



Department  
for Education

**This document has been withdrawn**

# **Dedicated schools grant 2014 to 2015**

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

**December 2013**

## Contents

Introduction	3
Schools Block	4
Pupil counts	4
Reception Uplift to census counts	5
Early Years Block	6
Pupil counts	6
Adjustments to Early Years Block allocations	8
High Needs Block	9

## Introduction

This paper provides detail of the pupil number counts which have been used in the calculation of the 2014-15 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for the Schools and Early Years Blocks to local authorities.

Please note that High Needs Block allocations will not be derived from pupil counts data.

The Schools Block pupil counts are derived primarily from the October 2013 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

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

The pupil numbers used to determine the 2014-15 Schools Block allocations are given by:

- From the **October 2013 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 2013;
  - 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 2013.

**plus**

- From the **January 2013 Alternative Provision Census**: all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2012.

**plus**

- From the **January 2013 School Census and October 2012 School Census**: the increase (where applicable) in the number of National Curriculum year group R pupils aged 4 or above at 31st August 2012, in January 2013, compared to the October 2012 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 2013-14.

The School Census provides data on pupils in every maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special school, including pupils in academies going through recoupment in 2013-14. The count point for the October 2013 School Census was 3rd October.

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 2013 Alternative Provision census was 17th January.

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.

We do not fund duplicate UPNs in the School Census. We identify potential duplicate UPN cases and ask authorities to resolve them, including those duplicated across both School and PRU censuses. 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**

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 2012 School Census and the January 2013 School Census during the previous 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 2013 census than in the October 2012 census are treated as having zero change, rather than a decrease.

## Early Years Block

This block covers all pupils in maintained schools and academies (including those not going through recouplement) 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

The pupil numbers used to determine the provisional Early Years Block allocations are:

- From the **January 2013 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 2012 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 2012.
  - But, for both the above groups here, **not including** those pupils who are flagged as being in a SEN Unit or Resourced Provision in the relevant institutions with a statement of SEN

**plus**

- From the **January 2013 Early Years Census**: all 3 and 4 year old FTEs as at 31st December 2012.

**plus**

- From the **January 2013 Alternative Provision Census**:
  - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st December 2012;
  - all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged 3 at 31st August 2012 but 4 by 31st December 2012 (rising 4s).

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 2013 Early Years Census was 17th January.

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.

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.

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.

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  $FTE = \text{minimum}(\text{number of funded hours during census week}/25, 0.6)$ .

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.

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  $FTE = \text{minimum}(\text{number of funded hours during census week}/25, 1)$ .

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.

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.

## **Adjustments to Early Years Block allocations**

The Early Years Block allocations published in December 2013, based on January 2013 census counts, are provisional. Early Years Block allocations will be initially adjusted in summer 2014, to be based on counts from the January 2014 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 2013 censuses.

These allocations will then be adjusted a further time in 2015. Pupil counts taken from the January 2015 censuses – calculated in the same manner as derived above – will be weighted with the counts taken from the January 2014 censuses in a 7:5 ratio. The result will give local authorities' final Early Years Block allocations for financial year 2014-15.



## High Needs Block

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 Pupil Referral Unit Census and 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.

Provisional allocations will be issued in December 2013, prior to a place number review in January/February 2014 with final allocations in March 2014.



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Reference: DFE-00282-2013