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# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Technical report

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# 1. Introduction

The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) is important for monitoring and evaluating childcare and early years provision. Covering group-based providers (private, voluntary and school/college/LA/other unclassified<sup>1</sup>), school-based providers (those offering nursery provision and maintained nursery schools) and childminders, it provides a representative snapshot of early years provision in England. It helps the Government, including the Department for Education (DfE), understand the issues that providers face, informing development of early years and childcare policy.

The DfE commissioned the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics to conduct the SCEYP 2019. The programme of research entailed two surveys. The main SCEYP 2019 entailed a large mixed mode survey, which could be completed either online or on the telephone. It collected data on a variety of topics such as staff-to-child ratios, delivery of Government policies including funded entitlements and Tax-Free Childcare (TFC), children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), staff qualifications and pay, and the financial side of providing childcare such as costs, incomes and fees. There were also a number of core questions such as the number of children registered at the setting. The short SCEYP was delivered online and on paper, and included questions on fees and Government funding received, as well as a small number of core questions, such as the number of children registered at the setting. The purpose of this short survey was to provide robust fee and funding estimates at a local authority (LA) level by aggregating data collected across this and the main SCEYP.

Earlier waves of the SCEYP were commissioned by the DfE and its predecessor departments and were conducted by telephone. The survey began in 1998 and was repeated in 2001, 2003, annually from 2005 to 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2018. The questionnaire was fully redesigned in 2016 to reflect changes in the childcare market. These changes to the design meant that the 2016 data is not directly comparable with previous years of the survey; the 2016 data was intended to provide a new and enhanced baseline. There were some changes to the 2018 survey to improve the quality of data and to reflect new policy priorities, but otherwise it was designed to be comparable with the 2016 survey.

In 2018, the DfE sought user perspectives on the frequency, sampling approach, mode and topic coverage of the SCEYP<sup>2</sup>. Following this consultation, the DfE decided to

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<sup>1</sup> Although this third group is included in the group-based provider total, it is not reported on in the official statistics publication.

<sup>2</sup> Department for Education (2018) [Surveys on childcare and early years in England: Government consultation response](#) London: DfE

intensify the early years focus of the survey by sampling and recruiting only providers for pre-school children aged 0-4 years. Previous surveys had included reception provision as well as wraparound and holiday care for school-aged children aged up to seven. After a mode experiment in 2018, the DfE also decided to move the survey to a mixed mode approach including web completions. With the exception of this change in scope, minimal changes were made to the survey between 2018 and 2019 ([see Section 2](#)). The published tables in 2018 included estimates for school-based providers that included reception only. Because these were not in scope in the 2019 survey, the “all school-based provider” group is not directly comparable between previously published 2018 (or 2016) results and 2019 results. Where 2018 figures have been presented in the 2019 publication, these have been adjusted in order to be comparable.

## 2. Sampling

As in previous waves of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP), the study comprised a representative sample of the three distinct provider populations in England, each of which was analysed separately:

- Group-based providers (GBP): childcare providers registered with Ofsted and operating in non-domestic premises;
- School-based providers (SBP): nursery provision in schools, including before- and after-school provision and maintained nursery schools;
- Childminders: Ofsted-registered childminders providing early years care and operating in domestic settings (excluding providers solely on the voluntary register).

When reporting, these three groups were reported as five groups:

- private GBPs;
- voluntary GBPs;
- school-based providers offering nursery;
- maintained nursery schools (MNS); and
- childminders.

This section describes the sampling approaches adopted for the main SCEYP and short SCEYP in 2019, including a pilot of the main SCEYP.

### 2.1 Group-based providers sample

GBPs are childcare providers registered with Ofsted and operating in non-domestic premises<sup>3</sup>. The survey collected further details about the ownership and type of childcare offered.

A request was made to Ofsted to provide information for all records in the “childcare on non-domestic premises” category (excluding those classified as inactive and those appearing on the Voluntary Childcare Register (VCR) only) from their July 2018 monthly snapshot database. The sample was conducted in July 2018 to be consistent with the timing of sampling for previous years’ surveys. The data was provided in two stages, with stage 1 providing the variables necessary for drawing the sample and stage 2 containing provider contact details (address, telephone numbers and e-mail address). At stage 1, 25,286 cases were provided. As in 2018, a few cases (12) had missing information on key

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<sup>3</sup> This does not include provision in schools.

stratification variables and were removed from the sample frame. Subsequently, 25,274 GBPs<sup>4</sup> were left in the sample frame and used to select samples for all survey components. The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) used response rates from the SCEYP 2018 (41% of issued cases responding to the main survey and 25% to the short survey) to determine required sample sizes. The sample size calculations were made under the assumption of issuing 100 GBPs into the pilot survey, achieving 6,200 interviews with the main survey and issuing all remaining cases to the short survey.

A stratified random sampling approach was used to select all of the samples. The pilot sample of the main survey was selected in proportion to the regional distribution of cases (in order to protect smaller areas from exhausting cases for other surveys), and stratified by local authority (LA), register type, ownership status, deprivation band based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and postcode<sup>5</sup>. The same stratification variables were used for sampling of the mainstage sample of the main survey (15,121 cases selected). As in 2018, it was decided to oversample the North East to enable more robust comparisons between regions.

The selected sample was then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of three questionnaire variants (16%/42%/42% split)<sup>6</sup> and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week about which to answer certain questions. All GBPs that remained in the sample frame following sampling to the main survey were treated as eligible for the short survey (10,053).

Following the receipt of stage 2 data, the samples were checked for duplication of records<sup>7</sup>, availability of contact details<sup>8</sup> and eligibility<sup>9</sup>. Thereafter, 768 cases were dropped from the sample files – 455 from the mainstage main survey and 313 from the short survey. See Table 1 for a breakdown of GBP sample numbers across the different survey components.

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<sup>4</sup> The sample frame for the SCEYP 2018 included 25,221 GBPs.

<sup>5</sup> Following discussions with DfE, number of places registered was dropped from the list of stratifying variables in 2019 as it had proved to be out of date in 2018.

<sup>6</sup> In 2016 and 2018, about 42% of GBPs were allocated to the variant with finance questions, another 42% to the variant with staff loops, and about 16% to the variant with questions about SEND and holiday provision. It was agreed to keep the same proportions for the study in 2019.

<sup>7</sup> 14 cases were identified as duplicates and dropped from the sample files.

<sup>8</sup> 7 cases were dropped from the sample files due to missing contact details.

<sup>9</sup> 747 cases were identified manually as ineligible to take part in the study; most of them were holiday schools.

**Table 1 Number of group-based providers issued to each survey element**

Survey element	Issued (n)
Main SCEYP - pilot	100
Main SCEYP - mainstage	14,666
Short SCEYP - mainstage	9,740
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,506</i>

## 2.2 School-based providers sample

The sample of SBPs consisted of maintained and independent primary schools with nursery and reception provision, including maintained nursery schools (MNS). Although schools offering reception provision alongside nursery provision were eligible for the study, they were only asked about their nursery provision. This sample was drawn from the Schools Census collected in January 2018 from all schools in England, complemented with further information from the Get Information About Schools (GIAS)<sup>10</sup> extract. The types of schools eligible for the study were identified using the following criteria:

- **Independent schools with reception and nursery provision:** independent schools with statutory lowest age equal to 0, 1, 2 or 3 years (according to School Census) and offering nursery classes (according to GIAS);
- **Maintained nursery schools:** State-funded nursery schools (according to School Census);
- **Maintained schools with reception and nursery provision:** state-funded mainstream and special schools which offer nursery classes (which have at least one pupil in nursery and with at least one pupil in reception).

Due to the information available in the sampling frame, independent and maintained schools needed to be selected separately though they were subsequently analysed as a single group.

Eligible schools for the study were identified in the same way as in 2018 (see the 2018 technical report for more details)<sup>11</sup> with one important exception. In 2019, but not 2018, it

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<sup>10</sup> Get Information About Schools (GIAS) is a register of educational establishments in England and Wales. It is maintained by the Department for Education.

<sup>11</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752606/Survey\\_of\\_Childcare\\_and\\_Early\\_Years\\_Providers\\_2018\\_Technical\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752606/Survey_of_Childcare_and_Early_Years_Providers_2018_Technical_Report.pdf)

was possible specifically to identify schools offering nursery classes whereas for SCEYP 2018 this flag was not available in the sampling frame<sup>12</sup>.

The sampling frames were checked for duplication of records and availability of contact details. Subsequently, -three cases were identified as duplicates and removed from the sampling frame. After the sampling frame data was cleaned, it included 9,150 school-based providers<sup>13</sup>.

To decide the required issued sample sizes, NatCen assumed the same response rates as in the SCEYP 2018 mainstage sample (which was administered via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, also known as “CATI”). The response rates differed significantly between key school types, so in the calculation of the issued sample size NatCen used the response rate assumptions as presented in Table 2.

**Table 2 Response rate assumptions for school-based providers by type**

School type	Main survey	Short survey
Independent schools with reception and nursery provision	31%	25%
Maintained nursery schools	63%	-
Maintained schools with reception and nursery provision	31%	25%

In 2018, a mode experiment was conducted to inform the mainstage of SCEYP 2019. However, given a short fieldwork period and suboptimal conditions for the experiment (relative to full fieldwork), it was decided not to use the response rate from the mode experiment in the response calculations for 2019. Only the CATI response rates to the main survey were used.

