



Education  
Funding  
Agency

# **Dedicated schools grant 2017 to 2018**

**Pupil number information for the schools  
block and early years block**

**December 2016**

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## Introduction

1. This technical note sets out details of the calculation of dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for 2017 to 2018.
2. High needs block allocations will not be derived from pupil count data.
3. The schools block pupil number counts are derived primarily from the October 2016 school census. This underpinning dataset is collected in a similar way to the January school census (from which detailed analysis is published as official statistics each summer).

## Schools block

4. The pupil numbers used in the DSG calculation are those recorded as present in maintained schools and academies in the school census, from reception (R) to year 11. It does not include pupils in SEN units or resourced provision, as these pupils are funded through the high needs block. Pupils in alternative provision (AP) not funded via the high needs block are recorded in the DSG calculations. Any pupils recorded as year R but who are less than 4 years old are not counted, because funding for these pupils is provided under the early years block.

## Pupil counts

5. The pupil numbers used to determine the 2017 to 2018 schools block allocations are from:

- The October 2016 school census:
  - all pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and academies which are going through recoupment at census date, in national curriculum year groups R-11 aged 4 or above at 31 August 2016
  - all pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and academies which are going through recoupment at census date, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2016
- The January 2016 alternative provision census:
  - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2015
- The January 2016 school census and October 2015 school census:
  - the increase (where applicable) in the number of national curriculum year group R pupils aged 4 or above at 31 August 2015, in January 2016, compared to the October 2015 national curriculum year group R figures, for maintained nursery and primary schools and academies – this is the reception uplift; see below for more details

6. The number of funded places in SEN units or resourced provision in maintained nursery, primary, secondary schools and academies are not included in the pupil numbers. These are the place numbers agreed with local authorities for academic year 2016 to 2017.

7. The school census provides data on pupils in every maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special school, including pupils in academies. The count point for the October 2016 school census was 6 October.

8. The alternative provision census captures pupils for whom an English local authority has a financial responsibility, and if not included on the AP census, would not be picked up by other collections for DSG funding purposes. The count point for the January 2016 alternative provision census was 21 January.

9. All pupils in the schools block are counted as 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) regardless of their part-time/full-time status. Every relevant pupil with a sole or dual (main) registration is counted.

10. We do not fund duplicate unique pupil numbers (UPN) in the school census. We identify potential duplicate UPN cases and ask authorities to resolve them. If a duplicate remains unresolved, the 1 FTE of that pupil is equally divided between the local authorities involved, that is 1 pupil between 2 local authorities will result in both authorities receiving a headcount of 0.5.

## **Reception uplift to census counts**

11. In order to ensure that no local authority loses out in respect of deferred entry to reception arising from the use of the October census count, an uplift has been applied. This is the difference in the number of reception pupils between the October 2015 school census and the January 2016 school census during the 2015 to 2016 academic year. The change (calculated in terms of the number of pupils, not a percentage change) is calculated for each school in each local authority, and then any increases are totalled across the local authority area. Any school with fewer reception pupils counted in the January 2016 census compared with the October 2015 census are treated as having zero change, rather than a decrease.

## Early years block

12. The early years block covers the pupils now eligible under the new early years national funding formula (EYNFF), covering:

- universal three- and four-year-old entitlement
- additional three-and four-year-old entitlement for working parents
- early years pupil premium (EYPP) for eligible three-and four-year-olds
- any pupils recorded as year R, but who are less than 4 years old

13. Two-year-olds with SEN are funded under the high needs block.

## Pupil counts for three- and four-year-old universal entitlement

14. The EYNFF allocations are calculated using part-time equivalent (PTE) pupil numbers. 1 PTE is defined as a child taking up 15 hours per week over 38 weeks. Therefore, a child taking up 30 hours per week is counted as 2 PTE.

15. Currently, early years funding allocations to local authorities are calculated based on full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil numbers. There is a simple conversion between FTE and PTE: dividing FTE by 0.6 gives the number of PTE.

16. PTE pupil counts from the January 2016 schools, early years and alternative provision censuses are used to calculate universal entitlement funding allocations.

17. From the January 2016 school census:

- all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2 aged 3 or 4 at 31 August 2015, including any three-years-olds recorded as national curriculum year group R
- all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 3 at 31 August 2015

18. From the January 2016 early years census:

- all three-and four-year-old PTEs as at 31 December 2015

19. From the January 2016 alternative provision census:

- all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31 December 2015
- all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31 August 2015 but 4 by 31 December 2014

## **Pupil counts for three-and four-year-old additional hours funding**

20. Data is not yet available on how many three- and four-year-old pupils are eligible for the additional hours. Instead, the number of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the additional hours in each local authority has been estimated using data from the family resources survey (FRS), annual population survey (APS), survey of personal incomes (SPI), the school census, the early years census, and Office for National Statistics (ONS) population projections.

