

SCHOOLS, PUPILS, AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS, JANUARY 2010 (FINAL)

INTRODUCTION

This Annex to Statistical First Release (SFR) 09/2010 *Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2010 (Provisional)* provides commentary on the number of schools and pupils by their characteristics (eg free school meal eligibility, special educational needs (SEN)) and on class sizes. Figures presented in this commentary are based upon final information collected in the School Census in January 2010.

KEY POINTS

PUPIL NUMBERS

- In January 2010 there were around 8.1 million pupils (headcount) in all schools in England, similar to 2009. (Table 2a)
- In maintained primary schools there were 4.1 million pupils, a slight increase since 2009 and the first for several years. (Table 2a)
- In state-funded secondary schools there were 3.3 million pupils, a slight decrease since 2009. (Table 2a)
- In independent schools there were 576,900 pupils, a small decrease since 2009. (Table 2a)

SCHOOL MEAL ARRANGEMENTS

- In maintained nursery, primary, state-funded secondary and special schools overall the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals increased since 2009. (Table 3a) See Technical Notes 2, 3, 4 and 5 for further information about eligibility, including recent changes.
- In maintained nursery and primary schools 18.5 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, an increase from 17.1 per cent in 2009. (Table 3a)
- In state-funded secondary schools 15.4 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, an increase from 14.5 per cent in 2009. (Table 3a)
- In special schools 34.9 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, an increase from 33.6 per cent in 2009. (Table 3a)

ETHNICITY

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.

- In maintained primary schools 25.5 per cent of pupils (of compulsory school age and above) were classified as being of minority ethnic origin, an increase from 24.5 per cent in 2009. (Table 4)
- In state-funded secondary schools 21.4 per cent of pupils (of compulsory school age and above) were classified as being of minority ethnic origin, an increase from 20.6 per cent in 2009. (Table 4)

FIRST LANGUAGE

- In maintained primary schools 16.0 per cent of pupils' first language (compulsory school age and above) was known or believed to be other than English, an increase from 15.2 per cent in 2009. (Table 5)
- In state-funded secondary schools 11.6 per cent of pupils' first language (compulsory school age and above) was known or believed to be other than English, an increase from 11.1 per cent in 2009. (Table 5)

GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

- In maintained primary schools there were 365,870 pupils in the Gifted and Talented cohort, an increase from 353,210 in 2009, and representing 8.9 per cent of the school population. (Table 6a)
- In state-funded secondary schools there were 477,240 pupils in the Gifted and Talented cohort, an increase from 466,820 in 2009, and representing 14.7 per cent of the school population. (Table 6b)

PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

- In January 2010, there were 220,890 pupils in all schools in England that had statements of SEN, 2.7 per cent - the same percentage as in 2009. (Table 7a)
- In January 2010, 54.9 per cent of pupils with statements were placed in mainstream schools (nursery, primary, secondary), down from 55.7 per cent in 2009. (Table 7a)
- In January 2010, 40.1 per cent of pupils with statements were placed in special schools, an increase from 39.5 per cent in 2009. (Table 7a)
- In January 2010, 0.8 per cent of pupils with statements were placed in pupil referral units, down from 0.9 per cent in 2009. (Table 7a)
- In January 2010, 4.3 per cent of pupils with statements were placed in independent schools, an increase from 3.9 per cent in 2009. (Table 7a)
- In January 2010, 18.2 per cent of pupils in all schools in England had SEN without a statement, up from 17.8 per cent in 2009. (Table 7b)

TYPE OF SEN

- The distribution of pupils with the different types of SEN is similar to last year. In maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools the most prevalent need amongst pupils with SEN was 'Moderate Learning Difficulty' (24 per cent) followed by 'Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulties' (23 per cent) and 'Speech, Language and Communication Needs' (16 per cent). (Table 7c) See Technical Note 11.

