xml messages
- The [Common Basic Data Set \(CBDS\) Excel workbook](#) which provides details of the data items included in each container and related code sets. The CBDS is updated on an on-going basis but the data items included in this specification can be viewed separately in the CBDS by selecting “1” in the filter in the column headed CTF15 on the data definitions worksheet. Details of Welsh only data items can be found in the Welsh CBDS on the [DEWi site](#).

- An xml schema. This should be used with this specification to determine which elements/containers are repeatable, mandatory or optional.

This document and the xml schema will be published on the [Department's website](#). Separate guides for schools and local authorities on the use of CTF will also be published on this website.

1.4 Business rationale

The following factors are the business drivers behind the CTF:

- Consistency with the overall vision behind the use of consistent interoperable standards and reducing the burden on schools
- Pupil Information Regulations requiring the transfer of an educational record and CTF. This document provides information on the transfer of CTF.
- That data collected in the containers are as defined in the CBDS
- It assumes that virtually all data is already held in schools' management information systems ready for transfer and so the need for data entry will be kept to a minimum.
- It is based on the principle that schools are expected to hold and manage data for their own purposes, or have data held on their behalf so that they can access and extract it.

1.5 Snapshot and historical data

Much of the data to be transferred represents some characteristic or status at the point in time that a pupil leaves school. There are also historical items which will capture data for a year, e.g. pupil attendance aggregate data, or which relate to events that have happened during a pupil's time in school e.g. attainment/assessment (end of key stage) data. Historical data may include data that has been transferred from a pupil's previous school(s).

1.6 Purpose of a CTF

A CTF is used to transfer information when a pupil transfers from one school to another and systems should be developed to generate and export CTFs. This could be at the end of an academic year or phase of education and involve a whole cohort of pupils or it could be mid-phase or mid-year for a single pupil. CTFs must be generated from the main school MIS otherwise not all the necessary data items may be included and the school would not meet the statutory requirements for the data to be transferred, eg it may not have up to date attendance information.

CTFs can be generated in the following circumstances:

- at the point of normal transfer between school phases. A separate CTF should be generated for each school that at least one pupil is transferring to. This file should group together all pupils known to be leaving and then joining the same school
- for a single pupil who transfers schools between school phases
- to send details of all leavers to the maintaining local authority for onward transfer
- when a pupil is leaving the school and no destination is known. A CTF should be generated for each pupil and submitted to S2S
- when a pupil is leaving the school and the destination is known to be a school outside the maintained sector in England and Wales. A CTF should be generated for each pupil

when a pupil has left a school, e.g. on receipt of a request from a subsequent school because a pupil has arrived at that school

1.7 Purpose of an xml data transfer

Considerable use is made of xml data transfers as a mechanism for transferring pupil data within the education sector for pupils who are not moving school, for example when sending assessment records to the local authority or central government. XML data transfers are based on a sub-set of the CTF specification. Systems should be developed to include the facility to de-select any items included in CTF that are not required for an xml data transfer.

XML data transfers can be generated for a range of purposes including:

- to transfer data between a MIS and a separate piece of software in use in a school e.g. a separate “assessment system” and vice versa
- to transfer current data on pupils to RaiseOnline (England only)
- to transfer EYFSP, Phonics or KS1 data to the maintaining local authority
- to transfer teacher assessment (TA) data to the responsible agency for pupils entered for end of KS2 and KS3 assessments (England only)
- to transfer pupil details in order to obtain results of eligibility for free school meals or for obtaining a ULN from the Learning Records Service (LRS) via s2s

1.8 Changes from CTF 14

1.8.1 Changeover date

To bring the common transfer File in line with the School Census it has been decided to move the changeover date for new CTFs to the summer. Therefore the changeover period will be from 1 August to 1 September 2015.

2. Generation and transfer of a CTF

2.1 Generation of a CTF

Systems should be developed to enable a separate CTF to be generated for each destination school at the point of normal transfer between school phases. This file should group together all pupils known to be leaving to join the same new school. A single CTF may be generated to send details of all leavers to the maintaining local authority for onward transmission.

Where a pupil is leaving the school and the destination is known to be a school outside the maintained sector in England and Wales, a file should be generated for each pupil and the destination shown as LA number MMM and school number as MMMM. If the school outside England and Wales is a Service Children's Education (SCE) school ('forces school'), a file can and should be sent to the school in the normal way. The LA number of SCE is 702. The school Estab number is available on [Edubase](#) for English schools and from [the address list of schools](#) for Welsh schools. If there is doubt as to which SCE school a pupil is transferring, a file can be sent to SCE using 702LLLL as the destination.

Systems should be developed to enable CTFs to be generated for a pupil after they have left the school. This facility is required because a school could receive a request for a CTF from a subsequent school because a pupil has arrived at that school.

The generation of a CTF or xml data transfer should not take a pupil off roll nor should it assign leaving dates. Systems should allow the generation and export of more than one CTF or xml data transfer for the same pupil. Similarly systems should allow the import of more than one CTF or xml data transfer for the same pupil. Systems should however allow data items to be de-selected on import.

Schools do not need to wait for a request from a subsequent school before creating a CTF for a pupil. If, at the point of leaving, the school does not know the next school that the pupil will be attending systems should enable CTFs to be generated for each pupil with the destination shown as LA number XXX and school number as XXXX.

2.2 Transfer of a CTF

CTFs should be transferred in machine readable form, except where either the school sending the CTF or the school receiving the CTF does not have the necessary facilities to send or receive such information in that form. Where the information is transferred in "machine readable form" it should be in one of the following ways:

- through an intranet provided for that purpose by or on behalf of a local authority, defined as a closed network that can only be accessed
 - by the local authority,

- by or on behalf of a governing body of a school within the area of that authority; or
- by a teacher at a school within the area of that authority; or
- through an internet website or other facility provided for that purpose by or on behalf of the DfE (currently, the s2s secure transfer website - more details can be found on the [s2s section of the Department's website](#)).

2.3 Import of a CTF

The <NAWdetails> container is **mandatory** for transfer between schools in Wales and should always be included in CTFs when a pupil leaves a Welsh school, regardless of their destination. However, the container can be ignored on import by destinations, such as English schools, that do not require it. For further details of the <NAWdetails> container see section 3.1.6.

