

[Home](#) ▾ [Education, training and skills](#) ▾ [Running and managing a school](#)  
▾ [School buildings and land](#) ▾ [School buildings and land guidelines](#)  
▾ [Energy for Schools benchmarking report](#)



[Department  
for Education](#)

Research and analysis

# Energy for Schools benchmarking report

Published 12 June 2026

## Applies to England

[Contents](#)

[Sources](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Caveats and risks](#)

Energy for Schools (EfS) service helps schools switch to an energy contract that is used by government departments. This release provides estimates of potential savings and savings percentage for a typical school if they used the EfS supplier instead of their incumbent one during the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

The benchmarking was achieved by comparing the billed amount of annual energy cost from the incumbent supplier against an estimated EfS supplier charge over the same time and consumption.

The difference between annual incumbent energy cost and estimated potential EfS cost is provided in table 1 both as monetary values and percentage difference

against incumbent cost. Positive cost difference and percentage values indicate savings to the school. The data is broken down by phase (primary and secondary) and by utility (electricity and gas). Data is presented as median value, meaning that half of schools would have achieved the indicated savings or more, the other half would have achieved less and for some schools there would be no saving and the incumbent cost would be cheaper compared to the EfS cost.

**Table 1: Difference between annual incumbent energy cost and potential EfS contract cost split by school phase and by utility**

| Utility     | School phase | Number of schools in benchmark | Median cost difference (nearest £100) | Median percentage difference (%) |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Electricity | Primary      | 182                            | £2,500                                | 15%                              |
| Electricity | Secondary    | 101                            | £12,600                               | 10%                              |
| Gas         | Primary      | 141                            | £2,400                                | 25%                              |
| Gas         | Secondary    | 88                             | £10,600                               | 24%                              |

## Sources

Data used in the analysis and presented in the report:

- internal energy benchmarking data: school information (school name and unique reference number (URN)), incumbent electricity and gas meter consumption data, incumbent cost; all annual for 2024 to 2025 financial year (UNPUBLISHED)
- Government Commercial Agency (GCA) V30 energy basket electricity and gas prices per consumption unit (kWh) during 2024 to 2025 financial year (UNPUBLISHED)
- [Get information about schools](#) (GIAS) - Department for Education’s (DfE’s) register of establishments and schools with corresponding data, dated April 2026

# Methodology

The meter level data was linked to GIAS using URN, only schools which could be mapped to a state funded school were included in the analysis, with all other records excluded.

Individual meter consumption was aggregated to school level using school URN and multiplied by the GCA V30 prices to estimate an equivalent cost. This is completed independently for gas and electricity.

The equivalent GCA cost was compared against the actual incumbent costs to estimate the difference in energy costs.

## Caveats and risks

The benchmarking data was provided by the school and has been used as provided. Exceptionally, where basic data cleansing and due diligence highlighted a clear error, the corresponding meter data was excluded from the benchmarking.

Incumbent and GCA energy data cover the 2024 to 2025 financial year and provides an estimate of the potential saving over this period, there is no guarantee that will be the same in future years.

Benchmarked schools cover a relatively low proportion of school estate and are self-selecting sample so ability to extrapolate the findings of this report across the school estate needs to be treated with caution.

[↑ Back to top](#)

## Help us improve GOV.UK

To help us improve GOV.UK, we'd like to know more

about your visit today. [Please fill in this survey \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Cancel



## Services and information

---

[Benefits](#)

[Births, death, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

## Government activity

---

[Departments](#)

[News](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency](#)

[How government works](#)

[Get involved](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

---

[Help](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Contact](#)

[Terms and conditions](#) [Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#)

[Government Digital Service](#)

**OG**

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© [Crown copyright](#)