



Department
for Education

School level annual school census (SLASC) - registered independent schools 2026

Guide for completing the census

November 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The school level annual school census (SLASC) is a school level return collected annually from registered independent schools on the third Thursday in January. The data collected includes details of teaching and pupil numbers, courses of study, pupils with special educational needs (SEN), young carers and children looked after by a local authority (LAC). In addition, information is also collected on charitable status, annual fees and boarding accommodation, as well as details of new staff members and proprietors since the last census.

Completion of the school level annual school census by registered independent schools is a statutory requirement under the [Education \(Independent Educational Provision in England\) \(Provision of Information\) Regulations 2010](#).

1.2. Census date

The census date will be the third Thursday in January (15 January 2026). Please do not confuse the Department for Education (DfE) census with that to be held by the Independent Schools Council (ISC) on the same day.

1.3. Changes for 2026

There are no changes for 2026.

1.4. Methods of data entry

Census data should be submitted to the department via the COLLECT system - either using XML format, or by direct manual input. To submit an XML file, your school will need its own management information system (MIS). Please contact your MIS software supplier who will be able to advise you further.

To upload an XML file in COLLECT, press the 'Upload return from file' button on the source page. To manually input data, press the 'Add return on screen' button on the source page and press save.

1.5. General notes

Certain changes in the operation of your school are called "material changes". This includes but is not limited to;

- proprietor details

- school address details
- age range of pupils - this will cover the nursery or sixth form element of an independent school as we do not list this separately
- school capacity
- sex of entry
- boarding provision - adding or removing provision
- special educational needs (SEN) - adding or removing provision

These changes need the formal approval of the Secretary of State. Do not use the census to inform the Department of a material change. You must not make a material change relating to a registered independent school without the Secretary of State's prior approval. Under section 105 of the Education Act and Skills Act 2008, the Secretary of State may decide to deregister an independent school, where there has been an unapproved material change.

Change to a school name

Although a change to a school name is not strictly a material change, it is one that you need to have approved by the department as there are restrictions on what changes you can make and the department needs to inform various third parties of any changes you wish to make.

You may find it helpful to check your school's registered information as held on get information on schools (GIAS).

Please complete all sections, including all annexes, giving information about the whole school no earlier than the census day on the third Thursday in January (15 January 2026). You will not be able to access the COLLECT system or submit your data before this date.

By submitting the data you are declaring the data submitted to be accurate.

You must inform the department immediately if the school closes.

If no entry is necessary, leave the space blank (unless otherwise instructed).

1.6. Publication of information

The information we collect in the school level annual school census will assist the department with monitoring what is happening in schools and will be used to inform national policy development.

In order to fulfil its duty to protect public funds, the DfE may use information it holds to prevent and detect fraud. The department may also share such information, for the same purpose, with other organisations that handle public funds.

The department will also share information provided on the census with Ofsted and other inspectorates in so far as it is necessary for them to undertake their statutory duties.

As so many government bodies, agencies, educational researchers and commercial organisations find school data useful, we will, in future, publish more information about individual schools derived from this census and those in previous years. Information from the census is available through various publications. Any published data will, of course, meet the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - so, for example, we would not publish any data that could identify an individual.

The DfE may pass information about schools to local authorities where this is necessary for them to undertake their statutory duties.

2. Page by page information

2.1 Section 1 - General school information

You are required to provide up to date contact information, providing a name, telephone number and e-mail address. This person should be the person completing the return who DfE can contact to discuss any issues.

The school contact data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Contact name	A contact name, who DfE can contact for enquiries.
Telephone number	A telephone number for the contact, which the DfE can contact for enquiries.
Contact email address for enquiries	An email address for the contact, which the DfE can contact for enquiries.

There are two separate further areas within this section for school information: the current details held by the department, which will be pre-populated under the current column and amended details. Please check that these details are correct, any amendments should be provided in the amended section.

To add data to the amended section the user must select edit and then select the line they wish to amend. This will automatically save when the user selects another line. The system will remain in edit mode until view is selected. Schools using an XML return will have to use this process to manually amend data.