A stratified random sampling approach was used to select the samples of school-based providers. Table 3 presents the sample sizes selected for the pilot, mainstage main survey as well as the short survey. As in 2018, it was necessary to include all maintained nursery schools that were sampled in the main survey in order to ensure achieving sufficient interviews for regional analysis. The samples were stratified by school type (disproportionate sampling), region and IDACI score to ensure geographical

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<sup>12</sup> The population of SCEYP 2018 included schools that offered reception provision only. However, lack of such a flag resulted in some ‘reception only’ schools turning out to have been offering nursery too (37 schools).

<sup>13</sup> 9 cases had missing information about the address, which had been checked online. E-mail address was not available for 278 schools in the sampling frame.

representativeness of the sample<sup>14,15</sup>. After stratification, 60 schools were selected for the pilot and 5,881 for the mainstage of the main survey. The samples were then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of two questionnaire variants (50%/50% split) and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week about which to answer questions.

The 3,209 schools that remained in the sample frame after sampling for the main survey were allocated to the short survey. These were only maintained and independent schools offering both reception and nursery.

**Table 3 Number of school-based providers issued to each survey element**

Survey element	Issued (n)
Main SCEYP – pilot	60
Main SCEYP – mainstage	5,881
Short SCEYP – mainstage	3,209
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,150</i>

## 2.3 Childminders sample

The sample of childminders, those offering provision on domestic premises, was drawn from the July 2018 monthly snapshot of the Ofsted register of childminders<sup>16</sup>. Only those who confirmed they were still practicing childminders at the time of the interview were eligible to be interviewed.

A request was made to Ofsted to provide information for all records of active childminders (excluding those appearing on the VCR only) from their July 2018 monthly snapshot database. The data was provided in two stages, with stage 1 providing the variables necessary for drawing the sample, and stage 2 containing the provider name, address and contact details (telephone numbers, e-mail address). Following the cleaning process<sup>17</sup> the

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<sup>14</sup> Stratification by index of multiple deprivation was introduced in 2018.

<sup>15</sup> Neither number of places registered nor register type were variables available in the sampling frame for school-based providers.

<sup>16</sup> Childminders must either register with Ofsted or a childminder agency. Only those who were registered with Ofsted were included in the SCEYP sample frame.

<sup>17</sup> 41,219 cases were provided by Ofsted. However, these included 227 cases from the category *Childcare – Domestic*. As in the previous year, these have been removed as they were not eligible for the study. As last year, a few cases (4) have missing information on key strata (region, LA and deprivation) and were removed from the sample frame.

stage 1 database included 40,988 active childminders<sup>18</sup>. This database was used to select samples for all survey components.

As with other provider types, NatCen used response rates from the SCEYP 2018 (31% of issued cases responding to the main survey and 25% to the short survey) to determine required sample sizes.

The sample size calculations were made under the assumption of inviting 100 childminders to take part in the pilot survey, achieving 1,500 interviews with the main survey and allocating a maximum of 25,000 childminders for the short survey. Given the contact details could only be provided by Ofsted for the selection of cases, NatCen decided to select 3% as a reserve sample for the main survey in case selected cases were missing both telephone and e-mail addresses (assumption based on 2018 survey). Therefore, NatCen selected 109 cases for the pilot sample and 4,981 for the mainstage sample. As in the previous year, the design of the short survey sample was driven by the need to provide estimates at LA level. Therefore, NatCen estimated how many interviews including data on fees would be achieved with the main survey and how many more would need to be invited to complete the short survey so that at least 100 interviews in each LA (from both the short and main survey) could be achieved. In the smaller LAs (where it was not possible to achieve 100 interviews), it was decided to invite all eligible childminders to participate whilst the remaining sample capacity was distributed proportionately between other LAs.

A stratified random sampling approach was used to select all of the samples. Following the design of SCEYP 2018, for the mainstage sample of the main survey, smaller regions were oversampled to enable reporting by region and questionnaire variants. The sample was further stratified by LA, register type, time elapsed since registration and IDACI score<sup>19</sup>, and then checked to ensure that the selection was representative of the entire population of childminders.

The selected sample was then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of two questionnaire variants (50%/50% split) and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week to answer questions about. The sample for the short survey was stratified by the same set of variables (explicitly stratifying by LA), and then allocated to a specific day of the week about which to answer certain questions.

Following the receipt of stage 2 data, the samples were checked for duplication of records and availability of contact details. Subsequently, 134 cases were dropped from the sample

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<sup>18</sup> The sample drawn for childminders followed exactly the same criteria in 2019 as it did in 2018. There was a notable reduction in the size of the sampling frame between 2019 and 2018, as there was between 2018 and 2016. In 2018 there were 42,682 childminders to sample from.

<sup>19</sup> Following discussions with DfE, number of places registered was dropped from the list of stratifying variables this year as it was proved to be out of date.

files<sup>20</sup>. Table 4 presents the final childminder sample numbers across the different survey components.

**Table 4 Number of childminders issued to each survey element**

Survey element	Issued (n)
Main SCEYP - pilot	109
Main SCEYP - mainstage	4,848
Short SCEYP - mainstage	24,999
<i>Total</i>	<i>29,956</i>

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<sup>20</sup> 879 childminders in the sample frame missed information about phone number, 14,074 missed e-mail address, 793 missed both e-mail and telephone number: 660 cases allocated to the short survey and 133 to the mainstage main survey. Since either phone number or e-mail was necessary to administer the main survey, 133 cases were dropped from the sample frame. Additionally, one case was identified as a duplicate and dropped from the short survey sample.

## 3. Questionnaire and testing

### 3.1 Main SCEYP: Questionnaire development

As outlined in the introduction to this report, the scope of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) changed between 2018 and 2019 to focus more specifically on provision for pre-school children aged 0-4 years. This involved removing all questions about reception provision in schools. Beyond this change, the questionnaire for the main SCEYP 2019 was designed to be as similar as possible to the main SCEYP 2018 to facilitate analysis of change over time. A small number of changes were proposed between 2018 and 2019 in order to improve the quality and relevance of the data collected. These changes – set out in Table 5 - were piloted and most were implemented for the mainstage (see below).

**Table 5 Changes to the main 2019 SCEYP questionnaire since 2018**

Question	Question wording	Change
<b>Q9disab</b>	Does your setting/does your nursery/do you provide care for children with... 1 Minor Special Educational Needs or disabilities 2 Moderate Special Educational Needs or disabilities 3 Severe Special Educational Needs or disabilities	New question added in 2019
<b>QEHChelp</b>	Over the past 12 months, has your setting/has your nursery/have you provided support for <b>parents</b> to apply for an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC)?	New question added in 2019
<b>QSBPFees</b>	Does your school charge fees for nursery provision?	New question added in 2019
<b>Qothercosts</b>	And finally, how much do you typically spend on any other costs associated with delivering your childcare provision?	New question added in 2019
<b>Qotherincome</b>	How much income do you/does your nursery typically receive from any other sources?	New question added in 2019
<b>QHLEhelp</b>	Over the past 12 months, has your setting/has your nursery/have you provided support for parents with improving the Home Learning Environment?	New question added in 2019

Question	Question wording	Change
<b>Qweekprov</b>	Does your school provide weekend care for children under the age of five?	Question removed. School-based providers (SBP) now asked <b>Qdays</b> in line with other provider types. Qdays: Which days do you/does your nursery typically open in term-time?
<b>Qcmdaycapa</b>	How many, if any, extra under school-aged children that needed childcare <b>throughout the whole day</b> would you have been willing and able to take on that day?	The word “ <i>extra</i> ” added to clarify that interest is in extra capacity as well as to align the wording with questions for other type of providers.
<b>Qbefaft</b>	The next questions are about the types of provision offered at your school. First, does your school provide <b>before</b> or <b>after school</b> care for school children in term time?	Wording changed to focus on school children rather than under 8s
<b>Qholprov</b>	Does your school provide holiday activities or childcare for school children during any school holidays?	Wording changed to focus on school children rather than under 8s
<b>Term1534yo</b>	Can parents use these 15 funded hours 1. Throughout the year (both during and out of school term time)? 2. During school term time only? 3. During school holidays only?	Asked of all providers in 2019 (previously a variant question)
<b>Term3034yo</b>	Can parents use these 30 funded hours 1. Throughout the year (both during and out of school term time)? 2. During school term time only? 3. During school holidays only?	Asked of all providers in 2019 (previously a variant question)
<b>Qmanage</b>	What type of group, organisation or individual owns or manages { <i>Textfill: “Provider_name”</i> }?	Question is now a single code rather than multi-code question
<b>Qtempstaff</b>	Excluding apprentices, how many paid staff do you currently employ on a temporary basis?	Asked of all group-based providers (GBP) in 2019 (previously a variant question)
<b>Qtempstaffnurs</b>	Excluding apprentices, how many paid staff in your nursery are currently employed on a temporary basis?	Asked of all SBPs in 2019 (previously a variant question)
<b>QavefeeSC</b>	What is the average hourly fee that you charge/your school charges for before or after school care” for <b>school-aged children aged 4 or older</b> ?	Asked of SBPs in 2019 (previously asked of GBPs and childminders only)

Question	Question wording	Change
QfeesSCinc	How much income do you typically receive in parent fees for <b>school-aged children aged 4 or older</b> ?	Asked of SBPs in 2019 (previously asked of GBPs and childminders only) <sup>21</sup>

### 3.2 Main SCEYP: Pilot

The main SCEYP was piloted from 19<sup>th</sup> January<sup>22</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The pilot was a mixed mode survey, which could be completed either online (known as Computer Assisted Web Interviewing, or “CAWI”) or on the telephone (known as Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, or “CATI”). A “web-first” design was followed, with the online survey launched first and a communication strategy designed to maximise the number of online completions. Telephone fieldwork ran from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Telephone fieldwork was carried out by five interviewers from the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) Telephone Unit.

