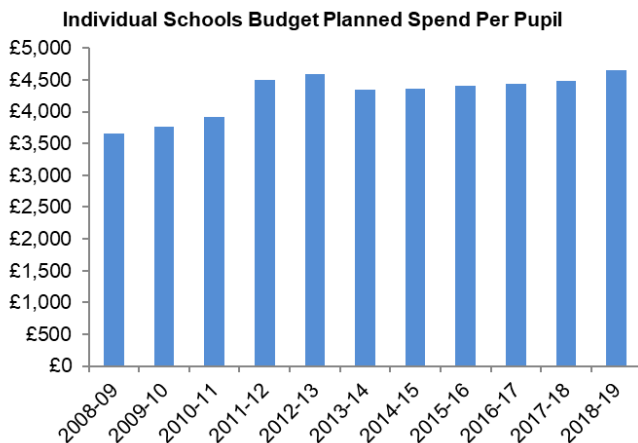




# Planned expenditure on schools, education and children's services by local authorities in England, 2018-19

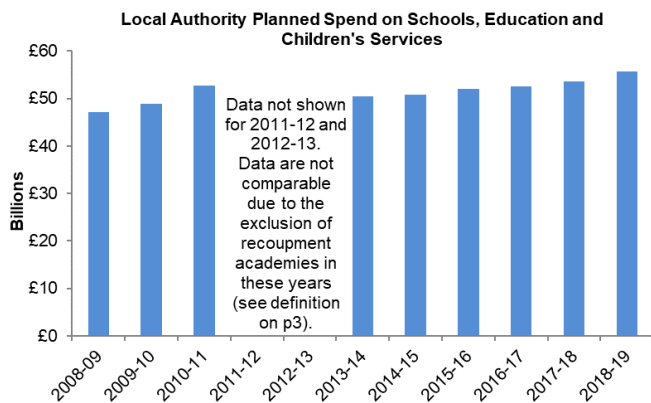
27 September 2018

## Individual Schools Budget: Planned spend per pupil has risen since 2017-18 in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for inflation)



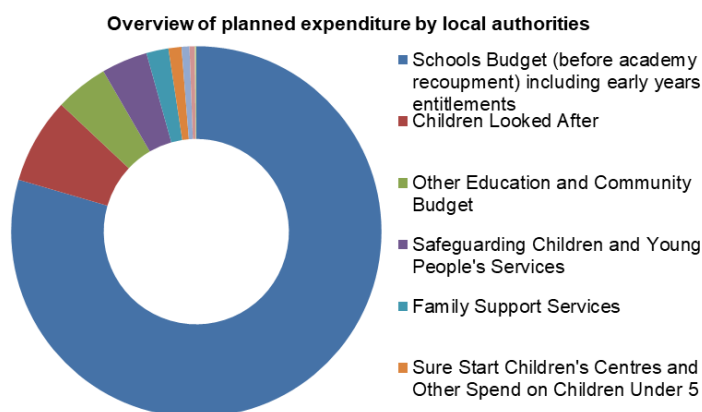
Education spending is largely driven by pupil numbers. It is therefore important to consider per pupil spending to give a better indication of whether spending is falling or increasing. The planned spend per pupil in 2018-19 is £4,647, nominally up from £4,475 in 2017-18.

## Local Authority planned spend on schools, education and children's services has increased since 2017-18 (not adjusted for inflation)



Total planned spend by local authorities on schools, education and children and young people's services for 2018-19 is £55.7 billion, a nominal increase of £2.0 billion (equivalent to 3.7 per cent) from the 2017-18 planned spend.

## The majority of this is made up by the total Schools Budget planned spend



As in previous years, the majority of local authorities' planned spend is on the schools budget: £44.3 billion in 2018-19, accounting for 80 per cent of planned expenditure overall.

The planned spend on children looked after is £4.2 billion (7 per cent), followed by other education and community at £2.6 billion (5 per cent), safeguarding children and young people's services at £2.2 billion (4 per cent) and family support services at £1.1 billion (2 per cent).

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## About this release

This statistical release provides a summary of the planned expenditure by local authorities on schools, education and children and young people’s services for the financial year April 2018 to March 2019.

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 statistical release:

- Budget tables (Excel .xlsx)

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.

## Section 251 Budget Return

Local authorities (LAs) are required to provide the Department for Education with a Section 251 Budget 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 budget 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. LA Planned Spend on Schools, Education and Children’s Services

(Table 1)

The planned schools budget nominally rose by £2.0 billions or 3.7 per cent since 2017-18. There was a larger increase for children’s and young people’s services including youth justice: up 5.5 per cent. Meanwhile the other education and community budget rose by 1.4 per cent.

