



Statistical First Release

Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014

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Issued by	Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT
Press office	020 7783 8300
Public enquiries	0370 000 2288
Statistician	Adam Hatton
Email	Infrastructure.STATISTICS@education.gsi.gov.uk
Internet	Statistics: school and pupil numbers

8.3 million Pupils (headcount) enrolled in schools in England, i.e. including state-funded and independent schools.

1.0 Per cent increase in that number since January 2013. This increase is larger than in previous years and is driven by a 2.5 per cent increase in the number of pupils in state-funded primary schools. It was offset by a 0.9 per cent fall in pupils in state-funded secondary schools.

2.4 million Pupils (headcount) enrolled in academies (including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools) in England in January 2014. This has increased from 2.0 million since January 2013.

27.4 Average infant one-teacher class size in state-funded primary schools in England. This is up by 0.1 since January 2013. There is a statutory limit of 30 pupils in one-teacher infant classes. The average infant class size in Harrow exceeded 30 this year, the only local authority in which this was the case.

16.3 Per cent of pupils in state-funded schools (and local authority alternative provision) are known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals. This is down from 17.1 per cent in January 2013.

14.3 Per cent of pupils in state-funded secondary schools speak a first language known or believed to be other than English. This is up from 13.6 per cent in January 2013.

A National Statistics publication

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More than half of state-funded secondary schools are now academies	In January 2014, 57 per cent of state-funded secondary schools were academies (including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools). This has increased from slightly less than 50 per cent in January 2013.
There are an increasing number of large state-funded primary schools, but these represent a small proportion of the overall total.	The number of state-funded primary schools with more than 800 pupils has increased to 77 from 58 in January 2013. This represents 0.5 per cent of the total number of state-funded primary schools. The largest school in this category is Holy Trinity in Barnsley; however this is a school that caters for ages 3 to 16. The largest school in this category for pupils aged 3 to 11 is Gascoigne Primary School in Barking and Dagenham.
There has been a small decrease in the number of state-funded selective schools	There are now 163 selective state-funded secondary schools which is one fewer than the 164 last year due to the merger of Chatham House Grammar School for Boys and Clarendon House Grammar School. Selective schools educate just over 5 per cent of pupils in state-funded secondary schools. This rate has fluctuated between 4 and 5 per cent of pupils for the last 20 years. Of these schools 135 are now converter academies.
Nationality of pupils and the languages that they speak	The school census does not collect information on the nationality of pupils. It does collect information on the first language spoken by pupils, but this is not necessarily an indication of nationality. The school census does not collect information on any languages spoken by pupils beyond their first language. In state-funded primary schools 18.7 per cent of pupils have a first language known or believed to be other than English. This has increased by 0.6 percentage points since January 2013.
The proportion of minority ethnic pupils in state-funded schools has increased	In state-funded primary schools 29.5 per cent of pupils are from minority ethnic origins, in state-funded secondary schools 25.3 per cent of pupils are from minority ethnic origins. This has increased from 28.5 and 24.2 per cent respectively since January 2013.
Implications of the introduction of universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) for future statistics	In 2014, the department is introducing universal free school meals for all infant age pupils in state-funded schools; this has no impact on this year's figures, but may affect future years. Taken in isolation this could lead to an artificial reduction in measured eligibility for infant age pupils as there will no longer be a need to demonstrate eligibility to actually obtain the free school meals. However, eligibility for free school meals is still a criterion of pupil premium eligibility; given this the department has been providing schools with guidance on how to safeguard their pupil premium funding .

