



Department
for Education

Free Schools: Applications and Places

School capacity data and survey information for
pupil entry in September 2014

May 2014

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School Capacity in England

Most Free Schools and free school places are in areas where there is need for greater pupil capacity. Information on capacity in primary and secondary schools in England, disaggregated to local authority level and available alongside forecasts of pupil numbers, is published annually by the Department for Education. Data from the 2012/13 academic year was published in April 2014 and is available at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-capacity-academic-year-2012-to-2013>.

Published Data

Previously released analysis based on the 2011/12 School Capacity data collection shows seven in ten new places created under the free schools programme are in areas where there is a need for new school places. The National Audit Office have independently quality assured these figures (available here: <http://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/10314-001-Free-Schools-Book.pdf>). They cite that around 70 per cent of the estimated 114,000 primary and secondary places from open or approved mainstream free schools are in areas forecasting some need.

The NAO report also reflects data available from the Department for Education showing that, of the 142 open mainstream free schools in September 2013, 100 had opened in districts with forecasted need, while 42 had opened in districts with no forecasted need. Therefore, 70 percent of the 142 open mainstream free schools in September 2013 opened in areas of forecasted need. Out of a projected total of £950 million for mainstream schools, £709 million will be spent on schools in districts with forecasted need while £241 million would be spent in areas with no forecasted need.

Free School Applications and Places

In March 2014, the Department surveyed open free schools for data on applications per place for the coming September. 141 out of the 142¹ mainstream free schools were contacted and 109 schools responded, providing information on their reception and/ or year 7 pupil places alongside the number of applications they had received for September 2014 places.

Survey Results

Mainstream free schools were specifically asked:

- (i) How many places does your school have in its entry year: reception and/or Year 7?
- (ii) How many applications from prospective pupils did the school receive for its entry years?
- (iii) Of the applications referred to in (ii) how many were first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth preference applications?

Table 1 below provides the results of the survey. Specifically, the school-level table offers the number of pupil places and preferences expressed for all free schools that responded to our data collection exercise. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the number of applications by order of preference due to variation in the way schools responded to this part of the survey.

Of the 109 mainstream free schools that responded, the average number of preferences expressed per pupil place was 2.7, as detailed at the base of the table. These schools received 23,314 preference applications for the 8,635 places on offer.

¹ Discovery New School was not contacted because this school was due to close in April 2014.

Future Publications

Local Authorities (LAs) coordinate admissions and hold data on preferences expressed by parents across schools in their LA. In previous years, the Department has collected school preference data for secondary schools from LAs, aggregated to LA-level only. This collection has been extended for the first this year to both include primary schools and to collect data at pupil level.

This means that the Department will be publishing secondary and primary school applications and offers, March to April 2014, on 24th June. Preference data will be published at LA-level.

Free Schools: Pupil Applications and Places

Table 1: Free Schools: Total Entry Places and Number of Expressed Preferences for September 2014 ¹

Name of school	Phase	Total places	Total number of preferences ²
ARK John Keats Academy	All-through	270	399
Avanti House School	All-through	240	503
Batley Grammar School	All-through	108	468
Bradford Girls' Grammar School	All-through	144	500
Chichester Free School	All-through	150	250
Churchill Special Free School	All-through	18	30
Europa School UK	All-through	56	127
Gildredge House	All-through	176	479
Grindon Hall Free School	All-through	40	175
Nishkam School West London	All-through	50	50
Plymouth School of Creative Arts	All-through	180	270
Reach Academy Feltham	All-through	60	264
Steiner Academy Exeter	All-through	52	101
Steiner Academy Frome	All-through	26	55
Abacus Primary School	Primary	30	140
Alban City Free School	Primary	60	257
All Saints Junior School	Primary	25	30
Anand Primary School	Primary	60	34
ARK Atwood Academy	Primary	60	227
Barnfield Moorlands Free School	Primary	54	144
Bilingual Primary School, Brighton and Hove	Primary	60	125
Boston Pioneers Free School	Primary	60	67
Canary Wharf College	Primary	40	219
Cathedral Primary School	Primary	30	202
Emmanuel Community School	Primary	30	97
Enfield Heights Academy	Primary	25	81
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Primary	28	107
Haberdashers' Askes' Hatcham Temple Grove Free School	Primary	60	301
Harris Primary Free School Peckham	Primary	60	138
Hatfield Community Free School	Primary	60	132
Hope Community School	Primary	30	63
Judith Kerr Primary School	Primary	50	269
Khalsa Science Academy	Primary	30	12
Kingfisher Hall Primary Academy	Primary	60	167
Krishna-Avanti Primary School	Primary	60	82
Langdale Free School	Primary	18	36
Longsight Community Primary	Primary	30	42
Marine Academy Primary	Primary	60	71
Mosaic Jewish Primary School	Primary	30	38
Nanaksar Primary School	Primary	120	159
New Islington Free School	Primary	30	58