The pilot had the following aims:

1. To test the survey questionnaire, including newly added variables;
2. To gain feedback on the survey processes, including the “web-first” approach, explaining the survey to respondents and gaining participation; and
3. To test the survey documents (preparation sheets, respondent letters and emails, interviewer project instructions etc.)

The pilot sample was made up of 269 providers (see [Section 2. Sampling](#)). Table 6 shows that the response rate was highest for SBPs (47%) and childminders (46%) and lowest for GBPs (38%). The refusal rate was 11%, and refusals were most common among GBPs. Reasons for refusals included not having enough time, recent participation in other early years surveys, and not getting approval from someone more senior in the organisation.

The majority (82%) of providers who took part in the pilot did so online, reflecting the strong “push-to-web” approach adopted as well as the fact that the sample had not been exhausted by the close of the pilot fieldwork. Table 7 shows that SBPs had the greatest proportion (86%) of respondents completing the survey via the web.

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<sup>21</sup> It was decided at a late stage to make this change for the pilot. However, following further discussions around the low importance of this source of income for SBPs, NatCen, Frontier Economics and DfE decided that the mainstage questionnaire would revert to *not* asking this question of SBPs.

<sup>22</sup> The survey went live and invitation letters were sent on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Fieldwork was scheduled to commence on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, when invitation emails were also sent, but providers actually began completing the questionnaire from Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Interviews were considered productive if the provider completed the questionnaire sections about attendance and capacity, funded hours and staff-to-child ratios. “Partially” productive interviews included those cases where the provider completed these sections but did not reach the very end of the questionnaire – usually missing some of the topics allocated to “variants” of the questionnaire. Overall, there were 15 partial completions (14% of all productive interviews). All partial interviews were from providers taking part online (see Table 6).

**Table 6 Pilot response rates**

Response rates	Group based providers	School based providers	Childminders	Total
Issued sample (n.)	100	60	109	269
Achieved (n.)	36	28	43	107
- Complete	30	25	37	92
- Partial	6	3	6	15
<b>Overall response rate<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Cooperation rate	60%	70%	83%	70%
Contact rate	64%	67%	56%	61%
Refusal rate	14%	10%	9%	11%
Eligibility rate	94%	100%	85%	92%

**Table 7 Pilot response mode (% of productive cases by telephone and web)**

Response mode	Group based providers		School based providers		Childminders		Total	
	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.
Telephone	22%	8	14%	4	16%	7	18%	19
Web	78%	28	86%	24	84%	36	82%	88

The pilot found the planned fieldwork procedures and communication strategy to be effective in encouraging response, and online response in particular. As a result, NatGen, Frontier Economics and the Department for Education (DfE) agreed to make minimal changes to the communication plans for mainstage. Likewise, the questionnaire itself worked well in the pilot. There were minimal changes to the questionnaire between 2018 and 2019 and no issues arose with the new questions added to the questionnaire.

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<sup>23</sup> Response rate was calculated by dividing the number of productive cases by the number of productive and unproductive cases, and assuming a certain eligibility rate for the unknown cases. Cases with unknown eligibility were those who were ‘non-contacts’ and ‘other unproductive’.

Two recommendations were agreed:

1. To drop **Qsessnum** on sessional provision:

*“How many different under school-aged children were booked to attend [your/your nursery’s] sessional provision at any time throughout that [reference day]?”*

Interviewers reported that respondents did not always understand what ‘different’ meant and often added morning and afternoon sessions together to calculate their answer, which could result in double counting children. This problem was also reported in the 2018 fieldwork. It was agreed to remove Qsessnum from the questionnaire due to the risk of inaccurate data being collected, particularly in the online mode. This data has not been reported in the statistical release – instead attendance and capacity were looked at separately for full day care, morning sessions and afternoon sessions.

2. To monitor partial completions during the mainstage fieldwork and consider focusing telephone interviewer resource on calling providers who had dropped out partway through the questionnaire, to encourage them to complete the “variant” questions that they had missed.

This was done towards the end of fieldwork, with a focus on the financial variants.

### 3.3 Main SCEYP: Questionnaire sections

Table 8 sets out the questionnaire structure used in the main SCEYP 2019. As in previous years, the questionnaire was split into variants in order to reduce the time burden of completing it, while still ensuring a large enough response to enable detailed analysis.

The core questionnaire for each provider type asked a series of contextual questions as well as covering capacity and attendance.

GBPs answered the core questionnaire and one of three provider-specific variants. The content of these variants consisted of questions on either funded hours and expanding provision (variant 1), staffing (variant 2) or finances (variant 3).

SBPs and childminders answered the core questionnaire and one of two provider-specific variants. One variant asked about staffing and children with SEND (variant 1), while the other comprised financial questions (variant 2).

**Table 8 Main SCEYP questionnaire sections**

	School-based providers	Group-based providers	Childminders
Provider background	Core	Core	Core
Attendance and capacity	Core	Core	Core
Funded hours – delivery	Core	Core	Core
Funded hours – flexibility	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 1
Staff-to-child ratios	Variant 2	Variant 1+3	n/a
Children with SEND	Core	Variant 1+3	Core
Access to SENCO	Variant 1	Variant 1	Variant 1
Provider level staff questions*	Core/Variant 1	Core/Variant 2	Core/Variant1
Looped staff questions	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 1
Fees & Free Entitlements	Core	Variant 1+3	Variant 2
EYPP and TFC	Core	Variant 3	Core
Expansion of provision	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 1
Costs of childcare	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 2
Income from childcare	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 2
Additional services	Core	Core	Core**

\*Some questions in these sections were core and asked of all, some questions allocated to a specific variant.

\*\*Only some of these questions were asked of childminders because not all were relevant.

### 3.4 Short SCEYP: Questionnaire development

The questionnaire for the short SCEYP 2019 was designed to be as similar as possible to the short SCEYP 2018, in order to facilitate analysis of change over time.

A small number of questions were added to or amended in the short SCEYP between 2018 and 2019 in order to enhance financial analysis and improve comparability between the main and short surveys. These changes are set out in Table 9.

**Table 9 Changes to the short SCEYP 2019 questionnaire since 2018**

Question	Question wording	Change
<b>Qmanage</b>	What type of group, organisation or individual owns or manages {Textfill: "Provider_name"}?	Question wording aligned with main survey (2018 short SCEYP used a different question with simplified categories)
<b>QSCyn</b>	Do you currently look after any/Does your setting provide before or after school care for/Does your school provide before or after school care for school children aged <b>4 and over</b> ?	Question wording aligned with main survey (focusing on before and after school provision)
<b>Qdays</b>	Which days do you/does your nursery typically open in term-time?	New question added in 2019 (to align with main survey)
<b>QavefeeSC</b>	What is the average <b>hourly fee</b> that you charge/your school charges for before or after school care, for <b>school children aged 4 or older</b> ?	Question wording and routing aligned with main survey
<b>QfeeschangeSC</b>	Have the average fees that you charge/your school charges for before or after school care, for school children aged 4 or older changed over the <b>past 12 months</b> ?	Question wording and routing aligned with main survey
<b>Fund1534yo</b>	Do any of the 3 or 4 year olds attending your setting/attending your nursery/you look after receive Government-funded hours under the <b>universal 15 hours Free Entitlement</b> ?	New question added in 2019 (to align with main survey)

## 4. Survey fieldwork

The 2019 main Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) was conducted as a mixed mode survey, which could be completed either online (via Computer Assisted Web Interviewing, also known as “CAWI”) or on the telephone (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, also known as “CATI”). The online web survey was hosted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the telephone fieldwork was conducted by NatCen and IFF Research. IFF Research provided additional telephone capacity for the project and took responsibility for 50% of the main survey sample.

Data for the mixed mode short SCEYP was collected online and using a paper questionnaire. Fieldwork was conducted by NatCen.

### 4.1 Main SCEYP: Interviewer training and project briefings

Before starting work on the survey, all interviewers were required to attend a face-to-face project briefing on the survey. These briefings covered:

- Purpose of the study and how the data are used;
- Questionnaire content;
- Study procedures, including initial contact with respondents and reminder communications;
- Motivating respondents to take part;
- Practice interviews.

NatCen provided a fieldwork briefing to IFF Research to ensure consistency across the fieldwork.

### 4.2 Main SCEYP: Fieldwork dates

The main SCEYP fieldwork took place between 18<sup>th</sup> March<sup>24</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. A “web-first” design was followed, with the online survey launched first and a communication strategy designed to maximise the number of online completions (see Table 10 for communication dates). Telephone fieldwork ran from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

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<sup>24</sup> The survey went live and invitation letters were sent on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Fieldwork was scheduled to commence on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, when invitation emails were also sent, but providers actually began completing the questionnaire from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

### 4.3 Main SCEYP: Making contact

Potential respondents were sent a range of survey materials to motivate participation, increase the completeness of the data collected and reduce participant burden by helping respondents to prepare in advance. Building on previous years, NatCen worked with the Department for Education (DfE) in order to make these materials as accessible, appealing and persuasive as possible. Changes made between 2018 and 2019 to encourage response included:

- **Contents of materials.** Increased the emphasis on the benefits of survey participation by stressing what results will be used for. NatCen also attempted to decrease the cost of survey participation for respondents, by reducing the length and complexity of communications and making responding as convenient as possible.
- **Using different motivational statements across the different contact attempts.** Research evidence<sup>25,26</sup> shows that varying the messaging across different communications increases response rates by attracting participants with different motivations to take part. Initial communications focussed on the most popular motive for survey participation - altruism (by emphasising the importance of the research, the value of taking part, and being able to help the families and children they support by telling the government about the impact of any changes). Later letters and emails highlighted other potential motivations, such as self-interest and the survey topic.
- **Design of mailings.** Efforts were made to ensure that all mailings looked professional and legitimate, and would not be mistaken for junk mail or commercial marketing. The layout was engaging and concise, clearly spelling out what was being asked of participants and why.
- **'Nudges' for participants without email addresses.** A postcard nudge was sent out a couple of days after the invitation letter. This was to remind those who may not have acted immediately upon receipt of the invitation letter.