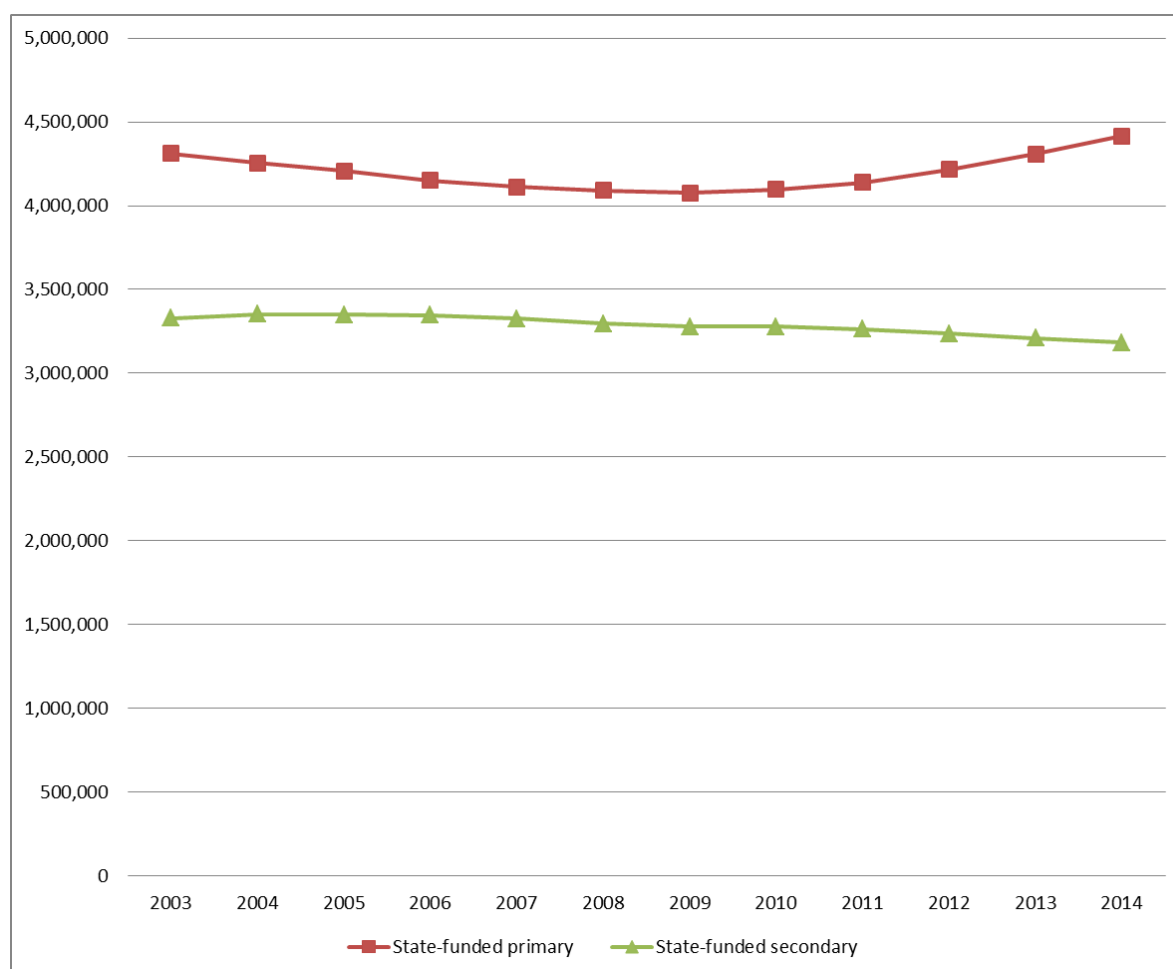
1. Background and context

This statistical first release (SFR) contains data on pupils enrolled in schools in England by their characteristics. The data was collected from schools and local authorities in January 2014 as part of the spring school census and the school level annual school census (for independent schools).

The SFR has data on pupil numbers, eligibility for free school meals, ethnicity, first language, age and gender, plus whether pupils attend schools full-time or part-time. It reports also on school class sizes including infant class sizes for which there is a statutory limit of 30 pupils in a one- teacher class.

2. Pupil and school numbers (Tables 1-2)

Chart A: primary pupil numbers increasing faster than decline in secondary numbers
Pupil numbers in schools in England: 2003 to 2014.



The numbers of pupils in schools in England is continuing to increase

There has been growth in pupil numbers in schools in England since 2010 following a period of declining pupil rolls. The increase of 1 per cent in overall pupil numbers is slightly larger than in the previous year.