The fields which can be amended consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
School name	If the current school name is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Address line 1	If the 1st line of the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Address line 2	If the 2nd line of the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Address line 3	If the 3rd line of the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Address line 4	If the 4th line of the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Address line 5	If the 5th line of the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Postcode	If the postcode for the address is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
School e-mail address	<p>All schools must provide an e-mail address. This need not be the same as that given as a contact email address, but should be one which is used to receive general enquiries.</p> <p>This information is uploaded into the Get Information about Schools (GIAS) service. Please do not use a personal email address or a personal school email address as this is classed as public data and will be shared if the GIAS service is sent a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. The data is also shared across the department, government and external partners for critical business and safeguarding issues if required.</p>
Telephone number	If the telephone number for the school is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Head teacher's title	If the head teacher's title is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Head teacher's first name	If the head teacher's first name is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Head teacher's surname	If the head teacher's surname is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Charity name	If the school's charity name is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.
Registered number	If the school's registered charity number is incorrect, missing or has changed, please complete this field with amendments.

2.2 Section 2 - School accommodation

You must indicate if there has been any change in school accommodation or additional school premises which has not been previously notified to the department. If there have been changes, details must also be provided.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Has there been any change in school accommodation or additional school premises not previously notified to the department? (If yes, select true, if no, select false)	If there has been a change that has not been previously notified to the department select yes otherwise select no.
If yes, please provide details below.	Give details of any changes to accommodation or additional school premises which have not been previously notified to the department in this box. Please note that the text characters on this field is limited to 4000 characters.

2.3 Section 3 - Annual fees

The annual (not termly) fees consist of the following data item:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Day pupils highest annual fee	Enter the highest annual fee (including VAT) charged per day pupil.
Day pupils lowest annual fee	Enter the lowest annual day fee (including VAT) charged per pupil. The lowest fee shown should be that chargeable before the application of any bursaries or other forms of fee reduction
Boarding pupils highest annual fee	Highest annual boarding fee (including VAT) charged per pupil.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Boarding pupils lowest annual fee	Lowest annual boarding fee (including VAT) charged per pupil. The lowest fee shown should be that chargeable before the application of any bursaries or other forms of fee reduction

Please note where only a single flat fee is charged this should be entered in both the lowest and highest fee boxes.

2.4 Section 4 - Pupils on the register

The 2026 school performance tables will draw upon data to be collected in the school level annual school census. This will include:

- the number of pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4);
- the total number of pupils on roll;
- the number of KS4 pupils with (SEN)

The number of pupils on roll at the end of KS4 is particularly critical for performance table purposes since it is the denominator used to calculate your school's performance measures, these can be found in the [Secondary Accountability Measures guidance](#). Pupils are identified as being at the end of key stage 4 if they were on roll at the school and in year 11 at the time of the January school census. Age is calculated as at 31 August at the start of the academic year, and the majority of pupils at the end of key stage 4 were age 15 at this point. Some pupils may complete this key stage in an earlier or later year group.

2.4.1 All pupils on the register

2.4.1.1 Full time boys

The pupils on roll full time boys data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
19 and over	Full time boys aged 19 or over, with a date of birth of 31/08/2006 and earlier
18	Full time boys aged 18, with a date of birth between 01/09/2006 and 31/08/2007

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
17	Full time boys aged 17, with a date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008
16	Full time boys aged 16, with a date of birth between 01/09/2008 and 31/08/2009
15	Full time boys aged 15, with a date of birth between 01/09/2009 and 31/08/2010
14	Full time boys aged 14, with a date of birth between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011
13	Full time boys aged 13, with a date of birth between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012
12	Full time boys aged 12, with a date of birth between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013
11	Full time boys aged 11, with a date of birth between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014
10	Full time boys aged 10, with a date of birth between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015
9	Full time boys aged 9, with a date of birth between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016
8	Full time boys aged 8, with a date of birth between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017
7	Full time boys aged 7, with a date of birth between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018
6	Full time boys aged 6, with a date of birth between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019
5	Full time boys aged 5, with a date of birth between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020
4 upper	Full time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/09/2020 and 31/12/2020
4 middle	Full time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/01/2021 and 31/03/2021
4 lower	Full time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/04/2021 and 31/08/2021

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
3 upper	Full time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/09/2021 and 31/12/2021
3 middle	Full time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/01/2022 and 31/03/2022
3 lower	Full time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/04/2022 and 31/08/2022
2	Full time boys aged 2, with a date of birth between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023
1	Full time boys aged 1, with a date of birth between 01/09/2023 and 31/08/2024
Under 1	Full time boys aged under 1, with a date of birth 01/09/2024 and later
Total	Enter the total number of full time boys.