The code sets for some data items differ between England and Wales and where there is no clear match between individual codes, the data should not be imported from the CTF and should be re-collected by the new school. Some mappings between the English and Welsh codes are available from the Welsh CBDS on the [DEWi site](#). This applies in particular to cross border transfers of SEN data. Where a CTF is received from across the English-Welsh border the SEN History module should not be imported. If the CTF contains an SEN History module then the receiver should be alerted to this and they would then be expected to retrieve the information outside of the CTF.

2.4 File names for CTF

Systems should automatically generate a file name that is appropriate for the destination of the file.

2.4.1 CTF from a school to another school

The file name will always be in the following format: LLLsss1_CTF_LLLsss2_num.xml

Where LLLsss1 is the DfE number of the school sending the CTF, LLLsss2 is the DfE number of the destination school, and num is a number that increments each time a file is created for this destination.

Example: 9165402_CTF_8171234_003.xml is the third CTF file created by school 9165402 for school 8171234.

2.4.2 CTF from a school when the destination is not known

When a pupil is leaving a school but the destination is not known, XXXXXXXX should be used in place of LLLsss2.

Example: 8012000_CTF_XXXXXXX_001.xml

2.4.3 CTF from a school to the local authority

When a CTF is sent from a school to its maintaining local authority, LLLL should be used in place of sss2, to show that the destination is the local authority.

Example: 8012000_CTF_801LLLL_001.xml

2.4.4 CTF to a school outside the maintained sector

When a CTF is sent from a school to a destination known to be outside the maintained sector in England or Wales, MMMMMMMM should be used in place of LLLsss2.

Example: 8012000_CTF_MMMMMMM_001.xml

2.5 File names for xml data transfers

In order to enable identification of the use of an xml data transfer from its file name, systems should allow the use of the values from the codeset, D00224, Type of Partial CTF, in the data extraction type section of the file name for partial files in place of “CTF”.

D00224	Type of Partial CTF
FSP	Partial CTF containing Early Years Foundation Stage data
KS1	Partial CTF containing Key Stage 1 data
KS2	Partial CTF containing Key Stage 2 data
KS3	Partial CTF containing Key Stage 3 data
ULN	Partial CTF containing Unique Learner Number data
FSM	Partial CTF containing Free School Meal eligibility data
PHO	Partial CTF containing Y1 phonics check data
OTH	Partial CTF containing data items selected by user
FPH	Partial CTF containing Welsh Foundation Phase data
WNT	Partial CTF containing Welsh National Tests

XML data transfers should have file names in the following format:

- LLLsss1_FSP_LLLsss2_num.xml for a file containing FSP data
- LLLsss1_KS1_LLLsss2_num.xml for a file containing Key Stage 1 data
- LLLsss1_KS2_LLLsss2_num.xml for a file containing Key Stage 2 data etc

When an xml data transfer is sent from a school to the STA, NAALLL should be used in place of LLLsss2. (NAA are the initials of the National Assessment Agency which preceded both the STA and QCDA).

Example: 8012000_KS2_NAALLL_001.xml

When an xml data transfer is sent from a school to LRS to obtain ULNs, XXXXXXX should be used in place of LLLsss2.

Example: 8012000_CTF_XXXXXXX_001.xml and the file should be returned to the school in the format XXXXXXX_CTF_8012000_001.xml

The optional tag <DataQualifier> also helps distinguish between different types of xml data transfers. This data item also uses the codeset, Type of Partial CTF, to indicate the purpose of the data transfer, e.g. KS2, KS3 etc. and enables systems to be developed to take a prescribed course of action based on this.

2.6 Message header

A standard xml message header is required for each CTF and xml data transfer. The data items required within the header are shown in the table below. All the data items must be included unless indicated otherwise.

For the xml file to work, the following must precede the file header

- <?xml version = '1.0' encoding = 'UTF-8'?>

“UTF-8” is given as an example and suppliers must ensure that they enter whatever encoding they use for their files. Whilst UTF-8 is the standard encoding recommended by the world wide web consortium (W3C), other encoding e.g. ISO-8859-1 can be accepted as long as it is properly declared in the pre-header text.

Data item	CBDS number	Notes
<DocumentName>	800001	This will always be Common Transfer File
<CTFversion>	800009	This will be 15.0. The version number must be retained to identify the structure of the file for the benefit of the “receiving” system. Systems should apply current rules to future versions and, as a minimum, should accept the current and immediately preceding version
<DateTime>	800010	Date and time when the file was generated

Data item	CBDS number	Notes
<DocumentQualifier>	800020	Type of CTF either “full” for use when a pupil moves from one school to another or “partial” for all other xml data transfers
<DataQualifier>	800033	Optional for xml data transfers. Indicates the purpose of an xml data transfer. Valid values are given in CBDS codeset D00224
<DataDescriptor>	800026	Optional. Free text field that can be used to give additional information about the data contained in the xml data transfer. Systems may allow user editing of this field.
<SupplierID>	800031	Software supplier specific code, determined by the supplier and not DfE. Enables schools to determine which supplier’s system has created a particular file. Each container in CTF includes this data item.
<LEA>	200001	LA Number, provided for both source and destination of the CTF or xml data transfer. If the destination school is not known for a CTF then XXX should be entered and MMM when a pupil is moving to a school outside the maintained sector in England or Wales. NAA should be used for an xml data transfer for STA and XXX for LRS.
<Estab>	200636	DfE Establishment Number, provided for both source and destination of the CTF or xml data transfer. If XXX has been entered for the LA Number then XXXX should be entered. If MMM has been entered for the LA Number then MMMM should be entered. LLLL should be entered if the source/destination is a LA (or STA) rather than a school.
<SchoolName>	200039	Provided for the source of the CTF or xml data transfer. Where the source of a file is a LA, the ‘schoolname’ field will contain the name of the LA.
<AcademicYear>	800032	Provided by the source of the CTF or xml data transfer. The year at the beginning of the academic year in which the CTF or xml transfer file has been generated.
<SupplInfo>		Optional container in any file. Allows a supplier to provide other data which may be “read” by another system using software from the same supplier. Software provided by other suppliers may ignore this container on import.