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<sup>25</sup> Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J. D., Christian, L. M. (2014). *Internet, Phone, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*, 4th Edition, Wiley.

<sup>26</sup> Nicolaas, G., Smith, P., Pickering, K. & Branson, C. (2015). Increasing response rates in postal surveys while controlling costs: an experimental investigation. *Social Research Practice Issue 1 Winter 2015*. <http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/social-research-practice-journal-issue-01-winter-2015.pdf>

The full range of communications sent to potential respondents was as follows:

### **Letter to chain directors**

Large chains of childcare settings are a growing part of the early years sector in England. Prior to the start of fieldwork, Lydia Marshall, the project lead at NatCen, wrote to the directors of all large chains (10 settings or more) identifiable in the sample. The letter explained the SCEYP, signposted people to reports from 2018, explained that head offices might be contacted during the telephone fieldwork and thanked directors in advance for their co-operation.

### **Ministerial letter (from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families)**

In order to encourage school-based providers to take part, a letter was sent from Nadhim Zahawi, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, to this participant group at the outset of fieldwork. This letter was sent in place of the pre-notification email sent to other providers. This letter highlighted the importance of the survey in providing robust and up to date evidence on the childcare and early years sector, and encouraged schools to take part.

### **Pre-notification email**

Prior to the start of fieldwork, all group-based providers and childminders with an email address on the sample file were sent a pre-notification email. The purpose of this email was to make initial contact with the providers to let them know that they would be invited to participate in the survey. School-based providers were not sent this email as they had been sent the ministerial letter.

### **Invitation letter and email**

All providers were sent an invitation letter and (if they had an email address available) an invitation email. These invitations gave full details about the study, including information security, and invited the provider to take part. They also included details on how to take part online and informed providers that they would hear from an interviewer via telephone if they did not complete the survey online. Both letters and emails included either a physical preparation sheet or a link to one online to help providers prepare to take part. See [Appendix A](#) for the survey invitation letter sent to each provider type.

### **Preparation sheet**

The preparation sheet helped providers prepare for the telephone interview by listing information that they might need to look up in advance, such as financial figures that they were unlikely to know by heart or the qualifications of staff members. These preparation

sheets were tailored according to the provider type and the variant of the survey that they would be asked to complete. They also asked respondents to focus on a particular day of the working week (Monday to Friday) in order to get precise answers that also allowed for analysis of trends in attendance and capacity that vary by weekday. See [Appendix B](#) for the preparation sheets.

### **Qualifications list**

A list of qualifications was enclosed with the invitation letter and email to help providers identify which levels of Early Years or teaching qualifications their staff members held. Telephone interviewers were able to resend the invitation email with a link to the preparation sheet and qualifications list to providers who wanted to prepare before completing the survey. Providers were encouraged to complete the preparation sheet, but this was not compulsory. See [Appendix C](#) for the qualifications list.

### **Postcard nudge**

A postcard reminder was sent to all providers with no email address or mobile phone number available. The purpose of these postcards was not to convert refusals, but to jog the memories of those who may have intended to take part, but had forgotten to, and to catch the attention of those who may not have seen the first invitation.

### **Reminder emails and texts**

Up to three reminder texts and four reminder emails were sent to all non-responding providers for whom NatCen had the relevant contact details. Each reminder stressed a different potential motivation for taking part. The final email was sent only to those who had begun the questionnaire but not completed it.

**Table 10 Main SCEYP fieldwork and communication dates**

<b>Communication</b>	<b>Sent out</b>	<b>To arrive</b>
Ministerial letter <i>(to school-based providers only)</i>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Pre-notification email	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Invitation letter	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b><i>Start of fieldwork</i></b>	<b><i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019</i></b>	
Invitation email	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Postcard nudge <i>(to those without an email address)</i>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2019
Reminder email 1	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Reminder SMS 1	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Reminder email 2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019
Reminder SMS 2	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019
Reminder letter	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Reminder email 3	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Reminder SMS 3	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Reminder email 4	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019
Reminder SMS 4	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019
Reminder email 5	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b><i>End of fieldwork</i></b>	<b><i>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019</i></b>	

## 4.4 Short SCEYP: Fieldwork dates

The short SCEYP fieldwork ran from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. As with the main survey, a “web-first” design was followed, with the online survey launched first and a communication strategy designed to maximise the number of online completions (see Table 11 for communication dates). Paper questionnaires were sent out with reminder letters a month into fieldwork and were supplemented with email reminders.

## 4.5 Short SCEYP: Making contact

Changes to the communication strategy for the short SCEYP mirrored the changes made to the main SCEYP (see [section 4.3](#)). Potential respondents were sent a range of survey materials to motivate participation, increase the completeness of the data collected and reduce participant burden by helping respondents to prepare in advance. Building on previous years, NatCen worked with DfE in order to make these materials as accessible, appealing and persuasive as possible. Changes made between 2018 and 2019 to

encourage response included changes to the contents of materials to contain varying motivational statements.

The full range of communications sent to potential respondents was as follows:

### **Ministerial letter (from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families)**

In order to encourage school-based providers to take part, a letter was sent from Nadhim Zahawi, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, to this participant group at the outset of fieldwork. This letter highlighted the importance of the survey in providing robust and up to date evidence on the childcare and early years sector, and encouraged schools to take part.

### **Invitation letter and email**

All providers were sent an invitation letter and an invitation email if they had an email address (over half (52%, n=20,006) of the sample had email addresses). These invitations gave full details about the study, including information security, and invited the provider to take part. They also included details on how to take part online. See [Appendix D](#) for the survey invitation letter sent to each provider type.

### **Reminder emails**

Up to three reminder emails were sent to all non-responding providers who NatCen had the relevant contact details for. Each reminder stressed a different potential motivation for taking part.

**Table 11 Short SCEYP fieldwork and communication dates**

<b>Communication</b>	<b>Sent out</b>	<b>To arrive</b>
Ministerial letter ( <i>to school-based providers only</i> )	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Invitation letter	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
<b>Start of fieldwork</b>	<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>	
Invitation email	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Reminder letter 1	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019
Reminder email 1	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019
Reminder letter 2	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Reminder email 2	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Reminder email 3	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b>End of fieldwork</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	

## 5. Response rates

### 5.1 Main SCEYP: Response

In total, 10,660 productive interviews were carried out as part of the main Survey for Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP). This included:

- 6,599 interviews with group-based providers (GBP);
  - 3,922 private GBPs;
  - 2,456 voluntary GBPs;
  - 221 school/college/LA/other unclassified GBPs<sup>27</sup>;
- 2,309 interviews with school-based providers (SBP);
  - 2,095 interviews with SBPs offering nursery provision;
  - 214 interviews with maintained nursery schools (MNS);
- 1,752 interviews with childminders.

Table 12 shows the outcomes achieved for each provider type. Tables 13 to 15 show the response rates achieved for each provider type and variant. Table 16 shows the productive response rate by mode.

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<sup>27</sup> Although this third group is included in the group-based provider total, it is not reported on in the official statistics publication.

**Table 12 Main SCEYP: Outcomes by provider type**

n.	Group-based providers	School-based providers	Childminders	Total
<b>Issued sample</b>	<b>14,666</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>25,395</b>
<b>Productive</b>	<b>6,599</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>10,660</b>
• Fully productive	6,163	1,964	1,617	9,744
• Partially productive <sup>28</sup>	436	345	135	916
<i>Unavailable</i>	793	211	205	1,209
<i>Refused</i>	1953	494	291	2,738
<i>Non-contact</i>	4,761	2,821	2,173	9,755
• Bad number	678	44	297	1,019
• Other non-contact	4,083	2,777	1,876	8,736
<i>Other unproductive</i> <sup>29</sup>	3	0	0	3
<i>Ineligible</i>	557	46	427	1,030

**Table 13 Main SCEYP: Group-based provider response rates**

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Total
<b>Achieved (n.)</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>6,599</b>
<b>Overall response rate</b> <sup>30</sup>	<b>49%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>48%</b>
Cooperation rate <sup>31</sup>	73%	73%	67%	71%
Contact rate	68%	68%	67%	67%
Refusal rate	14%	13%	15%	14%
Eligibility rate	95%	94%	95%	95%

<sup>28</sup> Interviews on the main SCEYP survey were considered productive if the provider completed the questionnaire sections about attendance and capacity, funded hours and staff-to-child ratios. “Partially” productive interviews include those cases where the provider completed these sections but did not reach the end of the questionnaire – usually missing some of the topics allocated to “variants” of the questionnaire.

<sup>29</sup> There were three cases that requested their data to be deleted during fieldwork.

<sup>30</sup> Response rate was calculated by dividing the number of productive cases by the number of productive and unproductive cases, and assuming a certain eligibility rate for the unknown cases. Cases with unknown eligibility were those who were ‘non-contacts’ and ‘other unproductive’.

<sup>31</sup> Cooperation rate was calculated by dividing the number of productive cases by the total number of known eligible providers in the sample.

