



Income and expenditure in academies in England, 2015 to 2016

SFR 32/2017, 27 July 2017

Total expenditure marginally exceeded income in 2015/16

Total Income and expenditure by item, 2015/16



In the year ending August 2016, the total revenue expenditure in academies exceeded income by £280m. This represents 1.5% of income, up from 1.0% in 2014 to 2015.

However, this does not mean that academies are in debt, as they may have had reserve funds from which these costs were able to be met.

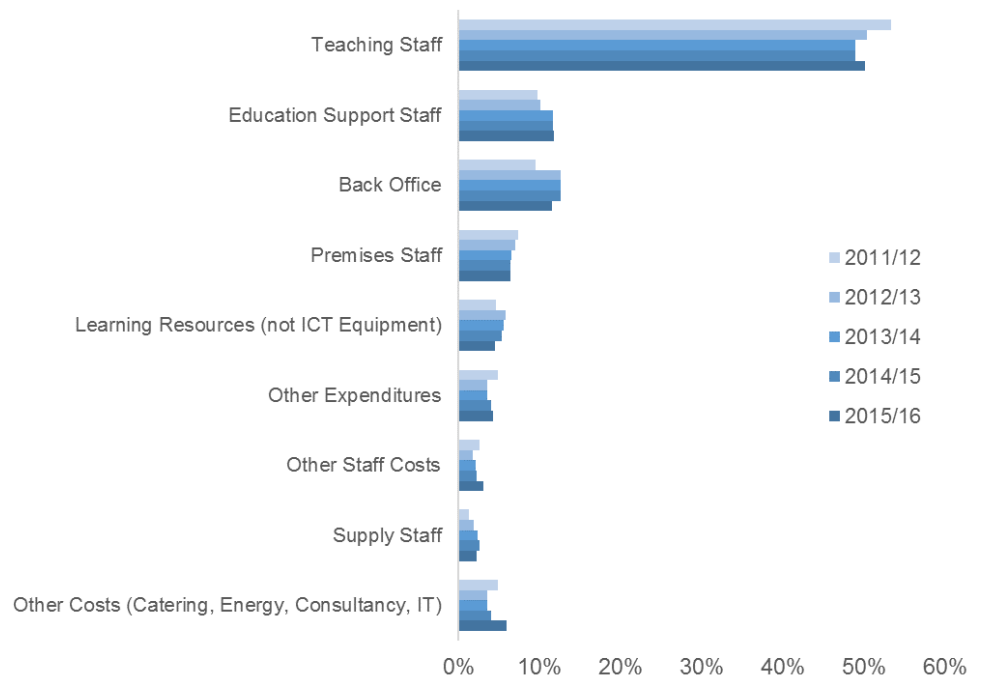
Proportionally, expenditure on teaching staff has slightly fallen since 2011/12

With growing school numbers and changing characteristics, care should be taken when comparing over time, see section 4.

Expenditure on teaching staff as a proportion of total expenditure has fallen by 3.2 ppts since 2011/12 when the data were first collected. However, it rose by 1.2 ppts since 2014/15.

This fall has been offset by increases in the proportion of expenditure on back office functions, education support staff and supply staff, although again much of this change occurred between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Proportion of total expenditure by item, 2011/12 to 2015/16



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About this release

This SFR contains information on the income and expenditure in academies in England. We use data from the Benchmarking section of the 2015/16 Accounts Returns, completed by each academy trust for the period ending 31 August 2016 (generally the academic year September 2015 to August 2016).

Unless specifically stated, the term 'academies' is used in this release as a catch-all term for all types of academies, including Free Schools, Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges and alternative provision academies and free schools.

In this publication

This SFR includes a full breakdown of income and expenditure for each academy and academy trust in England, which submitted an accounts return for the year ending 31 August 2016. A total of 5,266 academies report figures for the full academic year 2015 to 2016, up from 4,509 for 2014 to 2015.