Data item	CBDS number	Notes
<SupplD>		Optional free text field for supplier specific identifier in <SupplInfo> container.

3. CTF content

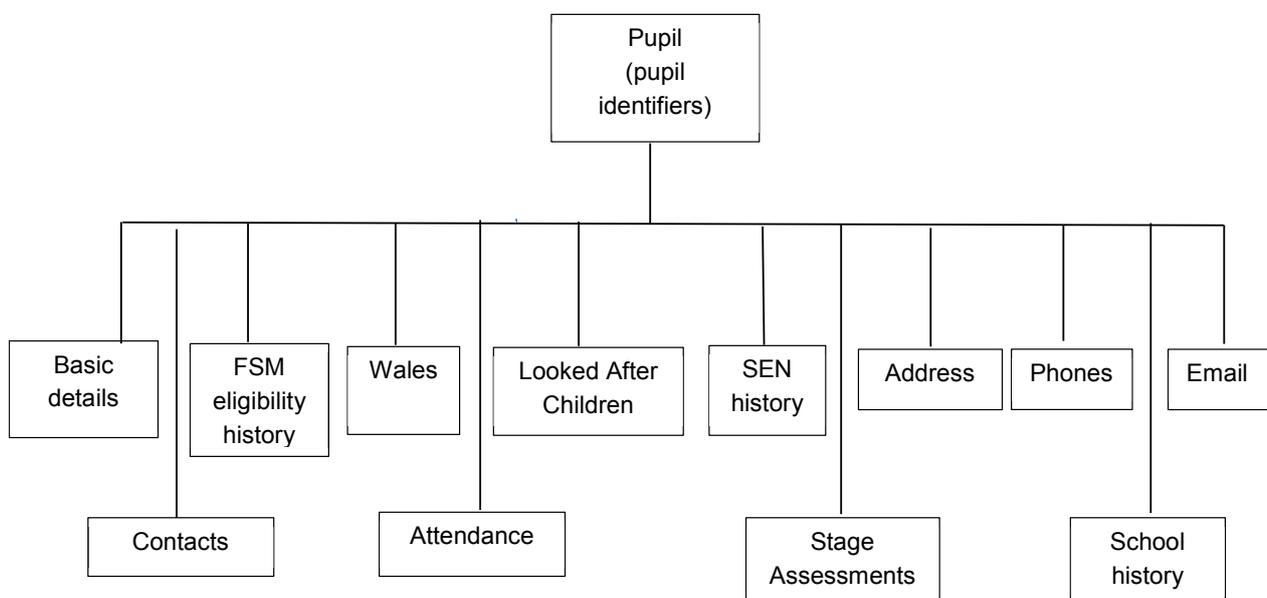
3.1 Outline data content

3.1.1 CTF

A CTF will comprise a number of containers shown below. A CTF may include one or more pupils. All of the containers should be included in a CTF where data is available in the system for the pupil(s) for whom the CTF is being generated. The “no data no tag” rule applies.

<CTFpupilData> is the container which holds ALL of the data for the CTF in a single file.

<Pupil> is the container which holds ALL of the data for the CTF for a single pupil. It holds pupil identifier information and all the containers outlined in the structure shown below:



Sections 3.1.3 to 3.1.13, and the xml pupil data structure in Section 4.3.2, give details of the data items within the containers.

3.1.2 XML data transfers

All xml data transfers must include as a minimum the following data items:

- <UPN> (100001)
- <Surname> (100003)
- <Forename> (100004)
- <DOB> (100007)

- <Gender> (100008)

In addition to the data items listed above, the following must be included in xml data transfers for acquiring ULNs from the Learning Records Service (LRS).

<Address>

Either

<BS7666Address>

<PAON> (100180)

<Street> (100186) and at least one of

<Locality> (100187)

<Town> (100188)

<AdministrativeArea> (100189)

</BS7666Address>

Or

<AddressLines>

<AddressLine1> (100128)

</AddressLines>

And

<PostCode> (100121)

</Address>

LRS use a pupil's postcode to check whether a ULN has previously been issued to a pupil and if postcode is not included in the xml transfer file, LRS will reject the file with a return code of RC10 – Null Values. The fields listed above must be included as indicated to enable the xml data transfer to be accepted by both s2s and LRS.

Whilst ULNs are available to schools via s2s, software suppliers are encouraged to develop their systems to interface directly with the LRS system via its web services API. The LRS offers a detailed specification for development and linking the LRS via web services as well as a dedicated support desk to assist with queries. The LRS makes no charge to schools or MIS suppliers for this. Further information can be found on the [LRS website](#).

Systems used to generate xml data transfers should have a facility to select the data items to be included in the transfer or to de-select unwanted data items before the file is generated. In this way schools and local authorities can design their own xml data transfers as long as they are a subset of the data specified in this document.

3.1.3 Pupil identifiers

The following pupil identifiers **must** be included in all CTFs and xml data transfers:

- <UPN> (100001)
- <Surname> (100003)
- <Forename> (100004)
- <DOB> (100007)
- <Gender> (100008)

<UniqueLearnerNumber> (100016) should also be provided where known.

3.1.4 Basic details

The <BasicDetails> container holds other identifiers and characteristics of pupils.

A CTF should transfer and receive whatever <Language> (100047) has been recorded for the child and no system should disallow any code. This requirement does not force schools to adopt the full Language Code List (D00011) but if a child has been identified in one school with a particular language that should not be changed to a global “Other than English” in a receiving school’s system just because that school does not deem it important. The converse is also true – a school using the full list should accept the categories “Believed to be English”, “Other than English” and “Believed to be other than English”.

<Disability> (100469) does not apply to Wales.

<EnrolStatus> (100060), where present, may be ignored on import by school systems.

3.1.5 Free school meal eligibility

The <FSMhistory> container holds information about a pupil’s current or historical free school meal (FSM) eligibility. The sub-container <FSMinstance> is mandatory if <FSMhistory> is present and there can only be one <FSMinstance> without an <FSMendDate>.