**Table 1: Year-on-year comparison of the local authority planned expenditure**  
England, 2017-18 and 2018-19

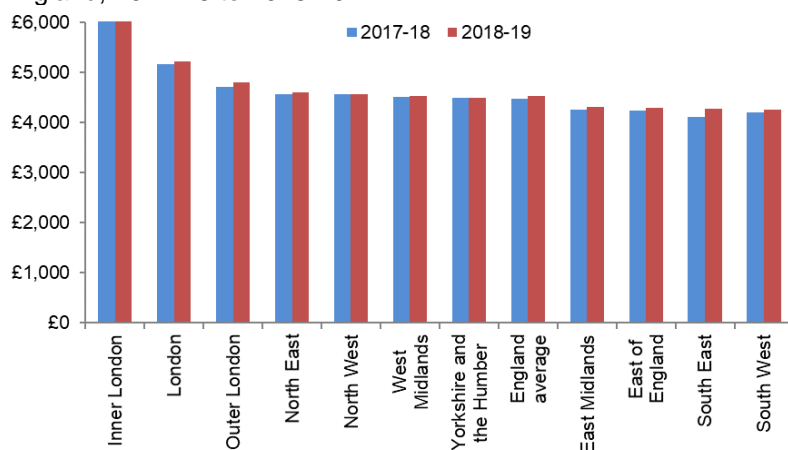
		2017-18 (billions)	2018-19 (billions)	Nominal change between 2017-18 and 2018-19 (billions)
Total Schools Budget	Gross	£42.8	£44.3	an increase of £1.5
	Net	£42.6	£44.2	an increase of £1.6
Total Other Education and Community Budget	Gross	£2.6	£2.6	an increase of £0.0
	Net	£1.9	£1.9	an increase of £0.0
Total Children’s and Young People’s Services including Youth Justice	Gross	£8.4	£8.8	an increase of £0.5
	Net	£7.6	£8.0	an increase of £0.4
<b>Total Planned Expenditure</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>£53.7</b>	<b>£55.7</b>	<b>an increase of £2.0</b>
	<b>Net</b>	<b>£52.1</b>	<b>£54.2</b>	<b>an increase of £2.0</b>

## Recoupment academies

Recoupment is a method of adjusting a dedicated schools grant to take account of the conversion of a maintained school into an academy. From 2017 to 2018 this also includes new provision academies and free schools from their date of opening. Further information is in the [Academies and dedicated schools grant: recoupment guide](#).

## 2. Individual Schools Budget (Tables 1 & 4)

**Figure 2: Individual Schools Budget per capita by region**  
England, 2017-18 to 2018-19



Source: Section 251 Budget Return  
1. Not adjusted for inflation

Planned spend per pupil varies between regions, with the highest planned spend being £6,048 per pupil in Inner London, compared with £4,255 per pupil in the South West.

Since 2013-14 the individual schools budget figures within the total schools budget also include figures for recoupment academies, which increases the coverage of this area of the schools budget. Since almost all academies became recoupment academies in 2015-16, more spending on academies is now included in this budget. Wherever possible, statistics are provided showing planned spending ‘per capita’ (by combining the financial return with pupil numbers and/or population estimates) to make comparisons over time more reliable.

### 3. Other Education and Community Budget (Tables 1, 2, 3 & 5)

This covers the central education functions performed by local authorities, for example education welfare service, education psychologists, home to school transport, and adult and community learning.

Planned expenditure for some areas of the other education and community budget has reduced (before taking account of inflation). This is partly due to the increased number of schools which have converted to academy status.

Since 2017-18 local authorities' planned expenditure for this area has nominally increased by 1.4%, though remained the same at £2.6bn (rounded) in both years. Within this there was a range of year-on-year increases and decreases across the subcategories. The highest increase in gross spending was for home to school transport (pre 16): SEN transport expenditure (up £45.6m or 8.1 per cent), with the largest decrease being in statutory/regulatory duties - education (a fall of £34.6m or 17.3 per cent).

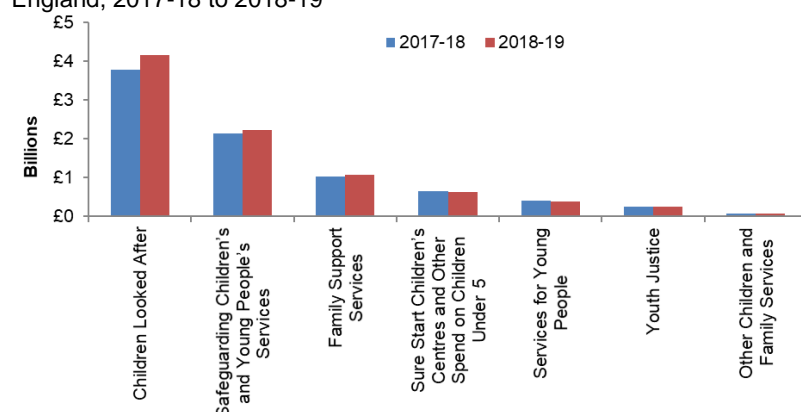
### 4. Children's and Young People's Services, including Youth Justice (Tables 1, 2, 3 & 6)

This covers a range of services such as children looked after and children and young people's safety, Sure Start children's centres and other spending on children under 5, youth services and family support services.