**Table 14 Main SCEYP: School-based provider response rates**

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Total
<b>Achieved (n.)</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>2,309</b>
<b>Overall response rate</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Cooperation rate	78%	75%	77%
Contact rate	54%	50%	52%
Refusal rate	8%	9%	9%
Eligibility rate	99%	98%	98%

**Table 13 Main SCEYP: Childminder response rates**

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Total
<b>Achieved (n.)</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>1,752</b>
<b>Overall response rate</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Cooperation rate	80%	76%	78%
Contact rate	56%	54%	55%
Refusal rate	7%	8%	7%
Eligibility rate	85%	83%	84%

**Table 16 Main SCEYP: Response mode (% of productive cases by telephone and web)**

Response mode	Group-based providers		School-based providers		Childminders		Total	
	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.
Telephone	46	3,022	40	930	37	652	43	4,604
Web	54	3,577	60	1,379	63	1,100	57	6,056

As illustrated in Tables 13 to 15, the response rates differed across the variants. In particular, providers who were allocated to the financial variants (school-based providers allocated to variant 2, group-based providers allocated to variant 3 and childminders allocated to variant 2) were less likely to take part.

Overall, slightly more than half of the interviews were completed online (57%). This proportion was higher for childminders (63%) and SBPs (60%) than for GBPs (54%).

## 5.2 Main SCEYP: Interview length

Average telephone interview lengths and web interview lengths for the different provider types and variants are provided below in Tables 17 and 18. These are based on fully productive interviews that were completed within an hour on the same day; partials and any interviews longer than one hour were excluded from the analysis of interview lengths, as the timings for these outlier interviews are likely to be inaccurate.

**Table 17 Main SCEYP: Average telephone interview length by provider type and questionnaire variant**

Provider type	Variant	Average interview length (minutes)
Group-based providers	1	20
	2	21
	3	26
School-based providers	1	27
	2	26
Childminders	1	12
	2	19

**Table 18 Main SCEYP: Average web interview length by provider type and questionnaire variant**

Provider type	Variant	Average interview length (minutes)
Group-based providers	1	23
	2	26
	3	29
School-based providers	1	30
	2	28
Childminders	1	13
	2	22

## 5.3 Short SCEYP: Response

The total issued sample for the mainstage short SCEYP was 38,264: 10,053 GBPs, 3,211 SBPs, and 25,000 childminders.

In total, the survey achieved 10,729 completions. This included full and partially completed surveys from 2,720 GBPs, 1,410 from SBPs, and 6,599 from childminders. Table 19 displays the outcomes and response rates achieved for the whole sample, and by provider type. It was not possible to estimate eligibility rates given online and postal modes of data

collection, so response rates were calculated based on the whole issued sample (i.e. they assume that all sampled providers were eligible). The breakdown of completions by mode (web vs postal) is shown in Table 20.

Once the data had been collated and combined into a single dataset, it was evident that a number of providers had completed the short SCEYP both online and on paper. Where this was the case, and both surveys had been completed in full (n = 693), the online completion was retained, and the paper version deleted. It was decided to delete the paper version because there was a higher chance of routing error and inaccuracy in the data, whereas the online survey routed participants through correctly. There were also 53 cases that had partially completed the web survey, as well as completing the whole questionnaire on paper. In these cases, the paper completion was retained and the web version was deleted. These duplicate cases have not been included in Table 19 or 20 as the response rate applies to cases, rather than the number of completions.

**Table 19 Short SCEYP response rates: Whole sample by provider type**

	Group-based providers	School-based providers	Childminders	Total
<b>Issued sample</b>	<b>9,740</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>24,999</b>	<b>37,948</b>
<b>Productive</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>6,599</b>	<b>10,729</b>
• Fully productive	2,658	1,321	6,521	10,500
• Partially productive <sup>32</sup>	62	89	78	229
Overall response rate	<b>28%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>

**Table 20 Short SCEYP: Response mode (% of productive cases by post and web)**

Response mode	Group-based providers		School-based providers		Childminders		Total	
	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.
Post	56	1,529	42	590	52	3,428	52	5,547
Web	44	1,191	58	820	48	3,171	48	5,182

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<sup>32</sup> Interviews on the short SCEYP survey were considered productive if the provider completed the questionnaire sections about attendance and capacity, types of care and hours open. "Partially" productive interviews include those cases where the provider completed these sections but did not reach the end of the questionnaire.

## 5.4 Short SCEYP: Interview length

The average web interview length for the different provider types are provided below in Table 21. These are based on fully productive interviews that were completed within an hour on the same day; partials and any interviews longer than one hour were excluded from the analysis of interview length, as the timings for these outlier interviews are likely to be inaccurate.

As Table 21 shows, the length of the short SCEYP ranged from six minutes on average for childminders to 10 minutes on average for SBPs.

**Table 21 Short SCEYP: Average web interview length by provider type**

<b>Provider type</b>	<b>Average interview length (minutes)</b>
School-based providers	10
Group-based providers	9
Childminders	6

## 6. Data processing

### 6.1 Coding

Neither the main nor the short Survey for Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) contained any open-ended questions. However, it did include a small number of questions which offered the respondent the option to choose “other” as their response code and to provide details. After the interview, the data from these questions was coded into the existing code frames (that were used in 2018 SCEYP) by trained coders at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Queries arising from the coding process were examined by the research team to ensure that answers were coded correctly.

### 6.2 Main SCEYP: Data cleaning

Numeric information collected as part of the main SCEYP, such as childcare fees or opening hours, was typed in by respondents themselves (online), keyed in by interviewers (telephone) or recorded on paper and keyed in by NatCen’s Data Unit (paper). It was possible for mis-keying to occur and on inspection, a small number of answers appeared either much too large or much too small or nonsensical given other survey answers. Therefore, it was decided to implement rules whereby certain values would be removed from the data. The following rules were applied:

- Where the reported number of the childminder’s own children booked for childminding provision on the reference day was higher than the total number of children booked for childminding provision, both the number of children booked and the number of own children booked was set to missing.
- Where the reported number of registered children aged either under two, two, or three/four years old was above 200 and was five times greater than the reported maximum number allowed to attend at any one time, the number of registered children of whichever age was recoded to missing.
- Where the reported number of places that were spare was the same as the total number of registered places, but the number of children booked was not zero, spare capacity was recoded to missing.
- Where the reported number of children booked to attend on the reference day was greater than 200 and greater than the reported maximum number allowed to attend, the number of children booked was set to missing (for school-based providers (SBP) and group-based providers (GBP) only).

- Where the reported start time of the reference day was given as “0”, this was recoded to missing. Where the duration of time on the reference day was equal to 0, and the end time given was before 8am, both were recoded to missing.

Only a small number of variables were affected and a small number of answers were removed. Table 22 summarises the topics and numbers of cases affected by these data cleaning protocols. Further detail about the protocols can be found in the user guides published alongside the SCEYP 2019 data, which will be available through the UK Data Archive.

**Table 22 Topics and numbers of cases affected by data cleaning protocols**

Information gathered	Number of cases affected
Number of children booked to attend childminding provision on a given day	4
Registered number of pre-school age children	4
Spare capacity in provision on a given day	246
Number of children booked to attend full day care on a given day	1
Opening hours	71

## 6.3 Main SCEYP: Calculating hourly pay

Respondents were asked a variety of questions in the staff loop section to help collect data on hourly pay. First, respondents were given the choice to provide an answer about pay for each member of staff for any period (i.e. hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and annually). Hourly pay was then calculated for each member of staff, based on their answer to how many hours they worked per week and what income period was given. If they could not provide an exact answer about pay they were asked to give a banded answer from the list presented to them.

When deriving the hourly pay variable, a small number of answers appeared either much too large or much too small. Accordingly, the following rules<sup>33</sup> were applied:

- Where the reported rate of pay was zero, the derived variable was set to missing (as the analysis was interested in *paid* staff)
- Where the *calculated* rate of hourly pay was greater than zero but less than £2:

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<sup>33</sup> These rules were also applied in 2018.

- The derived variable was set to the *reported* level of pay if that value was less than £40 (on the assumption that the answer was given for hourly pay, and the wrong time period was selected);
- The derived variable was set to missing if the reported level of pay for any period was greater than £40;
- Where the calculated rate of hourly pay was more than £300, the derived variable was set to missing<sup>34</sup>.

Table 23 displays the rules and numbers of cases affected by these data cleaning protocols.

**Table 23 Data cleaning protocols for deriving hourly pay and numbers of cases affected**

Data cleaning protocol	Number of cases affected
Where the reported rate of pay was zero, the derived variable was <u>set to missing</u> as the analysis was interested in <i>paid</i> staff.	290
Where hourly pay was calculated to be more than £0 but less than £2, and the reported level of pay for another time period was £40 or less, it was assumed that the value given was for hourly pay, and that the wrong time period had been selected in the questionnaire. The value for derived hourly pay was therefore replaced with <u>the original value given for another period</u> .	425
Where hourly pay calculated to be more than £0 but less than £2, and the reported level of pay for another time period was more than £40, it was not possible to estimate where the extremely low figure had originated from. In this case, derived hourly pay was <u>set to missing</u> .	54
Where the calculated rate of hourly pay was more than £300, the derived variable was <u>set to missing</u> as this figure was understood to be too high to be real.	63

In each of these cases, the original pay variables were left unedited. The transformations described above were only applied to the derived variable. This meant that the dataset retained original survey data for completeness and verification purposes.

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<sup>34</sup> The same cut off of £300 was used in 2019 as in 2018. The rationale for the £300 cut-off was to remove outliers which were having a substantial impact on the mean.