The number of pupils in state-funded primary schools continues to rise

There has been a 2.5 per cent increase in the number of pupils in state-funded primary schools since January 2013. Primary pupil numbers have been increasing each year since 2009, whereas between 2003 and 2009 primary school pupil numbers were in decline.

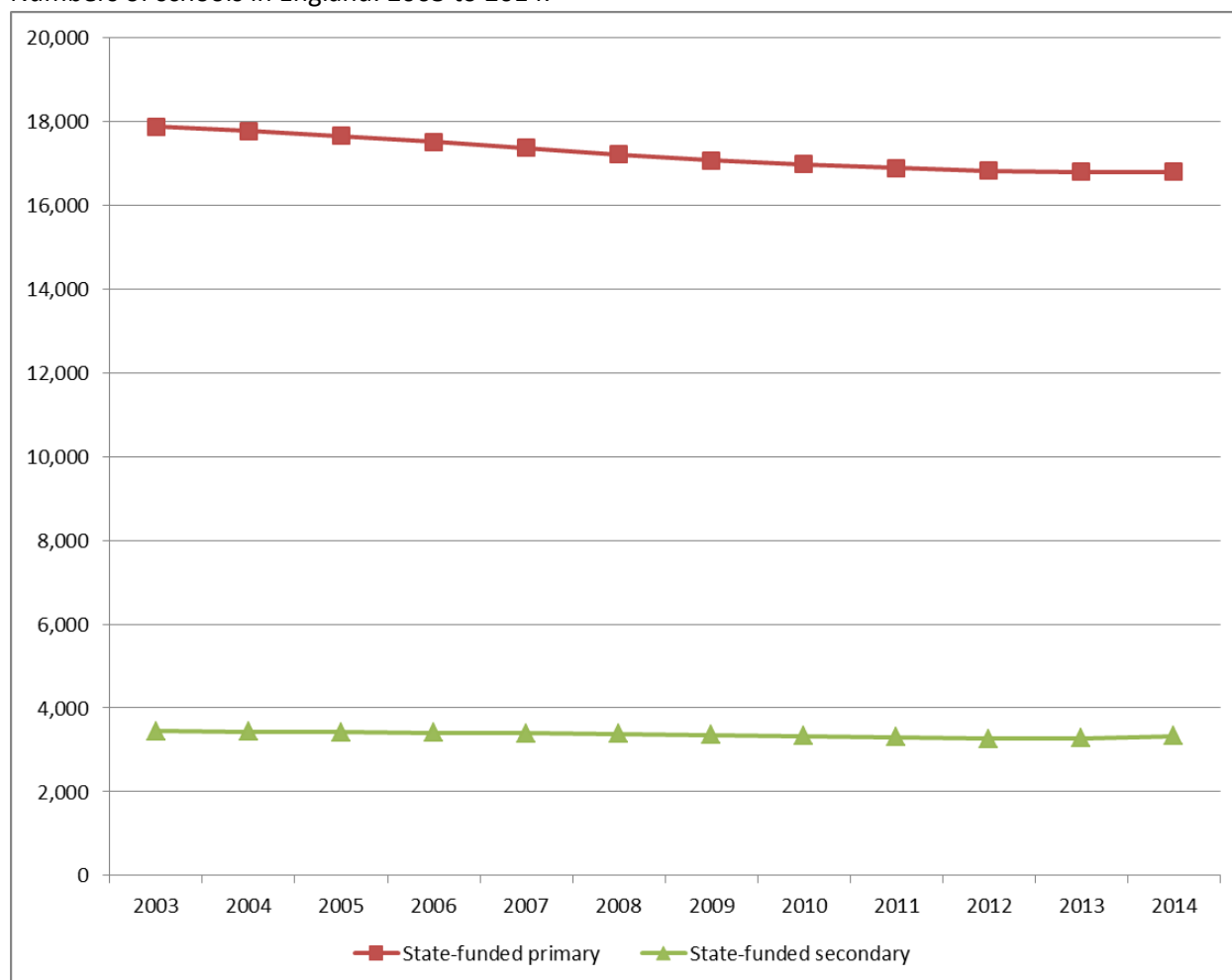
State-funded secondary pupil numbers still falling

The previous decline in primary pupil numbers is being seen in secondary schools with the number of pupils in secondary schools continuing to decline.

