



Education
Funding
Agency

Dedicated schools grant 2016 to 2017

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

December 2015

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Introduction

1. This note provides detail of the pupil number counts which have been used in the calculation of the financial year 2016 to 2017 dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for the schools and early years blocks to local authorities.
2. High needs block allocations will not be derived from pupil counts data.
3. The schools block pupil counts are derived primarily from the October 2015 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. The pupil numbers used in the DSG calculation are those recorded as present in maintained schools and academies in the schools census, from reception (R) to year 11. It does not include pupils in SEN units or resourced provision as these pupils are funded through the high needs block. Pupils in alternative provision (AP) not funded via the high needs block are recorded in the DSG calculations. 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 2016 to 2017 schools block allocations are from:
 - the **October 2015 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 2015;
 - 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 2015.
 - the **January 2015 alternative provision census**: all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2014.
 - the **January 2015 school census and October 2014 school census**: the increase (where applicable) in the number of national curriculum year group R pupils aged 4 or above at 31st August 2014, in January 2015, compared to the October 2014 national curriculum year group R figures, for maintained nursery and primary schools and academies. This is the reception uplift; see below for more details.
6. The number of funded places in SEN units or resourced provision in maintained nursery, primary, secondary schools and academies are not included in the pupil numbers. These are the place numbers agreed with local authorities for academic year 2015 to 2016.
7. The school census provides data on pupils in every maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special school, including pupils in academies. The count point for the October 2015 school census was 1st October.
8. 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 2015 alternative provision census was 15th January.

9. 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.
10. We do not fund duplicate Unique Pupil Numbers (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

11. 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 is the difference in the number of reception pupils between the October 2014 school census and the January 2015 school census during the 2014 to 2015 academic year. The change (calculated in terms of the number of pupils, not a percentage change) is calculated for each school in each local authority, and then any increases are totalled across the local authority area. Any school with fewer reception pupils counted in the January 2015 census compared with the October 2014 census are treated as having zero change, rather than a decrease.

Early years block

12. The early years 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
- under 5s in alternative provision
- any pupils recorded as year R, but who are less than 4 years old,

13. 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 2015 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 2014 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 2014.
- the **January 2015 early years census**: all 3 and 4 year old FTEs as at 31st December 2014.
- the **January 2015 alternative provision census**:
 - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st December 2014;
 - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st August 2014 but 4 by 31st December 2014 (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 2015 early years census was 16th January.

16. A pupil funded for 25 hours a week is recorded as equivalent to 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. For 4 year olds, 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. The provisional allocations will be based on number of eligible pupils participating in early education as recorded in the January 2015 early years census and school 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](#). Local authorities are required to report eligibility against the following codeset. While children may meet more than one criterion given in the codeset, 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 codeset

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
- the **January 2015 early years census**: eligible two year old FTEs as at 31st December 2014
- the **January 2015 alternative provision census**:
 - all eligible pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 2 at 31st December 2014

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 provisional early years block allocations were published in December 2015 and are based on January 2015 census. Early years block allocations for three and four year olds will be adjusted in July 2016, to reflect the January 2016 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 2015 censuses.
30. The allocations for all ages will be updated in July 2017, based on 5/12th of the January 2016 participation numbers (to cover the April 2016 to August 2016 period) and 7/12th of the January 2017 participation numbers (to cover the September 2016 to March 2017 period). The result will give local authorities' final early years block allocations for financial year 2016 to 2017.

High needs block

31. 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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Reference: EFA-00311-2015



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