## 7. Weighting

### 7.1 Weighting the main SCEYP

Weighting was used to ensure that the final achieved samples were representative of early years and childcare providers in England. Survey weights were designed separately for the three provider types<sup>35</sup> to correct for unequal selection probabilities and non-response bias. Grossing weights were created in order to ensure that the weighted achieved samples gross up to the population of early years and childcare providers in England.

#### 7.1.1 Main SCEYP: Weighting for group-based providers

##### Population totals

The achieved sample of group-based providers was weighted to be representative of all active group-based childcare providers (GBP) in England that were eligible for the study. However, the sampling frame did not allow for the exclusion of all ineligible institutions prior to sampling, therefore the eligible population size and profile were estimated using information about institutions found to be ineligible. It was decided that settings that were subsequently found to not provide any childcare (i.e. if they had shut down) would be treated as eligible for the estimation of eligible population totals. This was in line with the approach taken in the previous waves on the basis that establishments that had opened in the intervening period would not be included in the sample frame. This was done on the assumption that any that had opened would be roughly analogous to those that had closed. Similarly, establishments coded as “duplicates” were treated as eligible for population totals<sup>36</sup>. The total eligible population was estimated at 24,001 establishments – 97.9%<sup>37</sup> of the sample frame.

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<sup>35</sup> Survey weights were designed for the three overall provider types (group-based, school-based and childminders). In the official statistics report there are five provider types reported on separately. However, private and voluntary are sub-groups of the overall group-based provider type (and were sampled in the same way), and maintained nursery schools and school-based providers offering nursery provision are sub-groups of the overall school-based provider type (and were sampled in the same way).

<sup>36</sup> As in 2018, settings were removed from either the group-based or the school-based sampling frame if they appeared on both. However, they were included in the population estimates for both.

<sup>37</sup> Following data cleaning, 24,527 cases were included in the modelling of the eligible population.

## **Weighting process**

### **Design weights**

Design weights were first calculated to correct for unequal selection probabilities arising from the fact that establishments in the North East were oversampled to enable more robust comparisons between regions.

### **Calibration weighting**

Calibration weighting was used to remove the (measurable) bias introduced through non-response to the main Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) and align the profile of the achieved sample to the profile of the eligible population defined by: region, register type, ownership type, and deprivation band based on Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

### **Questionnaire variant weights**

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of providers allocated to each of the three GBP variants of the questionnaire. The final overall weight served as a pre-weight for adjustments to the responding cases and their profiles were grossed up to the eligible population profile.

### **Day of the week weights**

The selected sample was allocated systematically within each variant of the questionnaire to a specific day of the week (Monday to Friday), about which they were asked certain questions. However, providers were able to complete the survey about a different day. The questionnaire included questions ascertaining which days of the week each group was open. The profile and the overall population size for each day were estimated from the main SCEYP (weighted by overall interview weight). Subsamples of each day were then calibrated to the population profile.

### **Staff weights**

In addition to calculating weights to make the sample representative of GBPs in England, weights for analysis of information on staff in such settings were also calculated. Staff weights were needed to account for the fact that settings employing more than a certain number of staff at one qualification level would only be asked to give information about one or two members of their team. The design weight was multiplied by the interview weights to obtain staff level weights for each case. Additional calibration was applied to ensure that the total number of staff and the staff profile (by level of education) was in line with the data collected about the number of staff working reported by the most senior manager.

## 7.1.2 Main SCEYP: Weighting for school-based providers

### Population totals

To create a sampling frame of school-based providers the Schools' Census database from January 2018 was used, enhanced with further information from a Get Information About Schools (GIAS) extract. During the interviews some institutions were found to be ineligible to take part in the survey: schools that had closed down and schools that did not offer nursery provision. As for group-based providers, and school-based providers in 2018, establishments coded as "duplicates" and those that had shut down were treated as eligible on the assumption that any school that had opened in the intervening period that would therefore not be included in the sampling frame, would be roughly analogous to those that had subsequently closed. The total eligible population was estimated at 9,051 – 98.9% of the initial sample frame<sup>38</sup>.

### Weighting process

#### Design weights

Design weights were calculated to correct for disproportionate sampling of different types of schools.

#### Calibration weighting

Calibration weighting was used to remove the (measurable) bias introduced through non-response to the main SCEYP and align the profile of the achieved sample to the profile of the eligible population on the following variables: school type (main stratum), region, type of establishment, quintile of number of places registered.

#### Questionnaire variant weights

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of school-based providers allocated to each of the two variants of the questionnaire. The responding cases and their profiles were grossed-up to the eligible population profile.

#### Day of the week weights

As with GBPs, although respondents were allocated a random day of the week (Monday – Friday) to answer certain questions about, they were able to complete the survey about a different day. As in 2018, an assumption was made that all schools were open every week

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<sup>38</sup> Following data cleaning, 9,150 cases were included in the modelling of the eligible population.

day and the sample of schools which answered about each day of the week was weighted to the overall profile of the eligible population.

### **Staff weights**

Weights were also prepared for analysis of information on staff in nursery provision. To reduce both the burden on providers and the overall length of interview, settings allocated to variant 1 questionnaire employing more than a certain number of staff at a qualification level were asked to select one member of staff from their nursery provision.

Information on the number of staff in the nursery at each qualification level was collected and design weights were calculated. The design weights were multiplied by the respective interview weights to obtain staff level weights for each case. Additional calibration was applied to ensure that the total number of staff and the staff profiles (by level of education) were in line with the data collected about the number of nursery staff working and reported by the early years coordinator/head teacher.

## **7.1.3 Main SCEYP: Weighting for childminders**

### **Population totals**

The childminders' data was weighted to be representative of the eligible population of childminders in England as of July 2018. At the mainstage some cases were found to be ineligible in that they were no longer offering provision. As in the previous waves, it was decided not to redefine the population and to assume that the population was stable in its characteristics. As in 2018, providers with zero registered places were included on the assumption that at the time of the interview, information about the number of registered places might have already been outdated. It was decided, as in 2018, that cases who reported zero registered places during the interview would be re-coded as ineligible, and responding childminders would be weighted to the profile of population excluding cases with zero registered places in the sample frame. The total eligible population was 39,367.

### **Weighting process**

#### **Design weights**

Design weights were first calculated to correct for unequal selection probabilities arising from the oversampling of smaller regions.

#### **Calibration weights**

Calibration weighting was used to remove measurable bias introduced through non-response to the main SCEYP and to align the profile of achieved sample to the profile of

the population. The population targets used for calibration weighting included: region, whether on all three registers (Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register and Voluntary Childcare Register), registration year, and deprivation band based on IDACI.

### **Questionnaire variant weights**

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of childminders allocated to each of the two childminder variants of the questionnaire. The responding cases and their profiles were grossed-up to the eligible population profile.

### **Day of the week weights**

The selected sample was allocated systematically within each variant of the questionnaire to a specific day of the week (Monday to Friday) about which they were asked certain questions. The questionnaire included questions ascertaining which days of the week each group was open – these were recoded into binary variables for each day of the week and the profile as well as the overall population size for each day were estimated from the main SCEYP (weighted by overall interview weight). Subsamples of each day were then calibrated to population estimates.

### **Staff weights**

Respondents that answered questionnaire Variant 1 were asked several follow up questions about the assistants they employ. There were up to two loops in the questionnaire for assistants, so for respondents with more than two assistants design weighting was required to compensate for this. The final staff level weight was re-scaled so that the total weighted number of assistants was in line with an estimate of the total number of assistants.

## **7.2 Weighting the short SCEYP**

Data from the short SCEYP was combined with data from the financial variant of the main SCEYP where variables were available in both, i.e. the fees and funding questions.

The weighting strategy was designed to create a weight to be used in analysis of the combined dataset comprising data from the short SCEYP and the financial variants of the main SCEYP. Three separate weights were created for SBPs, GBPs and childminders as set out below.

The weighting strategy was the same for all provider types taking part in the short SCEYP or the financial variant of the main SCEYP. Data from the two surveys were combined for use in financial analysis, and calibrated to the same variables and population totals as used for the main SCEYP.

A combined weight was also created for analysis of all groups together. Combined weights for SBPs, GBPs and childminders were scaled so that the weighted profile by provider type was aligned with the percentage distribution of provider types in the population (modelled estimates). Additionally, the weighted total base size was equal to the unweighted total base size (it was not necessary to use grossing-up for the financial weights).

# Appendix – Survey materials

## A. Main SCEYP: Survey invitation letter

### A.1 School-based providers



<Contact>  
<Provider\_name>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P12570/SM<Id>/<CKL>

## Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 10 years.

To complete the survey now, visit <URL>  
and enter your unique access code: <AccessCode>



Receive your access code



Access the survey



Complete the survey



### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 1,649 schools took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



### What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, online or over the telephone. You can complete the survey at a time that suits you.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, a NatCen interviewer will contact you by phone in the next few weeks. If you do not want to take part, you can just let the interviewer know when they call.

We've included a preparation sheet with this letter with more information about the type of questions you will be asked, including some things that you might need to look up in advance or ask your colleagues for help with.



### Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk) or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact the Department for Education about this research, you can email [EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Jonathon Blackburn  
Head of Early Years Research  
Department for Education

Dr Lydia Marshall  
Research Director  
NatCen Social Research

SM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by the Department for Education and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit [www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk), to find out more about IFF Research, please visit [www.iffresearch.com](http://www.iffresearch.com) and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit [www.frontier-economics.com](http://www.frontier-economics.com).

### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the School Census.