Number of pupils in independent schools broadly flat

The number of pupils attending independent schools has remained around 580,000 since 2003; it fell by around 700 pupils between January 2013 and January 2014.

Chart B: number of primary schools has been decreasing
Numbers of schools in England: 2003 to 2014.



While the recent trend in pupil numbers in primary schools in England has been to increase, this has not been reflected in the trend in the number of primary schools.

Slightly more schools

In January 2014 there were 24,347 schools, up from 24,328 in January 2013.

Growth in number of secondary schools	The number of state-funded secondary schools has increased to 3,329 from 3,281 in January 2013. However, approximately 90 schools classified here as secondary schools also teach primary year groups. The number of state-funded primary schools has increased to 16,788 from 16,784.
More large primary schools	There has been an increase in the number of large primary schools. The number of state-funded primary schools with more than 800 pupils has increased to 77 from 58 in January 2013. This represents 0.5 per cent of the total number of state-funded primary schools. Large schools are not necessarily filled beyond their capacity; information of this kind is available from the school capacity collection.
Number of pupil referral units in decline	The number of pupil referral units (including alternative provision academies and free schools) has been falling since 2010, from a peak of 458 in January 2009 to 371 in January 2014. In a number of areas local authorities have been merging their provision of this type.
Increasing number of academies and free schools	In January 2014 there were more than 2.4 million pupils being taught in 3,827 academies and free schools. This is an increase of 400,000 pupils and 1,115 academies and free schools since January 2013. Almost 30 per cent of all school pupils in England are enrolled in academies and free schools.

3. Free school meal eligibility (Table 3)

Free school meals: who was entitled?

In England, children in state-funded schools were entitled to receive free schools meals if a parent or carer were in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they were not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and had an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- During the initial roll out of the benefit, Universal Credit (this category was added from 29 April 2013)

The percentage of pupils known to be eligible and claiming free school meals in state-funded nursery and primary schools since 2008 has varied from a low of 15.5 per cent in 2008 to a high of 18.1 in 2012 and 2013. In state-funded secondary schools over the same period the same percentage has varied from a low of 12.8 in 2008 to a high of 15.1 in 2013.

Table A: percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals 2013 and 2014

There was a decline in the percentage of pupils known to be eligible and claiming free school meals.

	Known to be eligible and claiming free school meals	
	% 2013	% 2014
Nursery and state-funded primary schools	18.1	17.0
State-funded secondary schools	15.1	14.6
State-funded special schools	36.7	37.2
Pupil referral units	39.6	42.2
Local authority alternative provision	14.2	14.8
Total	17.1	16.3

Lower percentage of primary school pupils eligible for free school meals

The percentage of state-funded primary school pupils who were eligible for free school meals fell. In addition, whilst the overall number of primary school pupils has increased the absolute number of pupils eligible for free school meals has fallen. The decline in the percentage of primary school pupils eligible for free school meals is occurring in a large number of areas across the country (see table 8a). Some local authority areas are hosting pilot projects which offer universal free school meals to infant age pupils. Nationally, these latest figures are similar to those that were found in January 2009 and January 2010.

Free school meal rates in primary academies above average

Primary academies (table 3c) have proportionately more pupils eligible for free school meals than primary schools nationally. This will partly reflect almost 30 per cent of these academy pupils being enrolled in sponsored academies which are typically located in more deprived areas (with higher rates of eligibility for free school meals). Secondary academies have proportionately fewer pupils eligible for free schools meals than secondary schools nationally, in part because more than 75 per cent of these pupils are enrolled in converter academies which are, on average, in less deprived areas.