NEWLY MADE STATEMENTS OF SEN

- Of the 27,550 children assessed for SEN during the 2009 calendar year, 26,490 (96.2 per cent) were issued with a statement for the first time. (Table 7d) See Technical Note 12. Of these:
 - 6.5 per cent were placed in resourced provision or SEN units in maintained mainstream schools (compared to 6.8 per cent last year),
 - 62.1 per cent were placed in maintained mainstream schools (against 62.2 per cent last year), 23.6 per cent in special schools (maintained, non-maintained or independent) (up from 23.4 per cent in 2009),
 - 2.7 per cent were placed in registered early years education settings (up from 2.6 per cent last year) and 3.4 per cent in other schools (compared to 2.9 per cent in 2009).
- 47.9 per cent of children with new statements were aged 5 to 10 and 26.0 per cent were aged under 5. (Table 7d)

CLASS SIZES

Key Stage 1 Classes (including Reception) in Maintained Primary Schools (Tables 8a and 8b)

- The average size of Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher on the census day in January 2010 was 26.6, compared to 26.2 in January 2009.
- The number of Key Stage 1 classes reported as having more than 30 pupils on the census day, lawfully and unlawfully, was 1,000 (from a total of 53,890 classes), 1.8 per cent of all Key Stage 1 classes, up from 1.7 per cent in January 2009.
- The number of Key Stage 1 classes reported as unlawfully having more than 30 pupils on the census day was 140 (from a total of 53,890 classes), 0.3 per cent of all Key Stage 1 classes, down from 0.5 per cent in January 2009.
- The number of Key Stage 1 classes reported as having more than 30 pupils, but which met legal requirements (which allow infant classes of more than 30 in very limited circumstances) on the census day was 860 (from a total of 53,890 classes), 1.6 per cent of all Key Stage 1 classes, up from 1.1 per cent in January 2009.

- The most common reason for a Key Stage 1 class meeting legal requirements for having over 30 pupils was pupils admitted on the basis of an independent appeal panel's decision or admitted having initially been refused entry as a result of an error. This accounted for 51.8 per cent of lawful classes with over 30 pupils. Pupils admitted outside the normal admission round were the second most common reason, accounting for 25.6 per cent of lawful classes with over 30 pupils.

Key Stage 2 Classes in Maintained Primary Schools (Table 8a)

- The average size of Key Stage 2 classes taught by one teacher on the census day in January 2010 was 26.8, the same as in January 2009.
- The proportion of Key Stage 2 classes reported as having more than 30 pupils on the census day was 15.0 per cent, down from 15.8 per cent in January 2009.

All Classes in Maintained Primary Schools (Table 8c)

- The average size of classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools was 26.4 in January 2010, up from 26.2 in January 2009.
- In January 2010, 9.4 per cent of classes in maintained primary schools contained more than 30 pupils, down from 9.8 per cent in January 2009.

Classes in State-Funded Secondary Schools (Table 8c)

- The average size of classes taught by one teacher in state-funded secondary schools was 20.5 in January 2010, down slightly from 20.6 in January 2009.
- In January 2010, 6.5 per cent of classes in state-funded secondary schools contained more than 30 pupils, down slightly from 6.6 per cent in January 2009.

Pupil Referral Units (Table A)

- In 2010 there were 13,240 pupils (headcount, sole registrations only) in pupil referral units, comprising 9,440 boys and 3,800 girls.

Alternative Provision (Table A)

- In 2010 there were 22,510 pupils (headcount of solely or dually registered pupils) in alternative provision (other than in PRUs), comprising 16,790 boys and 5,720 girls.

Mode of Travel (Table D)

- In 2010 the most common mode of travel in maintained primary schools and state-funded secondary schools was walking. For special schools the most common mode of travel was by bus.

TABLES

Table 1a: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2010 (Final)

Table 1b: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Full time equivalent number of pupils by age group, January 2006 to 2010 (Final)

Table 1c: Independent schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2010 (Final)

Table 1d: All schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2010 (Final)

Table 2a: All schools: Number of schools and pupils by type of school, January 2000 to 2010 (Final)

Table 2b: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of schools by their status and religious character, January 2010 (Final)

Table 2c: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by the status and religious character of their school, January 2010 (Final)

Table 2d: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of schools by size, January 2010 (Final)

Table 2e: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils by the size of their school, January 2010 (Final)

Table 3a: Maintained nursery, maintained primary, state-funded secondary schools and special schools: Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, January 2010 (Final)

Table 3b: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals by age and gender, January 2010 (Final)

Table 4: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2010 (Final)

Table 5: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2010 (Final)

Table 6a: Maintained primary schools: Number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils by their characteristics, January 2008 to 2010 (Final)

Table 6b: State-funded secondary schools: Number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils by their characteristics, January 2008 to 2010 (Final)

Table 6c: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils by ethnic group, January 2010 (Final)

Table 7a: Pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) by type of school, January 2006 to 2010 (Final)

Table 7b: Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) without statements by type of school, January 2006 to 2010 (Final)

Table 7c: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Number and percentage of pupils by type of need, January 2010 (Final)