2.4.1.2 Full time girls

The pupils on roll full time girls data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
19 and over	Full time girls aged 19 or over, with a date of birth of 31/08/2006 and earlier
18	Full time girls aged 18, with a date of birth between 01/09/2006 and 31/08/2007
17	Full time girls aged 17, with a date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008
16	Full time girls aged 16, with a date of birth between 01/09/2008 and 31/08/2009
15	Full time girls aged 15, with a date of birth between 01/09/2009 and 31/08/2010
14	Full time girls aged 14, with a date of birth between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011
13	Full time girls aged 13, with a date of birth between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
12	Full time girls aged 12, with a date of birth between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013
11	Full time girls aged 11, with a date of birth between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014
10	Full time girls aged 10, with a date of birth between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015
9	Full time girls aged 9, with a date of birth between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016
8	Full time girls aged 8, with a date of birth between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017
7	Full time girls aged 7, with a date of birth between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018
6	Full time girls aged 6, with a date of birth between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019
5	Full time girls aged 5, with a date of birth between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020
4 upper	Full time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/09/2020 and 31/12/2020
4 middle	Full time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/01/2021 and 31/03/2021
4 lower	Full time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/04/2021 and 31/08/2021
3 upper	Full time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/09/2021 and 31/12/2021
3 middle	Full time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/01/2022 and 31/03/2022
3 lower	Full time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/04/2022 and 31/08/2022
2	Full time girls aged 2, with a date of birth between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023
1	Full time girls aged 1, with a date of birth between 01/09/2023 and 31/08/2024

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Under 1	Full time girls aged under 1, with a date of birth 01/09/2024 and later
Total	Enter the total number of full time girls

2.4.1.3 Part time boys

The pupils on roll part time boys' data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
19 and over	Part time boys aged 19 or over, with a date of birth of 31/08/2006 and earlier
18	Part time boys aged 18, with a date of birth between 01/09/2006 and 31/08/2007
17	Part time boys aged 17, with a date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008
16	Part time boys aged 16, with a date of birth between 01/09/2008 and 31/08/2009
15	Part time boys aged 15, with a date of birth between 01/09/2009 and 31/08/2010
14	Part time boys aged 14, with a date of birth between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011
13	Part time boys aged 13, with a date of birth between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012
12	Part time boys aged 12, with a date of birth between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013
11	Part time boys aged 11, with a date of birth between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014
10	Part time boys aged 10, with a date of birth between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015
9	Part time boys aged 9, with a date of birth between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016
8	Part time boys aged 8, with a date of birth between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
7	Part time boys aged 7, with a date of birth between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018
6	Part time boys aged 6, with a date of birth between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019
5	Part time boys aged 5, with a date of birth between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020
4 upper	Part time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/09/2020 and 31/12/2020
4 middle	Part time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/01/2021 and 31/03/2021
4 lower	Part time boys aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/04/2021 and 31/08/2021
3 upper	Part time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/09/2021 and 31/12/2021
3 middle	Part time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/01/2022 and 31/03/2022
3 lower	Part time boys aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/04/2022 and 31/08/2022
2	Part time boys aged 2, with a date of birth between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023
1	Part time boys aged 1, with a date of birth between 01/09/2023 and 31/08/2024
Under 1	Part time boys aged under 1, with a date of birth 01/09/2024 and later
Total	Enter the total number of part time boys

2.4.1.4 - Part time girls

The pupils on roll part time girls' data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
19 and over	Part time girls aged 19 or over, with a date of birth of 31/08/2006 and earlier