Free school meal rates in primary free schools are below average

Eligibility for free school meals in primary free schools has risen by 0.4 percentage points to 15.8 per cent since January 2013, but this remains below the primary school average of 17.0 per cent. In secondary free schools the rate has fallen by 0.2 percentage points to 16.1 per cent but this remains above the secondary school average of 14.6 per cent. This means that proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in primary free schools is slightly less on

average than in state-funded primary schools, but for secondary free schools slightly more on average than in all state-funded secondary schools.

4. Ethnic group (Table 4)

Those pupils of compulsory school age and above who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British are defined as being of minority ethnic origin.

Increasing percentage of pupils from minority ethnic origin in primary schools... In state-funded primary schools, 29.5 per cent of pupils were classified as being of minority ethnic origin - an increase from 28.5 per cent in January 2013. Minority ethnic pupils made up 60 per cent of the increase in the number of pupils in state-funded primary schools (with White British the remainder). The ethnicities with the largest increases in absolute numbers to January 2014: White British (up 43,000), any other White background¹ (up 21,000), mixed (up 13,600), Asian (up 13,300) and Chinese (up 9,200).

... and in secondary schools. In state-funded secondary schools, 25.3 per cent of pupils were classified as being of minority ethnic origin, an increase from 24.2 per cent in 2013. Secondary schools are experiencing cohorts with greater proportions of minority ethnic pupils, but secondary school rates time lag primary schools by approximately four years as these cohorts move through the school system. In 2009 less than 20 per cent of pupils in state-funded secondary schools were from minority ethnic backgrounds, so in five years the proportion of pupils in secondary schools from such backgrounds has increased by more than 25 per cent. The ethnicities with the largest changes in absolute numbers this year were; White British (down 60,600), Asian (up 10,700), any other White background¹ (up 8,100) and mixed (up 4,500). Therefore the overall decrease in the number of pupils in state-funded secondary schools since January 2013 was driven by a decrease in the number of White British pupils which was partially compensated by an increase in pupil numbers from other ethnic backgrounds.

5. First language (Table 5)

The percentage of pupils with a first language other than English is increasing in The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age or above in state-funded primary schools with a first language that is known or believed to be other than English is 18.7 per cent. This has increased

¹ Other than White British, Irish, Traveller of Irish heritage and Gypsy/Roma

primary schools...	by 0.6 percentage points since January 2013.
... and in secondary schools.	The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age or above in state-funded secondary schools with a first language that is known or believed to be other than English is 14.3 per cent. This has increased by 0.7 percentage points since January 2013.

6. Class sizes (Table 6)

The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribe certain limited circumstances in which pupils may be admitted as lawful exceptions to the infant class size limit of 30 for one-teacher classes. This means that a class of, for example, 32 pupils is lawful if two or more of those pupils have been admitted under lawful exceptions. If two or fewer have been admitted as lawful exceptions then the class is termed 'unlawful'.

The average infant one-teacher class size has increased slightly since last year	The average size of key stage 1 classes taught by one teacher on the census day in January 2014 was 27.4, compared to 27.3 in January 2013.
Information on which large infant classes were lawful or unlawful has been temporarily removed	These figures have been temporarily removed while further investigation of the data submitted by schools and local authorities is undertaken.

7. List of tables

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

Pupil and school numbers

- 1a State-funded primary secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2014.
- 1b Pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2014.
- 1c Independent schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2014.
- 1d State-funded primary, secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by national curriculum year group and gender, January 2014.
- 1e Pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number of pupils by national curriculum year group and gender, January 2014.
- 2a All schools: Number of schools and pupils by phase of school, 2003 to 2014.
- 2b Academies: Number of schools and pupils by type of academy, January 2014.
- 2c State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number of schools by their status and religious character, January 2014.
- 2d State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by the status and religious character of their school, January 2014.
- 2e State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number of schools by size, January 2014.
- 2f State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by the size of their school, January 2014.

Free school meal eligibility

- 3a State-funded nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, state-funded special schools, pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals by age, January 2014.
- 3b State-funded nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, state-funded special schools, pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number of

pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals based on performance tables, January 2014.

