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Week 51 2025

Pupil attendance in schools

This is the latest release

Published 8 January 2026

Release type [Official statistics](#)

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Produced by [Department for Education](#)

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These figures are derived from regular data automatically submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) by participating schools. The data is submitted on a daily basis and includes the [attendance codes \(opens in new tab\)](#) for each pupil on their registers during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Figures relate to the attendance of 5 to 15 year old (i.e. compulsory school age) pupils in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in England.

The figures are published as **Official Statistics** to give an indicative figure for the absence rate during the 2025/26 academic year, from the 08 September 2025. For the full 2024/25 academic year and termly pupil absence data, including by characteristics please see this [historical publication](#).

The [pupil attendance dashboard \(opens in new tab\)](#) will be updated fortnightly, providing aggregate metrics on overall absence and reasons for absence estimated at national, regional and local authority level only. Due to the timeliness of the data and that they are based on a subset of schools, figures are estimates that we expect to change as registers are adjusted. They should be viewed as an early indicator for the more detailed but less frequent [Accredited Official Statistics on pupil absence](#) (which include school level breakdowns). The Accredited Official Statistics are updated termly, with the latest data published on 23 October 2025 relating to the 2024/25 autumn and spring terms, including data on characteristics.

From the start of the 2024/25 academic year, it became mandatory for schools to [share attendance data \(opens in new tab\)](#) with the DfE. If you are a school that is not already sharing your daily attendance data, you need to approve this in

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your Wonde portal. This will also give you, your local authority and your multi-academy trust (if applicable) [access to daily attendance reports \(opens in new tab\)](#) to help identify pupils needing attendance support earlier.

Schools can use the '[Compare your attendance \(opens in new tab\)](#)' dashboard to compare with other schools in the local authority. This has been updated to show data for this current academic year. Use it to compare absence and unauthorised absence for your school, as well as special educational needs and free school meals pupils.

Headline facts and figures - 2025

**Overall absence
rate**

8.97%

during week commencing
15 December 2025

**Authorised absence
rate**

5.65%

during week commencing
15 December 2025

**Unauthorised
absence rate**

3.32%

during week commencing
15 December 2025

**Overall absence
rate**

6.63%

during academic year
2025/26 to date

**Authorised absence
rate**

4.52%

during academic year
2025/26 to date

Unauthorised
absence rate

2.10%

during academic year
2025/26 to date

This release covers the 2025/26 academic year up to 19 December 2025. The week commencing 15 December 2025 was the last week of the autumn term for all schools.

The attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 91.03% across all schools in the **week commencing 15 December 2025**. The absence rate was, therefore, 8.97% across all schools.

By school type, the absence rates across the week commencing 15 December 2025 were:

- 7.23% in state-funded primary schools (4.85% authorised and 2.37% unauthorised)
- 10.69% in state-funded secondary schools (6.30% authorised and 4.38% unauthorised)
- 15.78% in state-funded special schools (11.40% authorised and 4.37% unauthorised)

Absence was 0.51 percentage points lower across all schools in the week commencing 15 December 2025 than in the equivalent week in the last academic year ([week commencing 16 December 2024](#)). This has been driven by a 0.44 percentage point decrease in authorised absence and a 0.07 percentage point decrease in unauthorised absence.

The attendance rate across the **2025/26 academic year to date** was 93.37%. The absence rate was, therefore, 6.63% across all schools.

By school type, the absence rates across the 2025/26 academic year to date were:

- 5.19% in state-funded primary schools (3.79% authorised and 1.41% unauthorised)
- 7.99% in state-funded secondary schools (5.14% authorised and 2.85%

unauthorised)

- 12.86% in state-funded special schools (9.47% authorised and 3.40% unauthorised)

Data on persistent absence and pupil characteristics by term for the 2025/26 academic year will be included in the Week 2 2026 release on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

Explore data and files used in this release

[View or create your own tables](#) ↗

View tables that we have built for you, or create your own tables from open data using our table tool

[Data catalogue](#) ↗

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View related dashboard(s)

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Access the [Pupil attendance and absence in schools in England: data dashboard](#) (opens in new tab) (opens in new tab) (opens in new tab) **here**

The [pupil attendance dashboard \(opens in new tab\) \(opens in new tab\) \(opens in new tab\)](#) is updated fortnightly. The latest data relates to the week commencing 15 December 2025. The dashboard displays attendance and absence headline figures, and reasons for absence at national, regional and local authority geographic levels. Data is available across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools and can be broken down by individual school type.

Underlying data is available within the “Explore data and files” section of this page, under the data catalogue.

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Latest data - week commencing 15 December 2025

[Hide](#)

Access the [Pupil attendance and absence in schools in England: data dashboard \(opens in new tab\)](#) here.