Free Schools: Pupil Applications and Places

Name of school	Phase	Total places	Total number of preferences ²
Nishkam Free School	Primary	60	106
Peaslake Free School	Primary	11	22
Pimlico Primary Academy	Primary	25	113
Rimon Jewish Primary School	Primary	28	99
Rutherford House School	Primary	60	251
St Anthony's School	Primary	17	59
St Luke's Church of England School	Primary	15	103
St Martin's Academy	Primary	25	80
St Mary's Hampton Church of England School	Primary	30	124
St Mary's Primary School, Dilwyn	Primary	8	8
The Free School Norwich	Primary	24	92
The Gateway Primary Free School	Primary	60	115
The Olive School, Blackburn	Primary	90	241
The Olive School, Hackney	Primary	90	185
The Olive Tree Primary School	Primary	60	92
The Priors School	Primary	10	11
The Wells Free School	Primary	24	114
Thomson House School	Primary	48	194
Tiger Primary School	Primary	60	174
Tyndale Community School	Primary	60	59
University Cathedral Free School	Primary	30	60
West London Free School Primary	Primary	60	374
West Newcastle Academy	Primary	28	31
Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy	Primary	60	218
Atherton Community School	Secondary	90	83
Beccles Free School	Secondary	108	157
Becket Keys Church of England School	Secondary	150	668
Bedford Free School	Secondary	100	86
Bolingbroke Academy	Secondary	120	681
Bristol Free School	Secondary	150	389
Cambourne Village College	Secondary	161	251
City of Peterborough Academy	Secondary	180	164
Compass School Southwark	Secondary	100	205
Corby Technical School	Secondary	75	344
Dixons Trinity Academy	Secondary	112	815
East London Science School	Secondary	120	289
Hackney New School	Secondary	100	357
Hadlow Rural Community School	Secondary	60	164
Heron Hall Academy	Secondary	90	367
IES Breckland	Secondary	100	115
King's Leadership Academy Warrington	Secondary	120	275
Leeds Jewish Free School	Secondary	9	19
Nishkam High School	Secondary	100	270
Oakbank	Secondary	112	231

Free Schools: Pupil Applications and Places

Name of school	Phase	Total places	Total number of preferences ²
One in a Million Free School	Secondary	60	349
Perry Beeches II The Free School	Secondary	100	494
Perry Beeches III The Free School	Secondary	100	302
Robert Owen Vocational School	Secondary	31	28
Route 39 Academy	Secondary	34	88
Sandbach School	Secondary	210	318
Sandymoor School	Secondary	80	121
Saxmundham Free School	Secondary	108	77
Sir Thomas Fremantle Secondary School	Secondary	60	188
St Michael's Catholic Secondary School	Secondary	60	55
Stour Valley Community School	Secondary	115	256
Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School	Secondary	388	288
The Archer Academy	Secondary	150	800
The Boulevard Academy	Secondary	120	159
The Durham Free School	Secondary	55	79
The Greenwich Free School	Secondary	100	726
The Hawthorne's Free School	Secondary	120	63
The Reach Free School	Secondary	120	228
The Rural Enterprise Academy (year 10 entry)	Secondary	60	25
The Swanage School	Secondary	84	66
Trinity School	Secondary	120	381
West London Free School	Secondary	120	1130
William Perkin CofE High School	Secondary	180	891
Wye Free School	Secondary	90	378
Total Places / Preferences		8,635	23,314
Average number of preferences for each free school			2.7

1. All mainstream free schools which returned data. All SEN/AP and 16-19 schools have been excluded and mainstream schools have only been included where they have provided data for entry to either Reception and/or Year 7

2. Total number of preferences includes all preferences submitted for each school for entry into school in September 2014. LAs offer up to six preferences per child.