

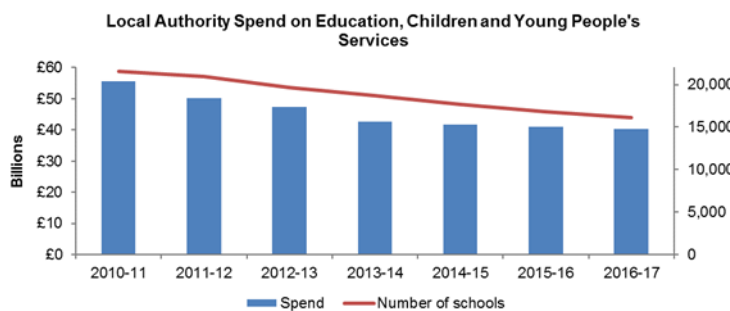


# Expenditure by Local Authorities and Schools on Education, Children and Young People's Services in England, 2016-17

SR71/2017, 14 December 2017

This release contains information on expenditure by local authorities and by local authority maintained schools only. It does not include information on expenditure by academies. Some areas of spend are therefore affected by the number of schools which have become academies. All figures in this release are presented in cash terms and are not adjusted for inflation.

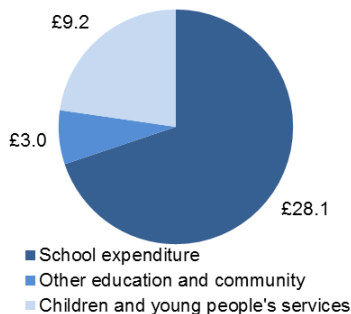
## Total aggregate expenditure by local authorities for education, children and young people's services in England has fallen since 2010-11, along with the number of local authority maintained schools



Local authority gross spend on schools, education and children and young people's services for 2016-17 is £40.3 billion, a reduction of £0.7 billion from 2015-16 (in nominal terms). Not adjusting for inflation, spending has fallen by 28% since 2010-11, while the number of local authority maintained schools fell by 25% over the same period.

## 'School Expenditure' accounts for more than two-thirds of expenditure by local authorities on education, children and young people's services

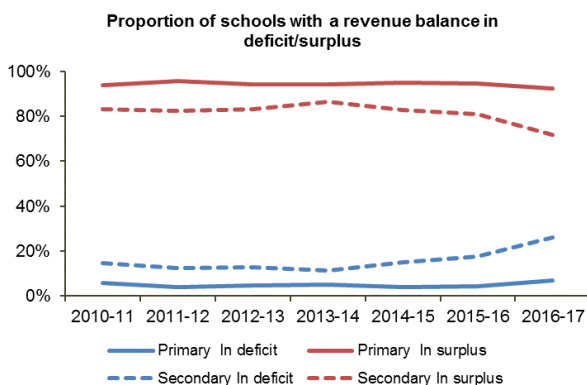
Overview of local authority total expenditure  
£ billions, 2016-17



As in previous years, the majority of local authorities' spend is on maintained schools: £28.1 billion in 2016-17, accounting for 69.8% of local authorities expenditure for education, children and young people's services.

Local authorities spent a further £3.0 billion (7.4% of the total) on other education and community budget, and £9.2 billion (22.7%) on children and young people's services.

## A large majority of maintained schools have a surplus revenue balance, though this proportion has declined in recent years, particularly for secondary schools



In 2016-17 there were 14,498 local authority maintained schools with a surplus revenue balance - equivalent to 90.0%.

There were 1,461 (9.1%) local authority maintained schools with a deficit revenue balance, while the remaining 147 (0.9%) had a zero revenue balance.

Within this total, there are a higher proportion of secondary schools in deficit than primary schools in deficit.

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## About this release

This statistical release provides information on the income and expenditure of local authority maintained schools in England and the income and expenditure of local authorities on their education, children’s and young people’s services for the financial year April 2016 to March 2017, based on the data provided by local authorities in Section 251 Outturn returns and by local authority-maintained schools in Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) returns.

The release contains finance data for local authorities and local authority maintained schools only. Academies are not included as they are not maintained by local authorities. Due to an increasing number of schools converting to academy status, total spending by maintained schools has decreased since last year and this should be taken into account when making year-on-year comparisons. This will particularly affect the school expenditure tables and some areas of local authority expenditure which are provided to maintained schools only.

All year-on-year changes in this release are based on unrounded data presented in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for inflation).

