



Education  
Funding  
Agency

# **Dedicated schools grant 2015 to 2016**

**Pupil number information for the schools  
block and early years block**

**December 2014**

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## Introduction

1. This paper provides detail of the pupil number counts which have been used in the calculation of the financial year 2015 to 2016 dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for the schools and early years blocks to local authorities.
2. Please note that high needs block allocations will not be derived from pupil counts data.
3. The schools block pupil counts are derived primarily from the October 2014 school census. This underpinning dataset is collected in a similar way to the January school census (from which detailed analysis is published as official statistics each summer).

## Schools block

4. In summary, the pupils counted for the purpose used in the calculation of DSG schools block allocations are those recorded in the school census in maintained schools and academies going through recoupment in national curriculum year groups R-11 aged 4 or above, but not including those pupils in SEN units or resourced provision within such institutions; funding for these pupils is provided under the high needs block. Also counted towards the schools block are those relevant pupils in alternative provision (AP) who do not fall under the high needs block. Any pupils recorded as year R but who are less than 4 years old are not counted, because funding for these pupils is provided under the early years block.

## Pupil counts

5. The pupil numbers used to determine the 2015 to 2016 schools block allocations are given by:

- From the **October 2014 school census**:
  - all pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and academies which are going through recoupment at census date, in national curriculum year groups R-11 aged 4 or above at 31st August 2014;
  - all pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and academies which are going through recoupment at census date, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2014.

**plus**

- From the **January 2014 alternative provision census**: all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2013.

**plus**

- From the **January 2014 school census and October 2013 school census**: the increase (where applicable) in the number of national curriculum year group R pupils aged 4 or above at 31st August 2013, in January 2014, compared to the October 2013 national curriculum year group R figures, for maintained nursery and primary schools and academies which are going through recoupment at census date. This is the reception uplift; see below for more details.

**minus**

- The number of funded places in SEN unit or resourced provision in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and academies which are going through

recoupment at census date, using the place numbers agreed with local authorities for academic year 2014 to 2015.

6. The school census provides data on pupils in every maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special school, including pupils in academies going through recoupment in 2014 to 2015. The count point for the October 2014 school census was 2nd October.

7. The alternative provision census captures pupils for whom an English local authority has a financial responsibility, and if not included on the AP census, would not be picked up by other collections for DSG funding purposes. The count point for the January 2014 alternative provision census was 16th January.

8. All pupils in the schools block are counted as 1 FTE regardless of their part-time/full-time status. Every relevant pupil with a sole or dual (main) registration is counted.

9. We do not fund duplicate UPNs in the school census. We identify potential duplicate UPN cases and ask authorities to resolve them. If a duplicate remains unresolved, the 1 FTE of that pupil is equally divided between the local authorities involved, i.e. 1 pupil between 2 local authorities will result in both authorities receiving a headcount of 0.5.

## **Reception uplift to census counts**

10. In order to ensure that no local authority loses out in respect of deferred entry to reception arising from the use of the October census count, an uplift has been applied. This has been calculated based on the counts of reception pupils between the October 2013 school census and the January 2014 school census during the 2013 to 2014 academic year. The change (calculated in terms of the number of pupils, not a percentage change) is calculated for each school individually in each local authority, and then all increases are totalled across each whole authority area. Any school with fewer reception pupils counted in the January 2014 census than in the October 2013 census are treated as having zero change, rather than a decrease.

## **Non-recoupment academies**

11. In 2015 to 2016, funding for non-recoupment academies (excluding free schools opening after September 2014) will be transferred into local authorities' DSG allocations on a cash basis. The pupil numbers at these institutions will therefore not be included in the schools block totals that are applied to the corresponding schools block unit of funding. Details of how the cash transfer for non-recoupment academies have been calculated can be found in the accompanying DSG technical note for 2015 to 2016.

## Early years block

12. This block covers all pupils in maintained schools and academies (including those not going through recoupment) in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2, all relevant pupils in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, and under 5s in alternative provision. In addition, any pupils recorded as year R, but who are less than 4 years old, are counted in the early years block. Two-year-olds with SEN are funded under the high needs block.

## Pupil counts for three and four year olds

14. The pupil numbers used to determine the provisional early years block allocations are:

- From the **January 2014 school census**:
  - all full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary school, and **all** academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2 aged 3 or 4 at 31st August 2013 including any 3 years olds recorded as national curriculum year group R;
  - all FTE pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and **all** academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 3 at 31st August 2013.

**plus**

- From the **January 2014 early years census**: all 3 and 4 year old FTEs as at 31st December 2013.

**plus**

- From the **January 2014 alternative provision census**:
  - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st December 2013;
  - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st August 2013 but 4 by 31st December 2013 (rising 4s).

15. The pupils counted on the early years census are those aged 3 and 4 receiving provision in PVI providers attending hours which are funded by the local authority. The count point for the January 2014 early years census was 16th January.