If someone else at your school would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by emailing [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk).

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20 minute survey at a time that suits you. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by the Department for Education and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)

## A.2 Group-based providers



<Contact>  
<Provider\_Name>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P12570/GM<id>/<CKL>

### Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 10 years.

To complete the survey now, visit <URL>  
and enter your unique access code: <AccessCode>



Receive your access code



Access the survey



Complete the survey



#### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 5,715 nurseries, pre-schools and other types of childcare providers took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



#### What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, online or over the telephone. You can complete the survey at a time that suits you.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, a NatCen interviewer will contact you by phone in the next few weeks. If you do not want to take part, you can just let the interviewer know when they call.

We've included a preparation sheet with this letter with more information about the type of questions you will be asked, including some things that you might need to look up in advance or ask your colleagues for help with.



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Yours sincerely,

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Head of Early Years Research  
Department for Education

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### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register.

If someone else at your setting would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by emailing [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk).

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20 minute survey at a time that suits you. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

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We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)

## A.3 Childminders



<Contact>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P12570/CM<Id>/<CKL>

## Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 10 years.

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Access the survey



Complete the survey



### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 1,240 childminders took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



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Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, online or over the telephone. You can complete the survey at a time that suits you.

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### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register.

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20 minute survey at a time that suits you. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by the Department for Education and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)

## B. Main SCEYP: Preparation sheet

### B.1 School-based providers, Variant 1

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

SBPV1N

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine – you can just skip that question.



## Things we'll ask about the children you look after in your nursery

- How many children your nursery is able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- How many children currently registered with your nursery are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium



## Things we'll ask about a specific day

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your nursery provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school children were booked to attend at different times (e.g. full day, morning or afternoon sessions)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions

If your school runs any before and/or after school provision (this would be run at least 4 days a week, and would have at least some element of childcare as its purpose, rather than focusing on a single activity such as football or music), we will also ask:

- What time your before and/or after school provision started and ended that day
- How many children were booked to attend those sessions
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions



## Things we'll ask about the staff in your nursery

- The number of paid and unpaid staff involved in delivering your provision
- The levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by paid staff (please refer to the list attached)
- How many of these paid staff hold each of the following qualifications
  - Early Years Teacher Status
  - Qualified Teacher Status
  - Early Years Professional Status
  - Early Years Degree
- The gender and ethnicity of your nursery's paid staff and any apprentices

We will also ask some more detailed questions about members of staff with different levels of qualifications.

The grid below shows the questions that we will ask about members of staff at each qualification level. There is space in the grid for you to make notes so that you are able to answer these questions when we call.

**Please use one row for one staff member.**

If you don't have a **paid** employee in your nursery at any of these levels, that's not a problem – your interviewer will skip these questions when they call.

If you have more than one nursery employee that could be included in a row, please focus on the member of staff whose surname comes first if you arrange them in alphabetical order. This is really important as we need a genuinely **random** sample of staff.

	Age (16-24, 25-39, 40- 49 or 50+)	Highest level of UK Early Years or teaching qualification held	Number of contracted hours per week	Pay (you can tell us their hourly, weekly, monthly or annual pay)
Early years co-ordinator OR, if you do not have an early years co-ordinator, Headteacher				
Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 6 or higher				
Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 4 or 5				
Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 3				
Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 2 or lower (including those with no qualifications)				

### We will also ask you:

- The average **hourly fees** that you charge for
  - Children under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3-4
  - School children aged 4 and over
- The average **hourly rates** that you receive for the Free Entitlements for
  - Children aged 2
  - Children aged 3 or 4

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.2 School-based providers, Variant 2

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

SBPV2N

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the interview, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine – you can just let your interviewer know on the day.



### Things we'll ask about the **children you look after in your nursery**

- How many children your nursery is able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- How many children currently registered with your nursery are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**



## Things we'll ask about a **specific day**

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your nursery provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school children were booked to attend at different times (e.g. full day, morning or afternoon sessions)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions

If your school runs any before and/or after school provision (this would be run at least 4 days a week, and would have at least some element of childcare as its purpose, rather than focusing on a single activity such as football or music), we will also ask:

- What time your before and/or after school provision started and ended that day
- How many school children were booked to attend those sessions
- How many extra school children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- The staff to child ratios your setting was operating that day (on average) for ...
  - Children aged under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4



## Things we'll ask about the **staff in your nursery**

- The number of paid and unpaid staff involved in delivering your provision
- The levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by these paid staff (please refer to the list attached)

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**



## Things we'll ask about your nursery finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month, term or year.

Some of the costs we ask about may be specific to your nursery provision. Others may be part of larger amounts paid for the whole school. When this is the case, please report the best estimate you have of the share for your nursery provision.

Costs		
What is the typical <b>delivery cost / amount spent</b> on:	Amount (£)	Time period
... <b>total cost</b> of delivering your nursery provision		
...staff salaries, including all taxes, NI and pension contributions		
...rent/mortgage payments		
...meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children		
...materials used in the course of your nursery provision		
...staff training (including courses, classes or materials)		
...any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision		

Income		
Your nursery's typical <b>income</b> from:	Amount (£)	Time period
... all sources (the <b>total</b> income coming into the business)		
...parent fees for...	children aged under 2	
	children aged 2	
	pre-school children aged 3 and 4	
	School children aged 4 or older	
...Free Entitlement funding for...	children aged 2	
	children aged 3 or 4 (including the universal 15 hours and the extended 30 hours and <b>including</b> any Early Years Pupil Premium)	
...any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. for meals or snacks, nappies, trips etc.)		
...fundraising or charitable donations		
...income from any other sources		

### We will also ask you:

- The average **hourly fees** that you charge for
  - Children under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3-4
  - School children aged 4 and over
- The average **hourly rates** that you receive for the Free Entitlements for
  - Children aged 2
  - Children aged 3 or 4

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.3 Group-based providers, Variant 1

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

GBPv1

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the interview, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine – you can just let your interviewer know on the day.



### Things we'll ask about the children you look after

- How many children your setting is able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- How many children currently registered with your setting are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**



## Things we'll ask about a **specific day**

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your childcare provision started and ended that day
- How many preschool children were booked to attend at different times (e.g. full day, morning or afternoon sessions)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- The staff to child ratios your setting was operating that day (on average) for ...
- Children aged under 2
- Children aged 2
- Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
- How many school children you looked after before and after school, on the day highlighted above



## Things we'll ask about **your staff**

- The number of paid and unpaid staff involved in delivering your provision
- The levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff (please refer to the list attached)

### We will also ask you:

- The average **hourly fees** that you charge for
  - Children under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3-4
  - School children aged 4 and over
- The average **hourly rates** that you receive for the Free Entitlements for
  - Children aged 2
  - Children aged 3 or 4

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.4 Group-based providers, Variant 2

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

GBP2

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the interview, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine – you can just let your interviewer know on the day.



### Things we'll ask about the children you look after

- How many children your setting is able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- How many children currently registered with your setting are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds



### Things we'll ask about a specific day

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your childcare provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school children were booked to attend at different times (e.g. full day, morning or afternoon sessions)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- How many school children you looked after before and after school, on the day highlighted above



## Things we'll ask about **your staff**

- The number of paid and unpaid staff involved in delivering your provision
- The levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff (please refer to the list attached)
- How many of your paid staff hold each of the following qualifications
  - Early Years Teacher Status
  - Qualified Teacher Status
  - Early Years Professional Status
  - Early Years Degree
- The gender and ethnicity of your paid staff and any apprentices you may have

We will also ask some more detailed questions about members of staff with different levels of qualifications.

The grid below shows the questions that we will ask about members of staff at each qualification level. There is space in the grid for you to make notes so that you are able to answer these questions when we call.

**Please use one row for one staff member.**

If you don't have a **paid** employee at any of these levels, that's not a problem – your interviewer will skip these questions when they call.

If you have more than one employee that could be included in a row, please focus on the member of staff whose surname comes first if you arrange them in alphabetical order. This is really important as we need a genuinely **random** sample of staff.

	Age (16-24, 25-39, 40-49 or 50+)	Highest level of UK Early Years or teaching qualification held	Number of contracted hours per week	Pay (you can tell us their hourly, weekly, monthly or annual pay)
The most senior manager, who has overall responsibility for your provision				
Member of staff qualified to Level 4 or higher				
Member of staff qualified to Level 3				
Another member of staff qualified to Level 3				
Member of staff qualified to Level 2 or lower (including those with no qualifications)				

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.5 Group-based providers, Variant 3

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

GBPv3

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine – you can just skip that question.



### Things we'll ask about the children you look after

- How many children your setting is able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- How many children currently registered with your setting are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium



### Things we'll ask about a specific day

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your childcare provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school children were booked to attend at different times (e.g. full day, morning or afternoon sessions)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- How many school children you looked after before and after school, on the day highlighted above
- The staff to child ratios your setting was operating that day (on average) for ...
  - Children aged under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4



## Things we'll ask about your staff

- The number of paid and unpaid staff involved in delivering your provision
- The levels of Early Years and teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff (please refer to the list attached)



## Things we'll ask about your finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month, term or year.

Costs		
What is the typical <b>delivery cost / amount spent</b> on:	Amount (£)	Time period
... <b>total cost</b> of delivering your provision		
...staff salaries, including all taxes, NI and pension contributions		
...rent/mortgage payments		
...meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children		
...materials used in the course of your childcare provision		
...staff training (including courses, classes or materials)		
...any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision		

Income		
The typical <b>income</b> from:	Amount (£)	Time period
...all sources (the <b>total</b> income coming into the business)		
...parent fees for...	children aged under 2	
	children aged 2	
	pre-school children aged 3 and 4	
	school children aged 4 or older	
...Free Entitlement funding for...	children aged 2	
	children aged 3 or 4 (including the universal 15 hours and the extended 30 hours and <b>including</b> any Early Years Pupil Premium)	
...any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. for meals or snacks, nappies, trips etc.)		
...fundraising or charitable donations		
...income from any other sources		

## We will also ask you:

- The average **hourly fees** that you charge for
  - Children under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3-4
  - School children aged 4 and over
- The average **hourly rates** that you receive for the Free Entitlements for
  - Children aged 2
  - Children aged 3 or 4

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.6 Childminders, Variant 1

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

CMV1

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the interview, some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or is not relevant to you, that's absolutely fine – you can just let your interviewer know on the day.