Table 7d: Education arrangements, assessment and placement of children for whom local authorities maintain statements of special educational needs (SEN), January 2010 (Final)

Table 8a: Maintained primary schools: Key Stage 1 and 2 classes, as at January each year, January 2006 to 2010 (Final)

Table 8b: Maintained primary schools: Key Stage 1 classes, January 2010 (Final)

Table 8c: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Classes as taught, as at January each year, January 2006 to 2010 (Final)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Supplementary tables, including figures at Local Authority (LA) and Government Office Region (GOR) level, are available on the DCSF statistics website:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml>

Table 9a: Maintained primary schools: Number of pupils by age as at 31 August by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 9b: State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils by age as at 31 August by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 9c: Special schools: Number of pupils by age as at 31 August by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 9d: Independent schools: Number of pupils by age as at 31 August by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10a: All schools: Number of schools by type of school, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10b: All schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by type of school, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10c: State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by admissions policy, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10d: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of schools by size, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10e: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of schools by status, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10f: Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils (headcount) by status of their school, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10g: Maintained primary schools: Number of schools and number of pupils (headcount) by religious character of school, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 10h: State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number of pupils (headcount) by religious character of school, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 11a: Maintained nursery and primary schools: School meal arrangements by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 11b: State-funded secondary schools: School meal arrangements by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 11c: Special schools: School meals arrangements, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 12a: Maintained primary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 12b: State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 13a: Maintained primary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 13b: State-funded secondary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 14a: Maintained primary schools: Classes as taught, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 14b: Maintained primary schools: Classes as taught by Key Stage of pupils, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table 14c: State-funded secondary schools: Classes as taught, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

NEW INFORMATION

Additional information on pupils' mode of travel and pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) has now also been made available. Mode of travel is a relatively recent addition to the School Census. Data for AP and PRUs is now collected at pupil level (since 2009 for AP and 2010 for PRUs) and this is the first time results have been published. The new analysis includes breakdowns by gender, age, ethnicity and special educational needs.

Table A: Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2010 (Final).

Table B: Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2010 (Final).

Table C: Alternative Provision: Pupils with special educational needs with and without statements, January 2010 (Final).

Table D: Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by mode of travel to school, January 2010 (Final)

Table E: Pupil Referral Units: Number of pupils by gender, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

Table F: Alternative Provision: Number of pupils by gender, by Local Authority area, by Government Office region, January 2010 (Final)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Data Collection

1. This release contains information about pupil characteristics. This information is derived from School Census returns, School Level Annual School Census returns and Pupil Referral Unit Census returns made to the Department in January each year. SEN data given in Table 7d are sourced from SEN2 survey which is completed by Local Authorities (LAs) in January each year. In 2010 the Pupil Referral Unit Census was pupil-level for the first time and this may account for some of the change shown in pupil referral unit pupil numbers.

Free School Meals

2. Prior to 2001, the numbers eligible for a free school meal were those pupils who had, or whose parents had, satisfied the relevant authority that they were receiving Income Support (IS) or income based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA) or support provided under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. From 2001 onwards this definition was modified to include only pupils where parents had indicated that they wished their child to have a free meal and had confirmed benefit receipt with the LA or school.

3. Under changes to the tax credit system introduced in April 2003, children in families receiving the Child Tax Credit (CTC) rather than IS or IBJSA would not have been entitled to receive a free school meal. As a result, for 2004 School Census, the entitlement for free school meals was extended to 'non-working' families who have an amount of income that extinguishes their IS or IBJSA benefit, who are receiving support via CTC, but are working fewer than 16 hours per week and thus not in receipt of Working Tax Credit (WTC). The majority of these families would have received IS or IBJSA prior to 6 April (and accordingly their children a free school meal). As a result of this change to entitlement, these children continue to be eligible for free school meals.

4. Since September 2009, Newham, Durham and Wolverhampton have been participating in a pilot to expand FSM provision. Newham and Durham are offering Free School Meals (FSMs) to all maintained primary school children. Wolverhampton has extended the FSM eligibility criteria in primary and secondary schools to include children from low income working families i.e. pupils whose parents/carers are receiving working tax credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less). The pilots are investigating whether and to what extent expanded FSM provision results in:

- increased school meal take-up
- changes in eating patterns and diet at school and at home
- improved child behaviour and concentration
- a reduction in obesity/ an impact on a child's BMI
- a reduction in authorised and unauthorised absences
- improved academic performance at school

For the pilot authorities mentioned above, care should be taken when comparing January 2010 FSM data with previous years' data. Schools in these pilot authorities were advised to record FSM eligibility using the same criteria as those in the non-pilot authorities. Data suggests some variability in the way in which schools in the pilot authorities have reported FSM take-up and eligibility. In Durham and Wolverhampton, reported eligibility has risen a little more than the rise shown for

England as a whole. In Newham, numbers eligible have decreased and this is likely to reflect undercounting. On take up, Durham and Wolverhampton appear to have reported the take up of free meals only for those pupils reported as eligible. In Newham, some schools appear to have reported take up of free meals among pupils who would not be eligible under the national criteria.