Any period of FSM eligibility transferred via CTF from 1 January 2013, which is on-going or ended on or after that date, should have a system generated associated <UKcountry> attached to it, containing an appropriate value from the codeset D00210. For periods of FSM eligibility that ended before 1 January 2013, <UKcountry> is not expected to be present (i.e. the xml tag does not need to be included in the CTF file), but may be if it is known.

Depending on where a CTF is being transferred to or from the following apply on import:

- (a) CTF transferred from a school in another country to an English school

For any open periods of FSM eligibility, an <FSMendDate> (100485) should be system generated when a CTF is transferred from a school in another country, e.g. Wales, to a school in England. The <FSMendDate> should be derived from, and the same as, the date the pupil left the school sending the CTF, or if this date of leaving is not known, the day before the pupil's date of entry to the school receiving the CTF. It is up to software suppliers how they implement these system generated dates in their systems.

- (b) CTF transferred between schools in the same country

When a CTF is transferred between schools in the same country any open periods of FSM eligibility should remain open, i.e. no <FSMendDate> should be system generated.

- (c) CTF transferred from an English school to a Welsh school

For any open periods of FSM eligibility, when a CTF is transferred from an English to a Welsh school an <FSMendDate> should have been system generated. Any such period of FSM Eligibility should automatically be re-opened with a system generated <FSMstartDate> derived from the end date of the last period when the pupil left the previous school and the Country of UK code WLS should be assigned to this new period of eligibility. It is up to software suppliers how they implement this system generated date in their systems.

Please note from (a) above that pupils eligible for FSM in Wales are not automatically recorded as eligible for FSM in England but from (c) above the Welsh Government are content for pupils recorded as eligible for FSM in England to automatically be recorded as eligible for FSM in Wales.

3.1.6 Wales

The <NAWdetails> container is **mandatory** for transfer between schools in Wales and should always be included in CTFs when a pupil leaves a Welsh school, regardless of their destination. Numbers in brackets refer to the NAW CBDS 2014-15. The container can be ignored on import by destinations, such as English schools, that do not require it.

The <SpeakWelsh> (190050), <HomeWelsh> (190051), <NationalIdentity> (190001) and <WelshSource> (190052) data items are all mandatory and should be included in every CTF transferred between Welsh schools.

The <EALAcquisition> (190100) data item, if present, should be included in CTF.

The <SENCurriculumandTeachingMethods> (190010), <SENGroupingandSupport> (190011), <SENSpecialisedResources> (190012) and <SENAdviceandAssessment> (190013) data items are mandatory if <SENprovision> (100536) is not equal to N, i.e. the data items must be included where the pupil is recorded as having a special educational need.

If <LanguageSource> (190152) has a value of S – “Ascribed by the school” then this should be defaulted to T – “Ascribed by a previous school” on CTF transfer, and the new school should ensure this is amended.

<EthnicitySource> (100023) is optional in the <BasicDetails> container; however, for Welsh schools sending CTFs this is a mandatory data item. It is therefore also included in the <NAWdetails> container as a mandatory item. If <EthnicitySource> has a value of S – “Ascribed by the current school” then this should be set to T – “Ascribed by a previous school” on importing to a new school, and the new school should ensure this is amended. Other values of Ethnicity Source should remain unchanged on transfer.

<DateEntry> (100059) is used to indicate a pupil’s date of arrival from a non-English or Welsh education system. It is used in Wales to identify a pupil as NEWBES (non-English/Welsh based education system) for the purposes of validation in the NDC (National Data Collection). Headteachers may choose to mark a pupil as NEWBES if they have arrived from education outside England and Wales in the previous two years and as such this pupil’s results will be removed from the reporting cohort.

3.1.7 Looked after children

The <LookedAfter> container holds information to indicate that a child is in care and should be included where available.

3.1.8 SEN

The <SENhistory> container **must** be included in CTFs where a pupil has special educational needs (School Action, School Action Plus, Statement, Education Health and Care Plan or SEN support). Within this container are a further two sub-containers - <SEN> and <SENneeds>. <SENhistory> container may only be omitted from CTF if the only entry in <SENprovision> is N.

The <SEN> container holds details of the type of <SENProvision> (100536) being made and must include details of any current provision. Common understanding is that any earlier (different) provisions are also transferred with relevant <StartDates> (100078) and so the <SEN> container must be repeatable.

Only alphabetic values as specified in the CBDS codeset D00229 are valid for <SENprovision> (100536). Previously old values of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 had been accepted for transfer via CTF. From CTF 13 this was no longer the case and CTF should comply with the CBDS.

The <SENneeds> sub-container only relates to current provision and so it should not be repeated for each historic <SENprovision> (100536). A pupil can however have a number of separate “needs” and so the <SENneed> container is repeatable. The <SENneed> container must be present at least once if <SENprovision> is P, S, E or K.

The <SENhistory> container is mandatory for CTF transfers between schools in Wales. It may be excluded from a file created by a Welsh school if the destination school is an English school and the only entry for <SENprovision> (100536) is N.

Where a CTF is received from across the English-Welsh border the SEN History module should not be imported. If the CTF contains an SEN History module (except in those cases where the only SEN provision entry is N) then the receiving school or LA should be alerted to this and they would then be expected to retrieve the information outside of the CTF.

3.1.9 Address, phones and email

The <Address> container holds address details for each pupil. The <Phones> container holds the telephone number(s) for the pupil and this information is held in the repeatable <Phone> sub-container which allows for more than one telephone number. The <Email> data item (100172) stands alone.

Addresses may be in ONE of two formats:

EITHER

- <BS7666Address> which contains the following elements:
 - <SAON> (100103), BS7666 Secondary Addressable Object Name A(100) Flat, apartment name or number or other sub-division of a dwelling
 - <PAON> (100109), BS7666 Primary Addressable Object Name A(100) Dwelling name and/or number
 - <Street> (100115), street name or street description that has been allocated to a street by the street naming authority
 - <Locality> (100116), the locality name refers to a neighbourhood, suburb, district, village, estate, settlement, or parish that may form part of a town, or stand in its own right within the context of an administrative area. Where an industrial estate contains streets it is defined as a locality in its in own right.
 - <Town> (100117), the town name refers to a city or town that is not an administrative area, a suburb of an administrative area that does not form part of another town or a London district

- <AdministrativeArea> (100118), the administrative area is a geographic area that may be the highest level local administrative area, which may be a county or a unitary authority, an island or island group or London.
- <PostTown> (100119), the Post Office usually assigns these based on Sorting Office
- <UniquePropertyReferenceNumber> (100123), a unique identifier for each land and property unit.