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
18	Part time girls aged 18, with a date of birth between 01/09/2006 and 31/08/2007
17	Part time girls aged 17, with a date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008
16	Part time girls aged 16, with a date of birth between 01/09/2008 and 31/08/2009
15	Part time girls aged 15, with a date of birth between 01/09/2009 and 31/08/2010
14	Part time girls aged 14, with a date of birth between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011
13	Part time girls aged 13, with a date of birth between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012
12	Part time girls aged 12, with a date of birth between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013
11	Part time girls aged 11, with a date of birth between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014
10	Part time girls aged 10, with a date of birth between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015
9	Part time girls aged 9, with a date of birth between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016
8	Part time girls aged 8, with a date of birth between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017
7	Part time girls aged 7, with a date of birth between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018
6	Part time girls aged 6, with a date of birth between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019
5	Part time girls aged 5, with a date of birth between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020
4 upper	Part time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/09/2020 and 31/12/2021
4 middle	Part time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/01/2021 and 31/03/2021

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
4 lower	Part time girls aged 4, with a date of birth between 01/04/2021 and 31/08/2021
3 upper	Part time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/09/2021 and 31/12/2021
3 middle	Part time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/01/2022 and 31/03/2022
3 lower	Part time girls aged 3, with a date of birth between 01/04/2022 and 31/08/2022
2	Part time girls aged 2, with a date of birth between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023
1	Part time girls aged 1, with a date of birth between 01/09/2023 and 31/08/2024
Under 1	Part time girls aged under 1, with a date of birth 01/09/2024 and later
Total	Enter the total number of part time girls.

2.4.2 Total number of pupils on the register

These figures will be calculated automatically.

2.4.3 Boarding school bed availability

The following is what must be completed for this section:

Independent schools 2026- data items	Description
How many beds are available (both occupied and unoccupied) in boarding accommodation on the census day?	Enter the maximum number of pupils who can be accommodated in the boarding (sleeping) provision at one time. Do not enter only the number of boarding pupils present on the census day.

2.4.4 Boarding pupils on the register

The following is what must be completed for this section:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Number of boys	Enter the number of boy pupils on the register on 15/01/2026 who board.
Number of girls	Enter the number of girl pupils on the register on 15/01/2026 who board.

2.4.5 Pupils in care

Under the [Children Act 1989](#), a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in its care, or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the local authority.

These children fall into 4 main groups:

- (i) children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20);
- (ii) children who are the subject of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38);
- (iii) children who are subject of emergency orders for the protection of the child (section 44 and section 46);
- (iv) children who are compulsory accommodated. This includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The following is what must be completed for this section:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Pupils looked after by a local authority	Number of pupils who are in care looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989) as at 15/01/2026

2.4.6 Young Carers

Section 17ZA of the Children Act 1989 says a young carer is a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (which isn't to a contract or voluntary work).

Young carers show immense commitment in providing care and support to family members at home; but their own needs may remain ‘hidden’ from wider view. The increased pressures young carers have faced due to the pandemic has further highlighted the need to improve formal identification of this cohort in schools, understand their needs and to provide early help as outlined in statutory guidance Keeping children safe in education 2021

Working Together to Safeguard Children also outlines how school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need of early help for students who have taken on caring responsibilities.

The following is what must be completed for this section:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Young carers identified by parent or guardian	Total number of young carers identified by parent or guardian
Young carers identified by school - including where the pupil self declares	Total number of young carers identified by school - including where the pupil self declares

2.5 Section 5 - Pupils with special educational needs (SEN)

For the purpose of this return, a distinction is required between pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan and the school’s other pupils with special educational needs (SEN) but without EHC plans.

The definition of SEN that applies to pupils in schools in the state sector is set out in section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014:

When a child or young person has special educational needs

(1) A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

(2) A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she -

(a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or

(b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

(3) ... *[text omitted as not relevant in this context]*

(4) A child or young person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which he or she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is or has been spoken at home.

Below is what must be completed for this section of the census:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Pupils with an EHC plan maintained by a local authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of pupils where an EHC plan is maintained by a local authority.• Only include pupils with an EHC plan.• This is for full time and part time pupils.
Pupils with SEN but no EHC plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of pupils with SEN but no EHC plan.• If your school has a SEN register, include only those pupils without EHC plans who are on this register (not included in section 5.1).• This is for full time and part time pupils.