The accompanying quality and methodology information document, provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at afb.benchmarking@education.gov.uk

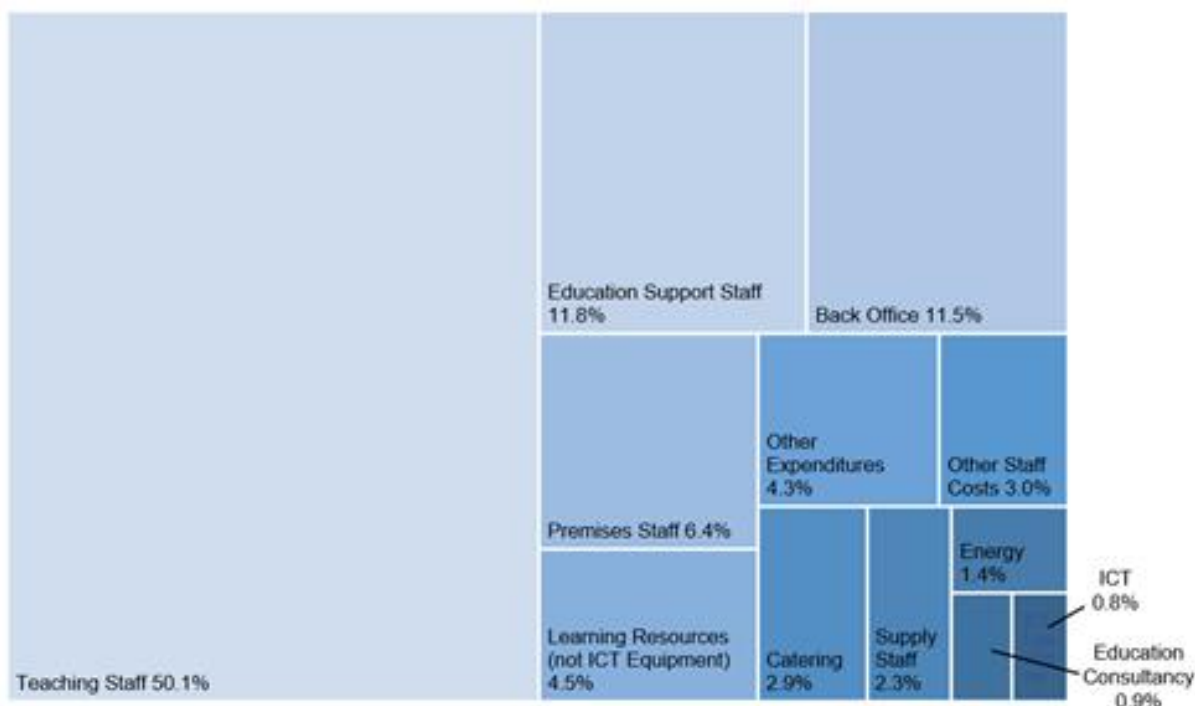
1. Income and expenditure in 2015/16

The total income for academies during 2015/16 was £18.93 billion. Grant funding provided the vast majority (94.5%), with the remainder being generated by academies themselves. Academies spent a total of £19.21 billion during 2015/16. Half of this (50.1%) was on teaching staff, with significant expenditures on education support staff (11.8%) and back office functions (11.5%).

Other significant but smaller expenditure components were those on premises (6.4%) and non-ICT learning resources (4.5%). Other staff costs and supply staff made up 3.0% and 2.3% of total expenditure respectively.

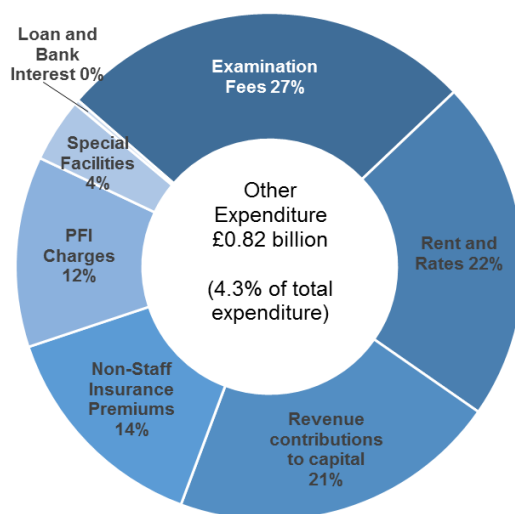
The full breakdown of academy expenditures is given in figure 1.1 below.