OR

- <AddressLines> which contains the following elements:
 - <AddressLine1> (100128), first line of address
 - <AddressLine2> (100129), second Line of Address
 - <AddressLine3> (100130), third Line of Address
 - <AddressLine4> (100131), fourth Line of Address
 - <AddressLine5> (100132), fifth Line of Address

Both address formats share the following elements:

- <County> (100420), allows the 'old' county name to be used in addresses.
- <PostCode> (100121), the code allocated by the Post Office to identify a group of postal delivery points
- <Zip> (100209), international post code
- <Country> (100487), free text country name
- <Easting> (100197), easting coordinate for mapping an address
- <Northing> (100198), northing coordinate for mapping an address

If the <Address> container is included in a CTF or xml data transfer then the following data items **must** be included:

- <PAON> (100109) and <Street> (100115) and at least one of <Locality> (100116), <Town> (100117) and <AdministrativeArea> (100118); or
<AddressLine1> (100128)

3.1.10 Contacts

The <Contacts> container holds information about the various contact names that are recorded against a pupil. There may be any number of contacts and each contact is held within the repeatable <Contact> sub-container.

If the address of the adult contact is the same as that for the pupil, then <AddressAsPupil> (100422) should be “true”. If not then the tag is omitted and the contact address in one of the two formats shown for Pupil Contact Details above is used. CBDS data item 100192, Postcode, <PostCode> is used for pupil contact details rather than CBDS data item 100121.

The <Phones> container holds the telephone number(s) for the contact which are recorded in the repeatable <Phone> sub-container which allows for more than one telephone number.

3.1.11 Attendance

The <Attendance> container holds information about the attendance of the pupil over the previous academic years and the mandatory data items **must** as a minimum be included in CTFs for the school year in which the pupil transferred schools:

The <YearData> container is repeatable and will be required for each separate academic year for which a system holds attendance data for a pupil.

The <AttendSessions> sub-container would normally be used to transfer data from a school to its maintaining local authority. Sessions are recorded from the start of the academic year and are cumulative to the date of extraction (or beyond if future dates e.g. holidays, are recorded in advance). Future sessions are otherwise populated with code - (dash). This sub-container should be included in any CTF from a Welsh school.

<AttendanceMarks> (100482) is a concatenation of all session attendance codes for each pupil. The meanings for Codes Y and # were revised in 2011 but the Welsh Government decided not to implement the changes in meanings and it is important to be aware that attendance codes Y and # transferred from Welsh schools via CTF have a different meaning, and vice versa. For further details see the [English](#) and [Welsh](#) CBDSs.

3.1.12 Assessments

The <StageAssessments> container **must** be included in CTFs to provide the receiving school with a pupil’s cumulative achievements in education. The <KeyStage> container is repeatable and holds information about a specific key stage. The <StageAssessment> container holds the information about the specific assessment area and is repeatable within a <KeyStage> container.

Valid values for the following data items can be found in the [English](#) and [Welsh](#) versions of A_Comp. Suppliers will wish to be aware that the English CBDS has not kept pace with A_Comp and should therefore not be used as the source for information about A_Comp.

- <Stage> (100516)
- <Subject> (100466)

- <Method> (100273)
- <Component> (100274)
- <ResultQualifier> (100551)
- <Result> (100276)

There should only be one occurrence of any component type within a CTF, except for phonics which may have two components, albeit for different years.

A full CTF must include a pupil's cumulative achievements in education. Unless stated otherwise below in the information for specific key stages, this should include the results of the teacher assessment for all key stages that have been completed and, where the pupil has not completed any key stage or is between key stages at the point of transfer to another school, the most recent assessment entered for the pupil in the school's MIS.

For xml data transfers containing assessment data for a specific key stage, the latest assessment available in the school's MIS should be transferred for the key stage specified. Data for previous assessments or key stages should not be included.

Each stage is defined in assessment and reporting arrangements (ARAs) and A_Comp.

Foundation Stage Profile

The Foundation Stage Profile comprises seven Areas of Learning containing a total of seventeen Early Learning Goals which are divided up between Areas of Learning. This profile changed in the academic year 2012/13 and systems need to allow the transfer of information about the old profile which was in place from 2003 to 2011/12 also. Further details for the academic year 2014/15 can be found in the [Assessment and Reporting Arrangements \(ARAs\)](#).

Key Stage 1

Schools are not required to transfer task/test information in reading, writing and mathematics for pupils who completed Key Stage 1 in 2004/5, or thereafter but may choose to do so. Where pupils completed Key Stage 1 in 2003/4 at a school participating in the trial of the new Key Stage 1 assessment and reporting arrangements, their task and test results are not required to be transferred but a school may choose to do so.

Maintained schools and academies (including free schools) submit phonics data for pupils in Year 1 to the Department. Pupils who do not meet the expected standard in the phonics check at the end of Year 1 will retake the check in the following June. Results of the recheck will also be submitted to the department. School MIS software should check that a valid entry has been made in the fields for the Phonics Screening Check where appropriate.

A CTF or xml data transfer can contain K1T or KS1 but not both. Data for K1T tasks and tests need not be transferred. From 2005 onwards, data for KS1 tasks and tests need not

be transferred. The KS1 components that are statutorily required to be transferred are those where the 'Method' in A_Comp is TA.

Further details for the academic year 2014/15 can be found in the [ARAs](#).

Key Stage 2

Details for the academic year 2014/15 can be found in the [ARAs](#). Post 2005 (academic year 2004/5) there is no mandatory requirement to transfer attainment target levels at KS2.

Key Stage 3

Post 2005 (academic year 2004/5) there is no mandatory requirement to transfer attainment target levels at KS3.