There has been a nominal rise in the planned spending by LAs on children's and young people's services. Planned expenditure in this area has increased by £0.5bn from £8.4bn to £8.8bn – a 5.5 per cent increase between 2017-18 and 2018-19.

**Figure 3: Planned Spend On Children's and Young People's Services**

England, 2017-18 to 2018-19



Source: Section 251 Budget Return  
1. Not adjusted for inflation

There is considerable variation in changes to the planned expenditure between subcategories, with some areas seeing a rise and others a fall since 2017-18 (in each case, without taking inflation into account).

The children looked after sub-category has the largest increase in planned spend, from £3.8bn in 2016-17 to £4.2bn in 2017-18. Services for young people, is the sub-category with the largest decrease in planned spend, though when rounded remained at £0.4bn in both 2017-18 and 2018-19.

### 5. High Needs Place Funding (Table 7)

Planned expenditure on high needs places (in addition to the planned spend on high needs from budgets retained centrally by local authorities) has been affected by the number of schools converting to academy status, as well as by the inclusion for the first time in 2018-19 of special places in units in mainstream schools. This should be taken into account when making year-on-year comparisons.

**Table 2: Year-on-year comparisons of the local authority planned expenditure on high needs**  
England, 2017-18 and 2018-19

	2017-18 (millions)	2018-19 (millions)	Nominal change between 2017-18 and 2018-19 (millions)
High needs places: Special school places	£831	£917	an increase of £86
Pupil referral unit places	£128	£113	a decrease of £15
Hospital education places	£26	£23	a decrease of £3

## 6. Early Years Education (Table 8)

Some elements of the planned spend on two, three and four year olds is also included in the planned central expenditure on children under five.

In calculating the average funding rate per hour for 3 and 4 year olds, this only shows the average hourly rate for planned funded hours for the Government's entitlement hours: universal 15 hours and additional 15 hours. This is a change from previous years. For local authorities who have reported extra local hours above the Government's entitlement hours, this budget is shown separately. The average funding rate this year also includes funding for special educational needs inclusion fund paid directly to providers for 2 year olds and 3 and 4 year olds. Therefore, the average hourly funding rate is not comparable with the previous years' published hourly rates in Table 8.

**Table 3: Year-on-year comparisons of local authority planned expenditure on early years education**  
England, 2017-18 and 2018-19

		2017-18 (millions)	2018-19 (millions)	Nominal change between 2017-18 and 2018-19 (millions)
EYSFF spend:	Two year olds	£484	£472	a decrease of £12
	Three and four year olds	£2,624	£2,860	an increase of £236
Non EYSFF spend:				
Contingency budget	Two year olds	£4	£5	an increase of £1
	Three and four year olds	£36	£40	an increase of £4
Centrally retained budget	Two year olds	£12	£8	a decrease of £4
	Three and four year olds	£128	£119	a decrease of £9
Early years pupil premium	Three and four year olds	£32	£31	a decrease of £1
Disability Access fund	Three and four year olds	£12	£13	an increase of £1
SEN inclusion fund	Two year olds	£2	£3	an increase of £1
	Three and four year olds	£48	£50	an increase of £2

## 7. Accompanying tables

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

### National tables

- 1 Overview of planned expenditure by local authorities, 2014-15 to 2018-19
- 2 Schools budget by sector, 2018-19

### Local authority and regional tables

- 3 Planned expenditure by local authority, 2018-2019
- 4 Planned spend of net expenditure of individual schools budget by local authority, 2014-15 to 2018-19
- 5 Planned spend of net expenditure on other education and community budgets by local authority, 2016-17 to 2018-19
- 6 Planned spend of net expenditure on children's and young people's services including youth justice by local authority, 2014-15 to 2018-19
- 7 Planned spend on high needs by local authority, 2018-19
- 8 Planned spend on early years education by local authority, 2018-19

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

## 8. Further information is available

- [Previously published budget figures for 2017 to 2018](#).
- [Section 251 Outturn statistics for 2016 to 2017](#). Whereas this release focuses on planned expenditure, outturn statistics focus on actual expenditure by LAs (and their schools).
- We publish information on income and expenditure in schools on the [Schools Financial Benchmarking website](#). This includes download files for all schools: [Consistent Financial Reporting data](#) (local authority maintained schools) and [Academies Accounts Return data](#) (academy schools).
- Local authority revenue expenditure and financing England published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government including service expenditure including education and children's social care: [2018-19 Budget and 2017 to 2018 provisional outturn](#).
- The Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Government publish revenue budget data:
  - Scotland [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/POBEStats](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/POBEStats)
  - Wales [statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue](http://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue)
  - Northern Ireland [www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/local-government](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/local-government)

## 9. 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.

## 10. Technical information

A methodology note 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.

## 11. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

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Tel: 020 7783 8300

### Other enquiries/feedback

Data Insight and Statistics Division, Data Group, Department for Education, Level 2, Bishopsgate House, Darlington, DL1 5QE.

Email: [finance.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:finance.statistics@education.gov.uk)



# Department for Education

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email [psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU.

Reference: Section 251 Budget 2018-19



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