## In this publication

The following tables are included in the SR:

- National Tables (SR71\_Tables.xls)
- Local Authority Level Tables (SR71\_Tables.xls)

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

## Section 251 Outturn Return

Local authorities (LAs) are required to provide the DfE with a Section 251 Outturn Return of planned expenditure covering schools, education and children’s and young people’s services. This is to ensure LAs provide financial data in a consistent manner that can support comparisons and benchmarking with other LAs. See the [Section 251 outturn guidance for LAs](#) for further information on the data reported.

## Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at: [finance.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:finance.statistics@education.gov.uk)

## 1. Children and Young People's Services (Tables 1 & 2)

The following table provides a year-on-year comparison<sup>(1)</sup> (before inflation) of local authority expenditure (gross) on children<sup>(2, 3)</sup> and young people's services.

### Children and Young People's Services

England, 2015-16 and 2016-17

	2015-16	2016-17	Change between 2015-16 and 2016-17
Total Sure Start Children's Centres and other spend on children under 5 <sup>2, 3</sup>	£0.8 billion	£0.8 billion	a decrease of £69.6 million
Total Children Looked After	£3.9 billion	£4.2 billion	an increase of £215.1 million
Total Other Children and Family Services	£0.1 billion	£0.1 billion	a decrease of £15.8 million
Total Safeguarding Children's and Young People's Services	£2.2 billion	£2.3 billion	an increase of £107.4 million
Total Family Support Services	£1.1 billion	£1.1 billion	a decrease of £13.2 million
Total Services for Young People	£0.5 billion	£0.4 billion	a decrease of £80.4 million
Total Youth Justice	£0.3 billion	£0.3 billion	a decrease of £23.8 million

Source: Section 251 Outturn Return

1. All figures in this table are presented in cash terms and have not been adjusted for inflation.

2. This includes funding for individual Sure Start children's centres; for local authority provided or commissioned area-wide services delivered through Sure Start children's centres; and on local authority management costs relating to Sure Start children's centres. Other spend on children under 5 is any other money (non-Dedicated Schools Grant) spent to support and develop early years provision (for 0-5s). Activities likely to be included are improvement / sustainability support, implementing the sufficiency action plan and local workforce development.

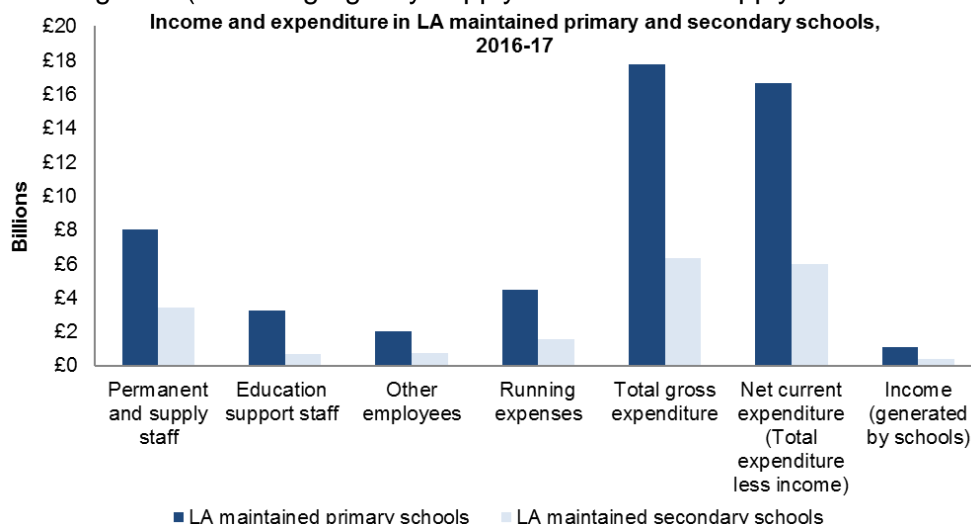
3. This does not include funding on early education (including early education funding through the free entitlement).

## 2. School income and expenditure (Tables 3 & 4)

As part of the CFR survey, schools reported a total gross expenditure of £26.8 billion, of which £0.3 billion (1.1%) was spent by local authority maintained nursery schools, £17.8 billion (66.3%) was spent by primary schools, £6.4 billion (23.7%) was spent by secondary schools, £2.0 billion (7.4%) was spent by special schools and £0.4 billion (1.6%) was spent by pupil referral units. This pattern partly reflects the remaining number of local authority maintained schools of each type (for example a higher proportion of secondary schools than primary schools have become academies and so are not included in these figures), as illustrated in the following 'spend per pupil' figures.