### Things we'll ask about you

- How long you have worked as a childminder
- Your highest Early Years or teaching related qualification (please refer to the list attached)
- How many children you are able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- The number of hours you spend on your childminding business each week



### Things we'll ask about the children you look after

- How many are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many children receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium



## Things we'll ask about a **specific day**

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your childcare provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school age children were booked to attend at different times (i.e. for the full day, morning or afternoon)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- How many school children you looked after before and after school on the day highlighted above



## If you employ **paid childminding assistants**, we will ask about

- Their age
- The length of time they have been working as a childminding assistant
- The highest Early Years or teaching related qualification they hold (please refer to the list attached)
- How many hours per week they are contracted to work for you
- How much they are paid

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting you as an individual – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## B.7 Childminders, Variant 2

# Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Preparation Sheet

CMV2

**Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.**

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about, some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've left lots of space in case you want to make any notes before you take part in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or is not relevant to you, that's absolutely fine – you can just skip that question.



### Things we'll ask about you

- How long you have worked as a childminder
- Your highest Early Years or teaching related qualification (please refer to the list attached)
- How many children you are able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)
- The number of hours you spend on your childminding business each week



### Things we'll ask about the children you look after

- How many are...
  - Under 2
  - Aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3 or 4
  - School children aged 4 to 7
  - School children aged 8 and over
- How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- How many receive government funded hours under the...
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds
  - 15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
  - 30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts
- How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium



### Things we'll ask about a specific day

For some questions we'll ask you to think about a specific day. This day is in the email we sent you. If you cannot answer about that day, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.

- What time your childcare provision started and ended that day
- How many pre-school age children were booked to attend at different times (i.e. for the full day, morning or afternoon)
- How many extra children you would have had capacity to look after in those sessions
- How many school children you look after before and after school on the day highlighted above



## Things we'll ask about your finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month, term or year.

Costs		
What is the typical <b>delivery cost / amount spent</b> on:	Amount (£)	Time period
... <b>total cost</b> of delivering your provision (excluding rent or mortgage payments)		
...pay for any staff other than yourself (e.g. childminding assistants), including all taxes, NI and pension contributions		
...your personal childminding income		
...meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children		
...materials used in the course of your childcare provision		
...training for yourself or other staff (including courses, classes or materials)		
...any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision		

Income		
The typical <b>income</b> to your childminding business from:	Amount (£)	Time period
...all sources (the <b>total</b> amount coming into your childminding business)		
...parent fees for...	children aged under 2	
	children aged 2	
	pre-school children aged 3 and 4	
	school children aged 4 or older	
...Free Entitlement funding for...	children aged 2	
	children aged 3 or 4 (including the universal 15 hours and the extended 30 hours and <b>including</b> any Early Years Pupil Premium)	
...any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. for meals or snacks, nappies, trips etc.)		
...fundraising or charitable donations		
...income from any other sources		

### We will also ask you:

- The average **hourly fees** that you charge for
  - Children aged under 2
  - Children aged 2
  - Pre-school children aged 3-4
  - School children aged 4 and over
- The average **hourly rates** that you receive for the Free Entitlements for
  - Children aged 2
  - Children aged 3 or 4

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting you as an individual – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

**This sheet is to help you prepare. You do not need to return it.**

## C. Main SCEYP: Qualifications sheet

### Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019 Qualifications List

In the survey we will ask you about the highest Early Years or teaching qualifications held by your staff.

Below are some *examples* of relevant qualifications at levels from 1 to 8 to help you answer our questions. If someone has an overseas qualification or does not have any relevant qualifications, you'll be able to record that too.

*Note: Health and social care qualifications are not considered to be relevant to this study.*

#### Level 1 Examples

Childcare related Level 1 vocational qualifications (e.g. NVQ)  
BTEC Awards, Certificates and Diplomas at Level 1

#### Level 2 Examples

Level 2 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
Level 2 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education  
Level 2 NVQ in Playwork  
Level 2 NVQ for Teaching Assistants  
Level 2 NVQ in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools  
Level 2 Diploma in Playwork  
BTEC First Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
BTEC First Diploma in Early Years  
Children's and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship at Level 2

#### Level 3 Examples

Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification  
Level 3 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
Level 3 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education  
Level 3 NVQ for Teaching Assistants  
Level 3 Diploma in Playwork  
Level 3 Diploma in Support Work in Schools  
Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support in Teaching and Learning  
BTEC National Award in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
BTEC National Diploma in Childcare and Education  
NNEB Certificate and Diploma at Level 3  
Level 3 Certificate for Teaching Assistants<sup>1</sup>  
Level 3 Certificate in Support Work in Schools<sup>1</sup>  
Children's and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship at Level 3  
Higher Level Teaching Assistant Status (HLTA) if the holder has a certificate awarded by the Training and Development Agency or the Teaching Agency

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<sup>1</sup> Where the holder has also achieved the Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage

- Level 4 Examples**  
Level 4 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
Level 4 NVQ in Early Years, Care and Education  
Level 4 NVQ in Playwork  
Childcare related Certificate of Higher Education  
Childcare related Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Level 5 Examples**  
Foundation Degree in Supporting Learning  
Childcare related Diploma of Higher Education  
Childcare related Higher National Diploma (HND)  
Childcare related Certificate of Higher Education  
Childcare related BTEC Professional Diploma, Certificate or Award
- Level 6 Examples**  
Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS)  
Early Years Professional Status (EYPS)  
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)  
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education  
Childcare or teaching related Honours degree
- Level 7 Examples**  
Childcare or teaching related Masters degree  
Childcare or teaching related Postgraduate Certificate  
Childcare or teaching related Postgraduate Diploma
- Level 8 Examples**  
Childcare or teaching related Doctorate (PhD or DPhil)

## D. Short SCEYP: Survey invitation letter

### D.1 School-based providers



<Contact>  
<Provider\_name>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<Postcode>

Your reference number: P12570/<ProvID><Id>/<CKL>

## Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 20 years.

To complete the survey now visit <URL>  
and enter your unique access code: <AccessCode>



Receive your access code



Access the survey



Complete the survey



#### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 1,247 schools took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



#### What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online using the access code above.



#### Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk) or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact the Department for Education about this research, you can email [EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Jonathon Blackburn  
Head of Early Years Research  
Department for Education

Dr Lydia Marshall  
Research Director  
NatCen Social Research

SBP

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by the Department for Education and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit [www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk). For more information about Frontier Economics, please visit [www.frontier-economics.com](http://www.frontier-economics.com).

### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the School Census. If someone else at your school would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by emailing [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk).

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand early years provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 5 minute online survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by the Department for Education and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)

## D.2 Group-based providers



<Contact>  
<Provider\_name>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<Postcode>

Your reference number: P12570/<ProvID><id>/<CKL>

### Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 20 years.

To complete the survey now visit <URL>  
and enter your unique access code: <AccessCode>



Receive your access code



Access the survey



Complete the survey



#### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 3,132 nurseries, pre-schools and other voluntary and private providers took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



#### What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online using the access code above.



#### Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk) or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact the Department for Education about this research, you can email [EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Jonathon Blackburn  
Head of Early Years Research  
Department for Education

Dr Lydia Marshall  
Research Director  
NatCen Social Research

GBP

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by the Department for Education and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit [www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk). For more information about Frontier Economics, please visit [www.frontier-economics.com](http://www.frontier-economics.com).

### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register. If someone else at your setting would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by emailing [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk).

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand early years provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 5 minute online survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by the Department for Education and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)

## D.3 Childminders



<Contact>  
<Address1>  
<Address2>  
<Address3>  
<Address4>  
<Address5>  
<Postcode>

Your reference number: P12570/<ProvID><Id>/<CKL>

### Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Dear <Contact>,

We are writing to invite <Provider\_Name> to take part in the **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019**. This major research study is carried out on behalf of the Department for Education by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics. The evidence it gathers is crucial in providing an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector and how this may have changed over the past 20 years.

To complete the survey now visit <URL>  
and enter your unique access code: <AccessCode>



Receive your access code



Access the survey



Complete the survey



#### Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding the differences across all types of early years provision, helping to inform key policy decisions. 9,360 childminders took part last year, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



#### What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online using the access code above.



#### Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email [childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk) or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact the Department for Education about this research, you can email [EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Jonathon Blackburn  
Head of Early Years Research  
Department for Education

Dr Lydia Marshall  
Research Director  
NatCen Social Research

CM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by the Department for Education and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit [www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk). For more information about Frontier Economics, please visit [www.frontier-economics.com](http://www.frontier-economics.com).

### Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register.

### Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

### What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 5 minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by the Department for Education and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The results collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, all data will be anonymised before being passed on to the Department for Education and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse, and your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at [www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey)



Department  
for Education

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write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

Reference: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019



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