Pupils working towards Level 1

P-Scale data for all relevant subjects or attainment targets, i.e. any subject or individual attainment target where the national curriculum level has been assessed as "W" and the pupil also has SEN. Individual attainment targets are relevant for English and Maths components at Key Stage 1; P scales are only required for all other subjects and key stages where the pupil is assessed at level 'W' for the subject overall, and the relevant P scale is that for the subject. This is required for pupils at all key stages.

Assessment for Learning

Assessment for Learning should be submitted as a <Stage> for any Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) or AFL assessments. <ResultStatus> is not required for AFL/APP. For <Stage> = AFL/APP, <Method> should only be TA and <ResultQualifier> LL.

Annual Assessments

Following the Primary Assessment and Accountability consultation schools will have the ability to run their own assessment regimes, within guidelines set by the department. However there is no statutory framework for end of year assessments between ends of key stages. Therefore changes have been made to the structure of the assessment component files to allow schools to transfer assessments in their chosen formats.

Welsh requirements

There are differences between the assessment data used in England and Wales. This means that some of the assessment data specified in this document does not apply to Welsh schools and other information does not apply to English schools.

Early Years Foundation Stage (FSP and EYP) and Key Stage 1 trial (K1T) do not apply to Welsh schools. P-Scales are also not used in Wales. Data for 2005 or later relating to KS1, KS2 (with <Method> of TT) or KS3 (with <Method> of any value other than TA) is also not relevant to a Welsh school.

Post 2005 (academic year 2004/5) KS2 and KS3 test data must not be transferred from Welsh schools.

From May 2013, a National Reading Test (NRT) was introduced for all maintained schools in Wales. There is a NRT for every pupil at the end of each of NCY 2 through to 9. A raw score will be generated for each learner taking the test.

Raw scores will be converted to age standardised scores and progress scores and imported back into school MIS using an xml data transfer.

The same approach has been taken with National Numeracy Tests (NNT) in Wales. An example xml file structure is available on the [DEWi site](#), select NDC and then NDC 2015. NAW_A_Comp 2015 v2.0 gives the latest file components.

The meaning of code NG in the codeset for Result Qualifier has been changed to; Welsh National Test Progress Score. Code NE, Welsh National Test Score Difference, has been added to the codeset. Existing code, NA, should be used to record standardised scores.

The Welsh Government would like suppliers to develop their systems to store any such assessment information separately within an MIS on import to an English school and for the data to be re-exported with its original values if the pupil later transfers back to a school in Wales. Whilst it would be useful for schools to have a full assessment history for such pupils, there is no absolute requirement for systems to be developed to enable its transfer.

Wales has a Foundation Phase (FP) covering the period from Reception to end of year 2 (i.e. equivalent to FSP + KS1 in England). The Welsh Government would similarly like suppliers to develop their systems to store this information separately within an MIS on import to an English school and to re-export with its original values if the pupil later transfers back to a school in Wales. However, again there is no absolute requirement to do so.

3.1.13 School history

The <SchoolHistory> container holds information about the school sending the CTF or xml data transfer and any previous schools attended by the pupil. The <School> container holds information specific to each school and is repeatable.

Details of the school sending the CTF or xml data transfer must be included in the school history module. CTFs must include <EntryDate> (100513) for the school sending the CTF. If a school is not certain about the <EntryDate> for any previous school included in the school history container then no <EntryDate> should be returned for that school. Only dates known to be accurate should be transferred. Data items <LeavingDate> (100514) and <LeavingReason> (100515) should be included in any CTF where they exist in a system.

<LeavingDate> may be a date in the future as a CTF may be created and transferred in advance of a pupil leaving the school.

4. XML message structure

4.1 Format

CTF and xml data transfers should be in xml format, as described in this section. Where an optional item is not included then the associated tag should be omitted. Where a mandatory item is omitted an error should be generated by the receiving system.

4.2 Overall message structure

A standard xml message header is required for each CTF and xml data transfers. The layout is as follows:

<CTfile>
<Header> See below for details </Header>
<CTFpupilData>
<Pupil> See Annex A for details </Pupil>
</CTFpupilData>
</CTfile>

4.3 XML message structure

4.3.1 Header

A standard xml message header is required for each CTF and xml data transfer. This should be populated according to the guidance in Section 2. The layout is shown below. M indicates that a data item is mandatory in the XSD schema for a CTF or xml data transfer and O that it is optional.

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O	
	M	<CTfile>
	M	<Header>
800001	M	<DocumentName>Common Transfer File</DocumentName>
800009	M	<CTFversion>15.0</CTFversion>
800010	M	<DateTime>2015-09-27T00:00:00</DateTime>
800020	M	<DocumentQualifier>partial</DocumentQualifier>
800033	O	<DataQualifier>KS2</DataQualifier>
800026	O	<DataDescriptor>KS2 assessments for STA</DataDescriptor>
800031	M	<SupplierID>NAW (for example files)</SupplierID>
	M	<SourceSchool>
200001	M	<LEA>933</LEA>
200636	M	<Estab>4500</Estab>
200039	M	<SchoolName>St. James & St. Paul Secondary</SchoolName>

800032	M	<AcademicYear>2015</AcademicYear>
	M	</SourceSchool>
	M	<DestSchool>
200001	M	<LEA>330</LEA>
200636	M	<Estab>4501</Estab>
	M	</DestSchool>
	O	<SuppInfo>
	M	<SuppID>NAW (for example files)</SuppID>
	O	<annotation>
	O	<documentation>All SuppInfo Sections are similar</documentation>
	O	<documentation>use and or & not ampersand</documentation>
	O	</annotation>
	O	<example>Any tags & data can be used in this section</example>
	O	<nestedexample>
	O	<lastName>Moore</lastName>
	O	<firstName>Demi</firstName>
	O	<street>77 Sunset Strip</street>
	O	</nestedexample>
	O	</SuppInfo>
	M	</Header>

4.3.2 Pupil data

The pupil data structure for each CTF and xml data transfer is shown below. This should be populated according to the guidance in Section 3. M indicates that a data item is mandatory in the XSD schema for a CTF and O that it is optional. For CTF and xml data transfers, the presence of one data item may make the presence of another mandatory. R indicates that a data item is repeatable, MR that it appears at least once in a CTF but possibly many times and OR that it does not have to appear but could appear many times.