At national level, the average 'spend per pupil' figures for local authority maintained schools open through the 2016-17 financial year increased by £65 to £5,417 (from £5,352 in 2015-16, without taking account of inflation). Within this total, the 'spend per pupil' figure decreased by £232 for nursery schools to £8,725 (from £8,957 in 2015-16); increased by £65 for primary schools to £4,766 (from £4,701 in 2015-16); increased by £24 for secondary schools to £5,862 (from £5,838 in 2015-16); increased by £156 for special schools to £22,246 (from £22,090 in 2015-16) and increased by £846 for pupil referral units to £33,885 (from £33,039 in 2015-16).

Of the £26.8 billion total gross expenditure, £12.4 billion (46.3%) was spent on permanent and supply teaching staff (excluding agency supply teachers and supply teacher insurance costs); £4.7 billion (17.4%)



on education support staff; £3.1 billion (11.5%) on other employee costs; and £6.7 billion (24.8%) on running expenses.

Of the £1.7 billion of total income, £1.1 billion (65.1%) was generated by primary schools and £0.4 billion (21.6%) was generated by secondary schools. The remaining £0.2 billion coming from special schools, nursery schools and PRUs.

### 3. School Revenue Balances (Table 5)

In 2016-17 the total revenue balance across all local authority maintained schools was £1.7 billion, a decrease of £384.8 million since 2015-16 (before inflation). This amounts to 6.4% of their total revenue income, which equates to an average revenue balance in each local authority maintained school of £106,000.

The proportion of schools with a surplus has decreased from 93.2% in 2015-16 to 90.0% in 2016-17. The proportion of schools with a deficit has increased from 6.0% in 2015-16 to 9.1% in 2016-17.

#### School Revenue Balances

England, 2015-16 and 2016-17

		2015-16	2016-17	Change between 2015-16 and 2016-17
All local authority maintained schools	Average surplus (in each school with a surplus)	£141,000	£131,000	a decrease of £11,000
	Average deficit (in each school with a deficit)	-£120,000	-£131,000	an increase of £11,000
Local authority maintained primary schools	Average surplus (in each school with a surplus)	£116,000	£108,000	a decrease of £8,000
	Average deficit (in each school with a deficit)	-£37,000	-£44,000	an increase of £7,000
Local authority maintained secondary schools	Average surplus (in each school with a surplus)	£392,000	£373,000	an decrease of £18,000
	Average deficit (in each school with a deficit)	-£372,000	-£416,000	an increase of £44,000

Source: CFR Return

All figures in this table are presented in cash terms and have not been adjusted for inflation.

### 4. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics [website](#).

#### National tables

1 Schools expenditure by sector

- 2 Detailed income and expenditure statistics for local authority spending on children and young people's services in England
- 3 Detailed school income and expenditure statistics for local authority maintained schools in England by phase of education
- 4 School income and expenditure and per capita statistics for local authority maintained schools in England by phase of education
- 5 Detailed school revenue balances statistics by phase of education

### **Local authority and regional tables**

- 6 Expenditure statistics for all local authority education and children's services: local authority and region
- 7 Expenditure by local authority
- 8 Net expenditure of individual schools budget by local authority
- 9 Net expenditure on children's and young people's services by local authority
- 10 School income and expenditure statistics for local authority maintained schools in England by phase of education: local authority and region
- 11 School level revenue balances for all local authority maintained schools by local authority in England

### **School table**

- 12 School level revenue balances for all local authority maintained schools

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

- **We preserve confidentiality**  
The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
- **We round numbers**  
Because of this rounding, totals in text and in tables may not always equal the sum of their component parts. Similarly, differences quoted in text may not always be the same as differences shown in tables. This is consistent with the [departmental statistical policy](#).
- **We adopt symbols**  
Symbols are used in the tables as follows:
  - . not applicable
  - .. not available

## **5. Further information is available**

- Last year's figures are available [here](#).
  - [Section 251 Budget statistics](#). Whereas this release focuses on actual expenditure, budget statistics focus on planned expenditure by LAs (and their schools).
  - [Academy spending](#). Experimental statistics present information on the income and expenditure in academies in the academic year 2015/2016.
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## 6. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This 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
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

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

## 7. Technical information

A [methodology document](#) accompanies this statistical release. 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.

## 8. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

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# Department for Education

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Reference: SR71/2017



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