5. 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

6. Those pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British are defined as Minority Ethnic.

First Language

7. "First Language" is the language to which a child was initially exposed during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community.

Gifted and Talented

8. Gifted describes learners who have the ability to excel academically in one or more subjects such as English, Drama, Technology. Talented describes learners who have the ability to excel in practical skills such as sport, leadership, artistic performance. These learners may well follow a vocational training pathway to accreditation and employment.

Special Educational Needs

9. Arrangements for identifying and providing for children with SEN are set out in Part IV of the 1996 Act (and, prior to this, the 1981 and 1993 Education Acts). New rights and duties were introduced by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). A Code of Practice, issued in 1994, supported the rights and duties in the 1996 Act. A new SEN Code of Practice was introduced in January 2002. All LAs, maintained schools and early years settings in receipt of government funding must have regard to it.

10. The new Code of Practice replaced the five stages of provision in the earlier Code with *School/Early Years Action*, *School/Early Years Action Plus* and Statements of SEN. The effect of this change was to reduce the number of pupils recorded as having SEN without statements. Numbers of children with SEN without statements reported in 2003 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years.

11. Since 2004 information was collected from schools on pupils at *School Action Plus* and those pupils with statements of SEN about their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need.

12. Information provided in Table 7d is sourced from the SEN2 survey and records those children for whom the LA is responsible, regardless of whether the children are educated in the LA's own maintained schools, in other LA's schools, in the non-maintained or independent sectors or educated other than at school. Figures sourced from SEN2 survey and the School Census are not directly comparable.

13. The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Information Act (2008) required the Secretary of State to publish information about children in England with special educational needs to help improve the well-being of these children. In 2009 a new annual statistical publication was developed to meet the requirements of the Act. This publication can be accessed at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000851/index.shtml>

14. The Department also publishes an annual statistical first release on Special Educational Needs which can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml> . This publication will be updated with 2010 data on 23 June 2010.

Class Size

15. 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.

Pupil Referral Units

16. Data for PRUs was collected at pupil level for the first time in January 2010 and this may account for some of the change shown in pupil referral unit pupil numbers.

Alternative Provision

17. Data for AP was collected at pupil level for the first time in January 2009.

Mode of Travel

18. Usual mode of travel to school is recorded for all pupils in schools with an approved Travel Plan. For schools which do not have an approved Travel Plan, the recording of pupil's usual mode of travel is optional. Mode of travel data was provided for over 98 per cent of pupils in maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools.

Data Coverage / Revisions

19. Provisional figures were published on 13 May 2010. Final data are now being released following the receipt of all outstanding returns and further data cleaning. There are no further planned revisions, however, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the departmental revisions policy which is published at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>.

General

20. The description 'maintained primary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the Local Authority, including middle schools deemed as primary. The description 'state-funded secondary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the Local Authority, including middle schools deemed as secondary, city technology colleges and academies. All academies are classed as secondary schools, including those that cater for both the primary and secondary age range.

21. Pupil numbers at national and regional levels have been rounded to the nearest 10. Pupil numbers less than 5 have been suppressed being replaced in the table by an 'x'. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure was also zero. Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on pupil numbers is less than 5, this has been replaced by an 'x'.

22. The following symbols have been used in this publication:

0 - zero

x - small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality (see Technical Note 18)

.

.. - not available

23. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

24. Further information, including local authority level analyses are available through the following link:-

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml>

25. School statistics relating to other areas of the United Kingdom can be accessed at:

- Welsh Assembly Government:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/schools/?lang=en>
- Scottish Government:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education>
- Northern Ireland Department of Education:
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/default.asp6.htm>

26. Enquiries (non-media) or feedback about information contained in this release should be addressed to Schools Data Unit, Room 1F Area H, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail schools.statistics@education.qsi.gov.uk.

27. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7925 6789.