21. First, the school and early years census data is used to identify the proportion of four-year-olds attending reception classes. These children are not eligible to attract additional hours funding, so these figures are subtracted from the population projections.

22. FRS data is then used to identify a national estimate of the proportion of three- and four-year-olds with parents meeting the lower earnings eligibility criteria of 16 times the national minimum wage or national living wage per week. The SPI is then used to estimate the proportion of these pupils whose parents earn above £100,000 per year. This is then subtracted from the total national proportion. The result is then applied to the ONS population projections (having removed children who attend reception classes as described above), to give the number of eligible children nationally.

23. The next step is to split that national estimate of pupils eligible for additional hours funding into estimates for each individual local authority.

24. Neither the FRS nor the APS have sufficient sample sizes to provide robust data on three- and four-year-olds eligible for additional hours, and therefore a proxy is used. APS data is, however, used for this proxy estimate: specifically, APS data on each local authority's proportion of the national number of children under 16 whose parents were usually working at least 16 hours per week. Multiplying a local authority's proportion by the national estimate of pupils eligible for additional hours funding then gives that local authority's annual estimate of pupils eligible for additional hours funding.

25. This annual estimate is then multiplied by 7/12ths to reflect that the funding for additional hours commences in September 2017, and therefore only applies for seven months of the 2017 to 2018 financial year. For comparability with the 2017 to 2018 allocations, the EYNFF formula-only illustrative allocations are also on the basis of this 7/12ths pupil count. Local authorities' actual EYNFF funding allocations will be higher from 2018 to 2019 onwards because they will receive additional hours funding for the whole twelve months of the year.

## **Disability access fund (DAF) allocations**

26. The funding methodology for the disability access fund (DAF) is an illustrative funding allocation for 2017 to 2018 based upon the number of three- and four-year-olds who are not in reception that are claiming disability living allowance (DLA).

27. For each local authority, their total February 2016 DLA claimant count of three- and four-year-old children from the department for work and pensions (DWP), is adjusted downwards to remove an estimated number of children in reception. This gives an estimate of the number of three- and four-year-olds taking up DAF in the local authority.

## **Early years pupil premium funding allocations**

28. The funding methodology for EYPP remains the same as in 2016 to 2017. The funding allocations for 2017 to 2018 have been calculated based on January 2016 census data on EYPP take-up by eligible three- and four-year-olds.

## **Maintained nursery school supplementary funding allocations**

29. The illustrative allocations published alongside the consultation response use data on local authorities' planned expenditure in 2016 to 2017 from the section 251 budget dataset, which was published in September 2016.

## **Two-year-old funding allocations**

30. The pupil numbers that are used to determine the allocations for two-year-old funding are:

- From the January 2016 school census:
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2 aged 2 at 31 August 2015
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 2 at 31 August 2015
- From the January 2016 early years census:
  - all eligible two-year-old PTEs at 31 December 2015
- From the January 2016 early years census:
  - all eligible pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 2 at 31 December 2015

## **Adjustments to early years block allocations**

31. The provisional early years block allocations are published in December 2016 and are based on January 2016 census. Early years block allocations for three- and four-year-olds will be adjusted in July 2017, to reflect the January 2017 school census, early

years census and alternative provision census. The pupil counts will be made from these censuses in the same way as described above from the January 2016 censuses.

32. The allocations for all ages will be updated in July 2018, based on 5/12<sup>ths</sup> of the January 2017 participation numbers (to cover the April 2017 to August 2017 period) and 7/12<sup>ths</sup> of the January 2018 participation numbers (to cover the September 2017 to March 2018 period). The result will give local authorities' final early years block allocations for financial year 2017 to 2018.

33. DAF allocations will be updated in July 2017 based on February 2017 estimates from DWP on the number of three- and four-year-olds entitled to DLA adjusted for the estimated percentage of four-year-olds in reception, and in July 2018 based on 5/12ths of the February 2017 estimates from DWP on the number of three- and four-year-olds entitled to DLA adjusted for the estimated percentage of four-year-olds in reception, and 7/12ths of the January 2018 data from the school census and early years census on the take-up of DAF participation numbers (to cover the April 2017 to August 2017 period). This means that the final allocation for the DAF 2017 to 2018 will be based on 5/12 x February 2017 estimates plus 7/12 x January 2018 take-up numbers.

34. Actual final allocations for EYPP figures will be based upon 5/12 x January 2017 participation numbers plus 7/12 x January 2018 participation numbers. Actual final allocations for the maintained nursery school (MNS) figures will be based on a data assurance exercise of section 251 budget returns, to be undertaken in early 2017. For two-year-olds, actual final allocations will be based on a 5/12ths to 7/12ths weighting of data from the January 2017 and January 2018 censuses.

## High needs block

35. The nature of the reform to the DSG allocations in relation to the high needs block means that no pupil count data from the censuses will be used. This includes the school level annual school census, and those pupils counted in the alternative provision census who are not counted towards the schools block and early years block.



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