National Pupil Projections – Future Trends in Pupil Numbers: July 2016 Update

Metadata Specification

Description

This document describes the data contained in the 2016 national pupil projections underlying data file. This accompanies the national pupil projections statistical release (SR) which provides England level national projections for the number of pupils in schools by type of school and age group

Overview

The information collected in the file relates to the national pupil projections for England produced in June-July 2016. The projections provide forecasts of the number of pupils in schools by type of school and age group from 2016 to 2025. They are based on the Spring 2016 school census and mid-2014 ONS national population projections and 2014 birth data.

A full description of the methods used in the production of this data can be found in the PDF version of the above SR.

File format and conventions

Format

SFR25-2016_Projections_ud.csv.

Rounding and accuracy

Rounding: Output from the PPM in the Statistical First Release tables is rounded to the nearest 1,000 pupils and five year age bands.

Outputs in the underlying data file are supplied to the nearest unit to facilitate further calculations, but cannot be guaranteed accurate to the level of detail implied by the unit figures. Pupil numbers for some age groups and smaller school types may have been aggregated to reflect this. Figures or numbers calculated using them should be rounded to the nearest 1,000 prior to further usage.

Figures under 500 are not robust and have been suppressed: the symbol "*" appears when the pupil numbers are less than 500. Some of the fields provided in the file have not been derived for all variables. In this instance, ".." is published.

Coverage

Total figure for England provided for each year and school type & age group variable.

Years: 2002 to 2016 (actuals); 2017 to 2025 (projections).

Row definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
Date of count	All figures correspond to January of the year shown.
State-funded schools	Local authority maintained schools, all academy types, pupil referral units, city technology colleges, free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools.
State-funded primary schools	Maintained primary schools, primary academies and primary free schools.
State-funded secondary schools	Maintained secondary and all-through schools, secondary and all-through academies (excluding special academies), city technology colleges, secondary and all-through free schools (excluding special free schools), university technical colleges and studio schools.
State-funded special schools	Maintained special schools, special academies, special free schools and general hospital schools.
Alternative provision settings	Pupil referral units, alternative provision academies and alternative provision free schools, but not other types of alternative provision.
Independent schools	All schools that are not state-funded, except non-maintained special schools.
Non-maintained special schools	All non-maintained special schools
Headcount	Total number of children in the population (actual or projected) – sum of full-time and part-time.
FTE	Full-time equivalent population. Part-time pupils assumed to represent half of a full-time pupil to give overall FTE totals.
Pupil age (age is measured at the previous August 31 unless otherwise stated)	• Under 5 = ages up to and including rising 5s • Primary ages = 5 to 10 • Secondary ages = 11 to 15

Field name descriptions

Field name	Description
Coverage	Country name
Coverage_Ref	ONS Country code
ONS_projection	ONS population projection used in the projection model
School_type	Type of school for which pupil numbers are provided
Pupil_status	Whether the pupil numbers are a headcount or FTE
Pupil_age	Age (or age group) of pupils for which pupil numbers are provided. Age is at previous 31 August

2002_actual	Firm actual pupil numbers at January 2002 from the DfE School Census;
2003_actual to 2016_actual	As for 2002_actual, but for the year named in the heading
2017_projection	Projected pupil numbers at January 2017;
2018_projection to 2025_projection	As for 2016_projection, but for the year named in the heading