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	M	<CTFpupilData>	
	MR	<Pupil>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
100001	M	<UPN>B801200005001</UPN>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
100016	O	<UniqueLearnerNumber>2468147153</UniqueLearnerNumber>	Mandatory for CTF where known
100492	O	<UCI>681990012058G</UCI>	
100003	M	<Surname>Brown</Surname>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
100004	M	<Forename>John</Forename>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
100007	M	<DOB>1998-08-13</DOB>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
100008	M	<Gender>M</Gender>	Mandatory for CTF and xml data transfers
	M	<BasicDetails>	Mandatory container for CTF but not xml data transfers

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100002	O	<FormerUPN>E92520729925A</FormerUPN>	
100011	O	<PreferredSurname>Brown</PreferredSurname>	
100009	O	<FormerSurname>Daw</FormerSurname>	
100010	O	<PreferredForename>Jack</PreferredForename>	
100006	O	<MiddleNames>Alan</MiddleNames>	
100068	O	<NCyearActual>10</NCyearActual>	
100319	M	<Ethnicity>WBRI</Ethnicity>	Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 100022 for this data item
100023	O	<EthnicitySource>C</EthnicitySource>	
	M	<Languages>	First language mandatory for CTF
	O	<Type>	
100399	M	<LanguageType>F</LanguageType>	Only first language to be included. Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 190150 for this data item
100047	M	<Language>ENG</Language>	There are some differences between the English and Welsh codesets – see Welsh CBDS for details. Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 190151 for this data item
	O	</Type>	
	M	</Languages>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100084	O	<MedicalFlag>true</MedicalFlag>	
	O	<Disabilities>	
100469	MR	<Disability>HAND</Disability>	Mandatory if <Disabilities> is present
	O	</Disabilities>	
100060	O	<EnrolStatus>C</EnrolStatus>	
	O	<SupplInfo>	
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	Mandatory if <SupplInfo> is present
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	M	</BasicDetails>	
	O	<FSMhistory>	
100034	O	<FSMreviewDate>2011-10-21</FSMreviewDate>	
	MR	<FSMinstance>	Mandatory if <FSMhistory> is present. Can only be one <FSMinstance> without an <FSMendDate>
100484	M	<FSMstartDate>2009-10-23</FSMstartDate>	Mandatory if <FSMhistory> is present
100485	O	<FSMendDate>2010-12-24</FSMendDate>	
200634	O	<UKcountry>ENG</UKcountry>	
	MR	</FSMinstance>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	O	</FSMhistory>	
	O	<NAWdetails>	<NAWdetails> for transfer within Wales only
190050	M	<SpeakWelsh>2</SpeakWelsh>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
190051	M	<HomeWelsh>2</HomeWelsh>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
190001	M	<NationalIdentity>WAL</NationalIdentity>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
100023	M	<EthnicitySource>C</EthnicitySource>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
190052	M	<WelshSource>P</WelshSource>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
190100	M	<EALAcquisition>C</EALAcquisition>	Mandatory if <NAWdetails> is present
190152	O	<LanguageSource>C</LanguageSource>	Should be present if <Language> is present
190010	O	<SENCurriculumandTeachingMethods>CT1 </SENCurriculumandTeachingMethods>	Should be present if <SENprovision> not N
190011	O	<SENGroupingandSupport>GS1</SENGroupingandSupport>	Should be present if <SENprovision> not N
190012	O	<SENSpecialisedResources>SR1</SENSpecialisedResources>	Should be present if <SENprovision> not N
190013	O	<SENAdviceandAssessment>AA1</SENAdviceandAssessment>	Should be present if <SENprovision> not N
100059	O	<DateEntry>2010-10-13</DateEntry>	
	O	</NAWdetails>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	O	<LookedAfter>	
100038	M	<InCare>>true</InCare>	Mandatory for CTF if <LookedAfter> is present
100039	O	<CareAuthority>420</CareAuthority>	Mandatory if <InCare> = true (or 1)
	O	</LookedAfter>	
	O	<SENhistory>	<SENhistory> container may only be omitted from CTF if the only entry in <SENprovision> is N. Whole container is optional for Welsh transfers regardless of the values within it.
	MR	<SEN>	Mandatory for CTF if <SENhistory> is present
100078	O	<StartDate>2001-10-13</StartDate>	Mandatory for CTF if value of <SENprovision> is A, P, S, E or K.
100536	O	<SENprovision>P</SENprovision>	Mandatory for CTF if value is A, P, S, E or K. Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 100077 for this data item.
	MR	</SEN>	
	O	<SENneeds>	
	OR	<SENneed>	Mandatory at least once if <SENprovision> is P, S, E or K.

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100080	M	<SENtypeRank>1</SENtypeRank>	Mandatory if <SENneed> is present
100547	M	<SENtype>SPLD</SENtype>	Mandatory if <SENneed> is present
	OR	</SENneed>	
	O	</SENneeds>	
	O	<SupplInfo>	
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	O	</SENhistory>	
	O	<Address>	Pupil contact details
	O	<BS7666Address>	
100103	O	<SAON> 22 Flat</SAON>	
100109	M	<PAON> 22</PAON>	
100115	M	<Street>Kangaroo Crescent</Street>	
100116	O	<Locality>Wombatville</Locality>	At least one of <Locality>, <Town>, <AdministrativeArea> must be present if <BS7666Address> is present
100117	O	<Town>Wallaby Springs</Town>	See above
100118	O	<AdministrativeArea>New South Whales</AdministrativeArea>	See above