The latest data relates to the week commencing 15 December 2025 and is available in the [pupil attendance dashboard \(opens in new tab\)](#). Data is collected on a daily basis and data for the interim weeks between publications is included in year-to-date figures and is available on a daily and weekly basis in the underlying data available on this page (see “Explore data and files”). The dashboard displays attendance and absence headline figures, and reasons for absence at national, regional and local authority geographic levels. Data is available across primary, secondary and special schools and can be broken down by individual school type.

The data shows that the attendance rate across the week for all schools was 91.03%, giving an overall absence rate of 8.97%. The absence rate varied across the week with a low of 8.07% on Tuesday, and a peak 11.87% on Friday. The peak in absence on a Friday is in line with weekly patterns seen during 2024/25 and in [historical attendance data](#).

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Latest week summary

	2025 Week 51			
	Total	Primary	Secondary	Special
Attendance rate	91.03%	92.77%	89.31%	84.22%
Overall absence rate	8.97%	7.23%	10.69%	15.78%
Authorised absence rate	5.65%	4.85%	6.30%	11.40%
Unauthorised absence rate	3.32%	2.37%	4.38%	4.37%

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Source: Pupil attendance since week commencing 08 September 2025 - weekly

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

[Explore data](#)

Users should be aware of the following:

- Response rate - Of schools participating in the School Census, 97% provided information on the latest full day of data (19 December 2025). Therefore national figures are estimates. Across school types this was: 98% of state-funded primary schools, 96% of state-funded secondary schools and 97% of state-funded special schools. The response rate may vary at certain points of the year due to different term dates. It also became mandatory for schools to share attendance data with the DfE from the start of the 2024/25 academic year, meaning the number of schools reporting may change over time.
- Reporting lag - Schools update their registers continually and attendance codes change, resulting in absence rates for particular days to decrease over time. Analysis of data from the Summer 2022 term suggests that the absence rate could decrease around 1 percentage point before settling down. Historical figures from week 37 onwards will be recalculated in each publication.

From the start of the 2024/25 academic year, it became mandatory for schools to [share attendance data \(opens in new tab\)](#) with the DfE. If you are a school that is not already sharing your daily attendance data, you need to approve this in your Wonde portal. This will also give you, your local authority and your multi-academy trust (if applicable) [access to daily attendance reports \(opens in new tab\)](#) to help identify pupils needing attendance support earlier.

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Academic year to date

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Access the [Pupil attendance and absence in schools in England: data](#)

[dashboard \(opens in new tab\)](#) here.

Data for the academic year 2025/26 relates to the period from 08 September 2025 to 19 December 2025. Data from across the year to date is available in the [pupil attendance dashboard \(opens in new tab\)](#) and the data catalogue on this page (see “Explore data and files”).

Overall absence for the 2025/26 academic year currently stands at 6.63%, reflecting an upward trend since the start of the year. Overall absence was 4.75% at the start of the academic year and has since increased, reaching the peak this week at 8.97%. The previous highest was 8.00%, recorded in both weeks 49 and 50.

Illness absence across the academic year to date was 3.44%. Starting at 1.89% at the start of the academic year, it climbed to 2.93% in the following week and remained around this level until the week before half term, when it reached 3.61%. Illness was 2.79% in the week following half term and steadily increased, peaking at 4.72% in week 49 before dropping to 4.41% this week.

► Export options

Year to date summary

	2025/26			
	Total	Primary	Secondary	Special
Attendance rate	93.37%	94.81%	92.01%	87.14%
Overall absence rate	6.63%	5.19%	7.99%	12.86%
Authorised absence rate	4.52%	3.79%	5.14%	9.47%
Unauthorised absence rate	2.10%	1.41%	2.85%	3.40%

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Source: Pupil attendance since week commencing 08 September 2025 - YTD

Explore and edit this data online

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Find out how and why we collect, process and publish these statistics.

[Pupil attendance in schools](#)

Official statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics \(opens in new tab\)](#).

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that these statistics are:

- managed impartially and objectively in the public interest
- meet identified user needs
- produced according to sound methods
- well explained and readily accessible

Find out more about the standards we follow to produce these statistics through our [Standards for official statistics published by DfE guidance \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics \(opens in new tab\)](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [OSR website \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Pupil attendance in schools statistics and data:

School Census Statistics Team

Email: schools.statistics@education.gov.uk

Contact name: School Census Statistics Team

Press office

If you have a media enquiry:

Telephone: 020 7783 8300

Public enquiries

If you have a general enquiry about the Department for Education (DfE) or education:

Telephone: 037 0000 2288

Opening times:

Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays)

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