- 3c Academies: Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Ethnicity

- 4a State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2014.
- 4b Primary academies: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2014.
- 4c Secondary academies: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2014.
- 4d Special and alternative provision academies: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2014.

First language

- 5a State-funded primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2014.
- 5b Academies: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2014.

Class sizes

- 6a State-funded schools: Key stage 1 and 2 classes, 2006 to 2014.
- 6b State-funded schools: Key stage 1: One teacher classes and excepted pupils, January 2014.
- 6c State-funded primary and secondary schools: Classes as taught, 2006 to 2014.

Local authority tables

- 7a All schools: Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7b All schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by type of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7c State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils,

- by admissions policy, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7d State-funded primary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the status of their school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7e State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the status of their school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7f State-funded primary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the religious character of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 7g State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the religious character of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 8a State-funded nursery and state-funded primary schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 8b State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 8c Special schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 8d Pupil referral units and alternative provision academies and free schools: Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area, by region, January 2014.
- 9a State-funded primary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 9b State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 9c Special schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 10a State-funded primary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 10b State-funded secondary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 10c Special schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 10d Pupil referral units and alternative provision academies and free schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2014.
- 11 State-funded primary schools: Classes as taught by key stage of pupils, by local authority area, by region, January 2014.
- Cross-border movement**
- 12a Local authority cross border movement of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 12b Local authority cross border movement of state-funded secondary school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 12c Local authority cross border movement of special school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 13 Local authority cross border movement by national curriculum year group of state-funded school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 14a Local authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 14b Local authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded secondary school pupils resident in England, January 2014.
- 14c Local authority cross border movement matrix of special school pupils resident in England, January 2014.

7. List of tables (cont)

When reviewing the tables, please note the following:

What we mean by 'state-funded'	These are schools which may be: maintained by local authorities, city technology colleges and academies (which also includes free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools). This also includes schools specifically for pupils with special educational need - 'special schools'.
Some schools do not complete school census	Some 16-19 only providers do not complete School Census returns and instead complete the Individualised Learner Record . This year this included Haringey Sixth Form Centre and the London Academy of Excellence. These providers are included in school counts, but their pupil data is not available.
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.
So we round numbers	We round pupil numbers at national and regional levels to the nearest 5. Because of this rounding, totals in the text and in the tables may not always equal the sum of their component parts. Similarly, differences quoted in the text may not always be the same as differences shown in tables. Where any number is shown as zero the original figure was zero. Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on pupil numbers is less than 3 this has been replaced by an 'x'. This suppression is consistent with the Departmental statistical policy .
And adopt symbols to help identify this	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: 0 zero x small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality . not applicable .. not available
We've made small but important additions this year	In response to user need summary statistics on the number of state-funded primary and secondary schools by their total number of pupils have been re-included in this publication. These are in tables 2e and 2f. We have also added in a summary of the latest headlines on statistics that our users regularly ask about and included a section describing the other uses that are made of school census data.
We do not normally make changes to this publication	This is an annual publication and is not normally subject to in-year revision, but where we are made aware of significant issues we may make revisions. This version of the publication was issued on 21 July 2014, the following changes have been made: 1. The 3 to 11 age range school named with the largest number of pupils is Gascoigne Primary School in Barking and Dagenham. This was previously listed as Durand Academy in Lambeth; this amendment has been made

following an update of the age range of Durand Academy showing it as a 3 to 18 school.

2. Information on the distribution of large infant classes in 2014 between lawful and unlawful has been temporarily removed while investigation of the data submitted by schools and local authorities is undertaken.

8. Background: Notes on specific data

Free school meals The figures reported here are based on those pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals. As the data published here is reported by schools, if a pupil comes from a family that would meet the eligibility criteria, but does not report this to the school, then they are not reported here as eligible for free school meals.

- From September 2009 to July 2011, three local authorities participated in a pilot to provide free school meals to maintained primary school children. Durham and Newham provided universal free school meals to all primary pupils, and Wolverhampton extended the current eligibility criteria to include all families in receipt of Working Tax Credit, for primary and secondary pupils.