2.6 Section 6 - Boarding information (all schools to complete)

Section 6 must be completed by all schools. The information you supply will be used to determine whether the school is required to register with Ofsted as a children's home.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Is your school a children's home?	If your school is registered with Ofsted as a children's home select 'yes', otherwise select 'no'

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
If yes, please provide your Ofsted registration number(s)	If you selected 'yes' for 'Is your school a children's home?' then enter your Ofsted registration number here. Up to four registration numbers can be provided, each one separated by a space.
Have you provided pupils with accommodation for more than 295 days per year in either of the past two years, or do you intend to in the forthcoming year?	This box needs answering 'yes' if that is the case for any of the options in the question. If the answer is 'no' for all options, please move to section 7.
a) How many pupils were provided with accommodation in the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024?	Enter the number of pupils who fit this scenario or leave blank.
b) How many pupils were provided with accommodation in the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025?	Enter the number of pupils who fit this scenario or leave blank.
c) How many pupils will be provided with accommodation in the period 1st January 2026 to 31st December 2026?	Enter the number of pupils who fit this scenario or leave blank.

2.7 Section 7 - Teaching staff

Teachers are defined as full-time and part-time staff, who give some curricular instruction on a regular basis. The head teacher should be included whether or not he or she teaches. Staff engaged solely in extra-curricular instruction should be excluded from this section. Any time spent by full-time or part-time teachers on extra-curricular instruction is also to be disregarded.

Extra-curricular instruction is defined as individual tuition for which an additional fee is payable. All other teaching activity should be regarded as curricular.

Do not include non-teaching staff on this form such as classroom assistants, teaching assistants, special needs support staff, etc.

Teachers who are employed full-time on normal duties but undertake extra-curricular instruction, for example at lunch time or after the end of the normal school day, are to be

entered as full-time. Teachers who are not employed full-time on curricular instruction are to be entered as part-time even if they are in the school full-time but part of which time is spent on extra-curricular instruction.

All part-time teaching staff regularly employed in the week commencing 12 January should be included on the return even if they are not in the school on census day (Thursday 15 January 2026). The total number of hours to the nearest hour excluding lunch breaks (periods of 30 minutes and over being rounded up) worked by all part-time teachers should be entered, for example 1 teacher employed for 2.5 hours and 1 teacher employed for 6 hours equal 2 part-time teachers employed for 8.5 hours, rounded up to 9 hours for recording purposes.

The teaching staff data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Full-time staff: number of men	Number of full time male teachers.
Full-time staff: number of women	Number of full time female teachers.
Part-time staff men: number of men	Number of part time male teachers.
Part-time staff men: total hours per week	Total number of part time hours worked by male teachers per week (excluding lunch hours).
Part-time staff women: number of women	Number of part time female teachers.
Part-time staff women: total hours per week	Total number of part time hours worked by female teachers per week (excluding lunch hours).

2.8 Section 8 - Courses of study for all pupils aged 15 and over as at 31st August

This section shows, by age of boys and girls, the main aim of study for all pupils aged 15 and over as at 31 August 2025 who are receiving full-time or part-time education. It is not restricted to pupils in the sixth form.

Only enter pupils in one of the rows in sections 8.1 and 8.2. If a pupil is following a mixture of courses, he or she should be entered only once, under the first applicable course in the section.