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100119	O	<PostTown>Koala City</PostTown>	
100123	O	<UniquePropertyReferenceNumber>12345678</UniquePropertyReferenceNumber>	
	O	</BS7666Address>	
		OR	
	O	<AddressLines>	
100128	M	<AddressLine1>Hamster Cottage</AddressLine1>	Mandatory if <AddressLines> is present
100129	O	<AddressLine2>Rat Lane</AddressLine2>	
100130	O	<AddressLine3>Mouseville</AddressLine3>	
100131	O	<AddressLine4>Shrewsbury</AddressLine4>	
100132	O	<AddressLine5>HampsterShire</AddressLine5>	
	O	</AddressLines>	
100420	O	<County>Somewhereshire</County>	
100121	O	<PostCode>TA1 3PJ</PostCode>	If this is included in a CTF or xml data transfer the other mandatory items in the address container must also be included. Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 100120 for this data item.
100209	O	<Zip>56789</Zip>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100487	O	<Country>England</Country>	
100126	O	<Easting>123456.7</Easting>	
100127	O	<Northing>123456.7</Northing>	
	O	<SupplInfo>	
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	O	</Address>	
	O	<Phones>	
	MR	<Phone>	Mandatory if <Phones> is present
100324	O	<TelephoneType>M</TelephoneType>	
100218	M	<PhoneNo>07788923215</PhoneNo>	Mandatory if <Phone> is present
	MR	</Phone>	
	O	</Phones>	
100172	O	<Email>amanda@hotmail.co.uk</Email>	
	O	<Contacts>	Adult contact details
	MR	<Contact>	Mandatory if <Contacts> is present
100160	O	<Order>1</Order>	
100161	O	<Title>Mr</Title>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100162	M	<Surname>Brown</Surname>	Mandatory if <Contact> is present
100163	O	<Forename>John</Forename>	
100164	O	<MiddleNames>Richard</MiddleNames>	
100165	O	<Gender>M</Gender>	
100328	M	<Relationship>PAF</Relationship>	Mandatory if <Contact> is present
100167	O	<Responsibility>>true</Responsibility>	
	O	<Address>	
100422	O	<AddressAsPupil>>true</AddressAsPupil>	Mandatory if value is true, if value is false then address data items must be provided and 100192 is used for <PostCode>
	O	</Address>	
	O	<Phones>	
	MR	<Phone>	Mandatory if <Phones> is present
100324	O	<TelephoneType>H</TelephoneType>	
100218	M	<PhoneNo>01823 999444</PhoneNo>	Mandatory if <Phone> is present
	MR	</Phone>	
	O	</Phones>	
100172	O	<Email>w.smith@fsnet.co.uk</Email>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	O	<SupplInfo>	
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	MR	</Contact>	
	O	</Contacts>	
	O	<Attendance>	Attendance information for the school year in which the pupil transferred is mandatory in CTF
	MR	<YearData>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
100225	M	<Year>2015</Year>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
200001	M	<LEA>001</LEA>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
200636	M	<Estab>2389</Estab>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
200039	M	<SchoolName>St Mary</SchoolName>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
100228	M	<SessionsPossible>350</SessionsPossible>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
100230	M	<SessionsAuthorised>55</SessionsAuthorised>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
100229	M	<SessionsAttended>250</SessionsAttended>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
100231	M	<SessionsUnauthorised>40</SessionsUnauthorised>	Mandatory if <Attendance> is present
	O	<AttendSessions>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
100226	M	<pre><AttendanceStartDate>2015-09-04</AttendanceStartDate></pre>	<p>The attendance pattern in this example shows the start of the academic year as 4 September 2015 but the pupil does not start at the school until 11 September. The CTF file is created on 1 March 2016 containing attendance data up to and including 28 February 2016. NOTE : \ in XML is a special character but should not be a problem when used in a character string. Not deliverable in Wales. For transfers in an English school or from an English school to its maintaining LA.</p>
100482	M	<pre><AttendanceMarks>##ZZZZZZZ####\MM\####HH HHHHHHHH####\LU\RR####\#\V####\BB\ OO####\W\WWW#####\V\#### \VV\####\IIIIII####\VV\####\VRR\ ####\WWW\WWW\####\##### #####\V\####\MO\V\####\J\VV\####\V\ ####\V\VP####\U\VV\#####\V\ </AttendanceMarks></pre>	
	O	<pre></AttendSessions></pre>	
	MR	<pre></YearData></pre>	
	O	<pre><SupplInfo></pre>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	O	</Attendance>	
	M	<StageAssessments>	Mandatory for CTF but not xml data transfers.
	MR	<KeyStage>	
100516	M	<Stage>EYF</Stage>	Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 100265 for this data item.
	MR	<StageAssessment>	
100321	M	<Locale>ENG</Locale>	
100266	M	<Year>2015</Year>	
100466	M	<Subject>COM</Subject>	Wales is using the Welsh CBDS reference 100271 for this data item.
100273	M	<Method>FA</Method>	
100274	O	<Component>G01</Component>	
100270	O	<ResultStatus>R</ResultStatus>	
100551	O	<ResultQualifier>FD</ResultQualifier>	
100276	O	<Result>2</Result>	
100332	O	<ResultDate>2015-05-25</ResultDate>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	MR	</StageAssessment>	
	O	<SupplInfo>	
	M	<SupplID>NAW (for example files)</SupplID>	
	O	</SupplInfo>	
	MR	</KeyStage>	
	M	</StageAssessments>	
	O	<SchoolHistory>	
	MR	<School>	Mandatory if <SchoolHistory> is present
100239	M	<LEA>330</LEA>	Mandatory if <SchoolHistory> is present
100496	M	<Estab>2389</Estab>	Mandatory if <SchoolHistory> is present
100241	M	<SchoolName>Bensdale Junior</SchoolName>	Mandatory if <SchoolHistory> is present
100513	O	<EntryDate>1995-09-13</EntryDate>	Mandatory for school sending the CTF, optional for any other schools
100514	O	<LeavingDate>1998-07-22</LeavingDate>	
100515	O	<LeavingReason>MS</LeavingReason>	
	O	<SupplInfo>	

CBDS Ref	XSD M/O		Notes
	M	<SuppID>DfE (for example files)</SuppID>	
	O	</SuppInfo>	
	MR	</School>	
	O	</SchoolHistory>	
	O	<SuppInfo>	
	M	<SuppID>String</SuppID>	
	O	</SuppInfo>	
	M	</Pupil>	
	M	</CTFpupilData>	



Department
for Education

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