Figure 1.1: Expenditure by academies, 2015/16



'Other staff costs' cover the costs of all staff directly employed by the trust and not covered in the other staff categories, for example staff supervising students before or after school or at lunchtime. 'Other expenditure' accounted for 4.3% of total expenditure. A breakdown of how this is made up is given in figure 1.2 below.

Figure 1.2: 'Other' expenditure in academies, 2015/16



Just under half of single academy trusts (1,014 of 2,064) are recorded as having spent more than their income in 2015/16, while six in ten multi academy trusts (661 of 1,081 trusts) did so. This in-year deficit does not mean that these academies or trusts are in debt, as they may have reserve funds through which these costs were met.

2. Comparisons with previous years

Median income and expenditure

With the number of academies growing each year, and to avoid outliers skewing the figures, the fairest way to compare overall academy income and expenditure year on year is on a per pupil basis using median figures.

Table 2.1 shows that the median income and expenditure has been slowly increasing in primary academies, while slowly decreasing in secondary academies before rising in 2015/16.

Table 2.1: Median income and expenditure per pupil by school type

Single academy trusts open for the whole academic year, 2011/12 to 2015/2016. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

Type of School	Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Primary Academies	Number of Schools	224	477	703	809	787
	Median income per pupil	£4,713	£4,609	£4,671	£4,789	£4,791
	Median expenditure per pupil	£4,372	£4,643	£4,612	£4,773	£4,824
Secondary Academies with KS4	Number of Schools	774	1,025	1,109	1,032	984
	Median income per pupil	£6,340	£5,855	£5,872	£5,735	£5,714
	Median expenditure per pupil	£6,061	£5,807	£5,896	£5,833	£5,968
Special Academies	Number of Schools	11	40	55	68	77
	Median income per pupil	£23,000	£23,371	£23,205	£22,187	£22,321
	Median expenditure per pupil	£20,718	£22,854	£22,952	£21,932	£22,409
All Through Academies	Number of Schools	-	-	42	52	56
	Median income per pupil	-	-	£6,955	£6,373	£6,104
	Median expenditure per pupil	-	-	£7,015	£6,492	£6,285

Why haven't Multi-academy trusts been included in table 2.1?

Multi academy trusts (MATs) supply their financial data to the department at a whole trust level. Although individual academies do provide breakdowns of their own income and expenditure there are certain items which are managed at trust level and cannot be split between individual academies. Because we cannot split these costs between individual schools, we cannot accurately compare schools within MATs either to single academy trusts or by school phase or type. We have therefore not included schools within MATs in the above table.

The main tables of this publication include information from 1,081 multi academy trusts covering 4,335 academies.

Changing patterns of expenditure

Expenditure on teaching staff has fallen by 3.2 ppts since 2011/12 when the data were first collected. However, it rose by 1.2 ppts between 2014/15 and 2015/16, and remains the largest expenditure at 50.1% of all expenditure by academies.

The longer term fall has been offset by increases in the proportion of expenditure on back office functions, education support staff and supply staff, although much of this change occurred between 2011/12 and 2012/13, where back office expenditure rose from 9.5% to 12.6% of all expenditure.

3. Further information is available

School level information is available in the main tables of this publication. For academies which were open for the whole of the 2015/16 academic year this is given both as raw income and expenditure and in per pupil terms.

Information for academies for years from 2010/11 to 2014/15 is available from the [local authority and school finance statistics page](#) on GOV.uk, in the 'Academy spending' section.

The [OECD's 'Education at a Glance'](#) report provides comparisons between expenditure per pupil in the UK (for all types of schools) and other OECD and European countries.

4. Experimental Statistics

Experimental statistics are new official statistics that are undergoing evaluation. These statistics are being published as experimental statistics in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to further improve the quality of the data in the future. This publication forms part of the government's data transparency agenda.

These data have been marked as experimental statistics largely due to the rapid increase in the number of academies and free schools open. In January 2016 there were nearly 5,500 open academies, as opposed to just over 4,700 in January 2015. This jump means there are many academies filling in the benchmarking return for the first time. We are reviewing the quality of this data to help improve future collections.

The department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

5. Technical information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

6. Get in touch

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