16. In calculating the FTE number of pupils, a pupil funded for 25 hours a week is calculated to be the equivalent of a full-time pupil. Pupils attending fewer than 25 hours are counted pro-rata to the number of hours funded; for example a pupil funded for 10 hours a week will be counted as  $10/25 = 0.4$  of a full-time equivalent pupil. The maximum funding available via the DSG for 3-year-olds and rising 4-year-olds is 15 hours, so all such pupils will be counted as a maximum of 0.6 FTE. For the school census pupils, i.e.

those in nursery schools and nursery classes, in order to ensure 4 year olds with 'funded hours' of 21 hours or more a week do not lose out on funding we have taken the decision to fund 4 year olds with 'funded hours' of 21 hours or more for a full-time place.

17. In order to recognise that a number of local authorities are able to provide the free entitlement flexibly over more than the standard 38 weeks, the FTEs have been derived using two additional items collected on the early years census, namely the number of funded hours during the spring term, and the number of weeks the provider is open for and funded by the local authority. This has been done to acknowledge that in some cases, the funded hours during census week may not accurately reflect the full extent of the take-up of the entitlement, e.g. a child funded for 10 hours during census week may in fact be taking up the full entitlement over more than 38 weeks.

18. The formula compares the number of funded hours in the spring term to the number during census week to determine a proxy number of weeks in the spring term for which the child is funded.

19. For 3 year olds and rising 4s, if the proxy figure is less than 13 (standard number of weeks in a term), then assume that the child is receiving their entitlement over the standard 38 weeks, so that  $FTE = \text{minimum}(\text{number of funded hours during census week}/25, 0.6)$ .

20. If the figure is greater than or equal to 13, then assume the child is accessing the entitlement over more than the standard 38 weeks, so that  $FTE = \text{minimum}((\text{number of funded hours during census week} * \text{number of weeks provider is open per annum})/950, 0.6)$ , where 1 FTE would be attending for  $38 * 25 = 950$  hours, although we will fund up to  $38 * 15 = 570$  hours.

21. If the proxy figure is less than 13 (standard number of weeks in a term), then assume that the child is receiving their entitlement over the standard 38 weeks, so that  $FTE = \text{minimum}(\text{number of funded hours during census week}/25, 1)$ .

22. If the figure is greater than or equal to 13, then assume the child is accessing the entitlement over more than the standard 38 weeks, so that  $FTE = \text{minimum}((\text{number of funded hours during census week} * \text{number of weeks provider is open per annum})/950, 1)$ , where there is a maximum of 950 funded hours in 38 weeks.

23. While this doesn't guarantee a completely accurate reflection of the patterns of flexible provision, no authority will receive less funding than if the funded hours during census week had been used alone to calculate FTEs.

## Pupil counts for two year olds

24. Initial allocations for the funding of two year olds will be announced in July 2015. The allocations will be based on number of eligible pupils participating in early education as recorded in the January 2015 early years census, school census and alternative provision census.

25. The eligible pupil numbers used to determine the provisional allocations for two year olds are those that have been determined as meeting one of the national eligibility criteria<sup>1</sup>. Local authorities are required to report eligibility against the following code set. While children may meet more than one criterion given in the code set, and each that applies should be returned in the census, duplicates will be discounted. Any children entered only as “OTH” will not be included in the calculations for funding purposes.

Code	Description
ECO	Economic criteria
HSD	High-level SEN or disability
LAA	Looked after or adopted from care
OTH	Other

Table 1: Eligibility code set

26. The pupil numbers that will be used to determine the initial allocations for eligible two-year olds are:

- From the **January 2015 school census**:
  - all eligible full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary school, and **all** academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2 aged 2 at 31st August 2014;
  - all eligible FTE pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, and **all** academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged 2 at 31st August 2014.

**plus**

- From the **January 2015 early years census**: eligible two year old FTEs as at 31st December 2014.

**plus**

- From the **January 2015 alternative provision census**:
  - all eligible pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 2 at 31st December 2014.

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<sup>1</sup>The national eligibility criteria for the two-year-old entitlement can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/free-early-education>



27. The pupils counted on the early years census are those aged 2 receiving provision in PVI providers attending hours which are funded by the local authority.

28. The FTE number of pupils will be calculated on the same basis as for three and four year olds.

## **Adjustments to early years block allocations**

29. The early years block allocations published in December 2014, based on January 2014 census counts, are provisional. Early years block allocations for three and four year olds will be initially adjusted in July 2015, to be based on counts from the January 2015 school census, early years census and alternative provision census. The pupil counts will be made from these censuses in the same way as described above from the January 2014 censuses.

30. In addition, the pupil counts for eligible 2 year olds will be updated if necessary in January 2016 using pupil numbers from a voluntary data collection in autumn 2015.

31. Finally, the allocations for all ages will be updated in July 2016, based on 5/12<sup>ths</sup> of the January 2015 participation numbers (to cover the April 2015 to August 2015 period) and 7/12<sup>ths</sup> of the January 2016 participation numbers (to cover the September 2015 to March 2016 period). The result will give local authorities' final early years block allocations for financial year 2015 to 2016.

## High needs block

32. The nature of the reform to the DSG allocations in relation to the high needs block means that no pupil count data from the censuses will be used. This includes the school level annual school census, and those pupils counted in the alternative provision census who are not counted towards the schools block and early years block.



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