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SCHOOL CAPACITY 2011

INTRODUCTION

This release provides information for May 2011 on the numbers of primary and secondary school places, unfilled school places and pupils in excess of school capacity, together with pupil number forecasts. Data are provided at national and local authority (LA) level.

This is **an official statistics** publication, published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

KEY POINTS

State-funded Primary Schools

Of the 16,873 state-funded primary schools:

- 3,438 schools (20.4 per cent) were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity (20.3 per cent in 2010). There were 36,850 pupils (0.9 per cent) in excess of school capacity (1.0 per cent in 2010).
- 13,435 schools (79.6 per cent) had one or more unfilled places (79.7 per cent in 2010). There were 444,410 (10.4 per cent) unfilled places (10.8 per cent in 2010).

State-funded Secondary Schools

Of the 3,300 state-funded secondary schools:

- 837 schools (25.4 per cent) were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity (28.1 per cent in 2010). There were 40,260 pupils (1.1 per cent) in excess of school capacity (1.6 per cent in 2010).
- 2,463 schools (74.6 per cent) had one or more unfilled places (71.9 per cent in 2010). There were 396,240 (11.0 per cent) unfilled places (10.0 per cent in 2010).

Local Authority Pupil Forecasts

- According to LA's own forecasts, the number of primary pupils is set to increase by 454,800 nationally between 2010/11 and 2015/16.
- At secondary level (11-19), LAs forecast that the overall number of secondary pupils attending state-funded secondary schools will increase nationally by 44,210 by 2017/18.

TABLES

Table 1	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: School Capacity in England, May 2011
Table 2	State-funded Primary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area in England, May 2011
Table 3	State-funded Secondary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area in England, May 2011
Table 4	Pupils of Primary School Age 2010/11 and Pupil Forecasts 2011/12 – 2015/16 by Local Authority Area in England
Table 5	Pupils of Secondary School Age 2010/11 and Pupil Forecasts 2011/12 – 2017/18 by Local Authority Area in England

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

1. The net capacity assessment of a school is the number of pupil places available. This method of assessment provides a single and consistent form of calculating the capacity of schools and applies to all mainstream community, voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled and foundation schools in England. Net capacity assessments do not apply to academies, nursery schools, special schools or pupil referral units.
2. Data on pupil forecasts are also collected from local authorities as part of the School Capacity Survey. LAs use a wide variety of methods to forecast pupil numbers in school-place planning. The Department has provided guidance to assist authorities in this process but it is felt that LAs are best placed to determine their own methodology due to local knowledge of their planning areas and local trends in pupil numbers.

Data Collection, Coverage and Quality

3. The Department collects school place data from local authorities (LAs) under The Information as to Provision of Education (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011. LAs provide data annually on the number of school places on a school by school basis. LAs provided net capacity data for all of their maintained primary and secondary schools via the School Capacity Survey. Figures relating to number of pupils are derived from the School Census as at May 2011.
4. Net capacity assessments are not required of academies. The capacity of an academy is agreed with the Secretary of State and written into its funding agreement. This then operates as a baseline figure for the assessment of any future bid for expansion. Capacity figures for academies have been derived from two sources: the capacity figure as written into funding agreements and Edubase. The capacity figure as set out in funding agreements is not yet available for a number of converter academies, therefore, the net capacity figure for their predecessor school has been used (sourced from Edubase).
5. Some new schools, including newly created academies may still be taking in year groups and may appear to have a high number of unfilled places. In the underlying school level data the opening date of the school has been included so that users can identify new schools.
6. For the purpose of the School Capacity Collection, net capacity data submitted by local authorities should include all classroom accommodation on school sites including temporary accommodation.
7. Primary forecasts for 2015/16 in Poole and Windsor & Maidenhead local authorities do not include reception pupils. Secondary forecasts for Windsor and Maidenhead local authority are unavailable for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
8. Tables 2 and 3 are local authority level tables which are based on school level data for state-funded primary and secondary schools as at May 2011. The description 'state-funded primary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as primary, as well as primary converter academies. The description 'state-funded secondary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as secondary, secondary converter academies and all sponsor-led academies.

9. Tables 4 and 5 are local authority level tables which are based on LA's own pupil forecasts. Primary pupil forecasts include pupils in year groups Reception to 6; secondary forecasts include pupils in year groups 7 to 13 (aged 11 – 19). Secondary forecasts should exclude pupils in sixth form colleges. All pupil forecasts exclude pupils expected to be educated in a new school (or new places in an existing school) funded through s106 agreements.
10. There are no planned revisions to this SR, 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> .
11. The main changes from last year's SFR are:
 - Forecasts now cover state-funded schools, previously academies were excluded.
 - Tables now include both LA maintained schools and academies, for ease of use.
 - Previously, the annual Surplus Places Survey was used to monitor whether local authorities were taking action to manage surplus places effectively with a focus on schools in urban areas that had 25 per cent or more surplus capacity. The current demographic context, growing demand at primary ages, means that the emphasis on surplus place removal no longer applies and the tables have been amended accordingly.

General

12. The Department published information on national trends in pupil projections on Thursday 28 July 2011 (a further release is scheduled for January 2012). The release contained projections of national pupil numbers in schools and is based on the latest available mid-2010 population estimates and mid-2008 population projections, which were the latest available at the time, from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), together with the spring 2011 School Census data. The pupil forecasts within this school capacity release are as reported by Local Authorities for the purpose of assessing the local level need for future primary and secondary places. Any aggregated totals from the locally-focused forecasts are likely to differ from the main national projections due to differences with input data and projection methods.
13. National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
14. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.
15. The following symbols have been used within this publication:
 - .. - not available
 - .
16. 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
17. 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.