For the pilot authorities mentioned above, care should be taken when comparing January 2010 and 2011 free school meal data with previous years' data and subsequent data.

From September 2014 infant pupils in state-funded schools will be entitled to a free school meal.

Free school meals are available to pupils who attend sixth forms attached to a maintained school, as long as the course of study began before the pupil reached age 18. Free school meal eligibility relates to those who meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim. Reported eligibility decreases markedly for pupils who attend school sixth forms and for this reason the quoted key points are now based on pupil numbers excluding those in school sixth forms.

Ethnic group Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British are defined as minority ethnic.

First language The language to which a child was initially exposed during early development and continues to be exposed in the home or in the community.

Class size The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 limits the size of infant classes (i.e. reception and key stage 1 classes) to no more than 30 pupils to a school teacher. The legislation allows for sensible exceptions e.g. when a child moves into an area during the school year and there is no other school within a reasonable distance of their home with a place available.

9. Background: Overview of the data collection and the data validation process

This SFR contains information about pupil characteristics. This information is derived from school census returns, school level annual school census returns and alternative provision census returns made to the department in January each year. The pupil referral unit census has now been discontinued and these institutions complete the school census.

[Guidance on the school census](#) is available on gov.uk. The [technical specification for school census](#) explains what data are collected and what validation is in place and includes the business rationale for the collection.

10. Background: Underlying/transparency data

This SFR is accompanied by school (and local authority alternative provision) underlying data. This includes information for each school open in England on 16 January 2014. The accompanying file includes a document which provides further information on the contents of these files and the meanings of any symbols used. This data is released under the terms of the [Open Government License](#) and is intended to meet at least 3 stars for [Open Data](#).

11. Background: What is school census data used for?

Funding	School census is a crucial evidence base for many funding calculations including the Dedicated Schools Grant funding, funding academies, pupil premium funding, capital funding allocations and others.
Producing cost estimates	It is also used to estimate the costs of new policies; this has recently included summer school allocations.
Policy development	The data is also used to monitor and develop departmental policies and plans, including underpinning projections of future demand for pupil places, monitoring class sizes and others.
School improvement	The data is used extensively; including by schools, local authorities and Ofsted within RAISE online software to examine the performance of pupils from different groups.
School performance tables and participation statistics	Pupil numbers from the school census are used in the calculation of school performance measures for secondary school performance tables. The data also contributes towards school participation statistics.
The national pupil database	School census data is incorporated into the national pupil database (NPD) which can be used for research purposes by both internal and accredited external users. National pupil database: apply for a data extract

Pupil-teacher ratios	Pupil teacher ratios are also produced using full-time equivalent pupil numbers from the school census.
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12. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation 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; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

13. Want more?

Want school, local authority and regional figures?	These are available in accompanying files on the same webpage as this release.
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Want previously published figures?	These are available on the internet: Publications from 2010 onwards Publications from 2010 and earlier
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Want these figures, related to Performance Tables?	School level school census data from 2014 will be included in the next set of tables to be published at the end of 2014. School Performance Tables
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Want Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland?	The School Census only collects information from schools in England. For information for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, contact the departments below or access their statistics at the following links: Wales: school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk or Welsh Government - Statistics and Research Scotland: school.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or Scottish Government - School Education Statistics Northern Ireland: statistics@deni.gov.uk or Department of Education - Education Statistics
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[‘Education and training statistics for the United Kingdom’](#) brings together information from each administration. Chapter 1 covers schools and includes breakdowns of pupil numbers.

For related publications

The statistics below all make use of data collected via the School Census:

[Pupil absence in schools in England](#)

[Permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools in England](#)

[Special educational needs in England](#)

[Provision for children under 5 years of age in England](#)

14. Got a query? Like to give feedback?

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Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 020 7783 8300

If non-media

Infrastructure Funding and Longitudinal Analysis Division, Level 4, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

Infrastructure.STATISTICS@education-gsi.gov.uk



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