2.8.1 Courses of study for boys

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 15	Description - aged 16
Level 4 and above	Enter the number of boys aged 15 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 but remain at school for further studies at a higher level.	Enter the number of boys aged 16 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 who but remain at school for further studies at a higher level.
International Baccalaureate	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.
GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or GCS AS level/pre-U short course subject	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas.	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas.
Other level 3 courses	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 15	Description - aged 16
GCSE/IGCSE	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.
Other level 2 courses	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).
Other level 1 courses	Enter boys aged 15 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).	Enter boys aged 16 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).
Other courses	Enter all boys aged 15 who are not shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.	Enter all boys aged 16 who are not shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.
Totals	Boys aged 15 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the boys on roll aged 15 in section 4.1.	Boys aged 16 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the boys on roll aged 16 in section 4.1.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 17	Description - aged 18 and over
Level 4 and above	Enter the number of boys aged 17 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 but remain at school for further studies at a higher level.	Enter the number of boys aged 18 and over who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 who but remain at school for further studies at a higher level
International Baccalaureate	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter boys aged 18 and over not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.
GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or GCS AS level/pre-U short course subject	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.	Enter boys aged 18 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.
Other level 3 courses	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter boys aged 18 and over not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.
GCSE/IGCSE	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.	Enter boys aged 18 and over not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 17	Description - aged 18 and over
Other level 2 courses	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).	Enter boys aged 18 and over not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).
Other level 1 courses	Enter boys aged 17 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).	Enter boys aged 18 and over not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).
Other course	Enter all boys aged 17 who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.	Enter all boys aged 18 and over who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications
Totals	Boys aged 17 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the boys on roll aged 17 in section 4.1.	Boys aged 18 and over total for courses of study. This total must agree with the boys on roll aged 18 and over in section 4.1.

2.8.2 Courses of study for girls

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description aged 15	Description - aged 16
Level 4 and above	Enter the number of girls aged 15 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 but remain at school for further studies at a higher level.	Enter the number of girls aged 16 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 who are no longer studying at this level but remain at school for further studies.
International 4accalaureate	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.
GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or GCS AS level/pre-U short course subject	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.
Other level 3 courses	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description aged 15	Description - aged 16
GCSE/IGCSE	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.
Other level 2 courses	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).
Other level 1 courses	Enter girls aged 15 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).	Enter girls aged 16 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).
Other courses	Enter all girls aged 15 who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.	Enter all girls aged 16 who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.
Totals	Girls aged 15 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the girls on roll aged 15 in section 4.1.	Girls aged 16 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the girls on roll aged 16 in section 4.1.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 17	Description - aged 18 or over
Level 4 and above	Enter the number of girls aged 17 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 but remain at school for further studies at a higher level.	Enter the number of girls aged 18 who have completed an advanced GNVQ, GCE, A/AS level or NVQ3 who are no longer studying at this level but remain at school for further studies.
International Baccalaureate	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter girls aged 18 and over not already shown above, who are following an International Baccalaureate educational programme only or in combination with a course shown below.
GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or GCS AS level/pre-U short course subject	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.	Enter girls aged 18 not already shown above, who are following a GCE A level/pre-U principal subject or a GCS AS level/pre-U short course only or in combination with a course shown below. Include the AQA Bacc and pre-U diplomas here.
Other level 3 courses	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.	Enter girls aged 18 and over not already shown above who are doing other level 3 study (for example a BTEC national diploma/certificate/award or a IFS diploma/certificate in financial studies) only in the school or a link scheme with colleges or in combination with a course shown below.
GCSE/IGCSE	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.	Enter girls aged 18 and over not already shown above who are doing GCSEs/IGCSEs only or in combination with a lower level course.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description - aged 17	Description - aged 18 or over
Other level 2 courses	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).	Enter girls aged 18 and over not already shown above who are taking level 2 courses (for example an OCR level 2 national first award in ICT).
Other level 1 courses	Enter girls aged 17 not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).	Enter girls aged 18 and over not already shown above who are studying level 1 courses (for example an AQA level 1 certificate in preparation for working life and an ASDAN level 1 award in personal and social development).
Other courses	Enter all girls aged 17 who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.	Enter all girls aged 18 and over who are not already shown above who are studying other courses. This may include those pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who complete a course but do not gain any qualifications.
Totals	Girls aged 17 total for courses of study. This total must agree with the girls on roll aged 17 in section 4.1.	Girls aged 18 and over total for courses of study. This total must agree with the girls on roll aged 18 and over in section 4.1.

2.9 Section 9 - Key stage 4 (KS4)

Only include pupils who are expected to complete key stage 4 at the end of the current academic year. In the vast majority of cases these pupils will be in year 11. Do not include pupils who completed key stage 4 last year but are re-taking GCSEs or other public examinations.

The key stage 4 data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Boys	Enter the number of boy pupils (regardless of age) who are in the final year of key stage 4 study.
Girls	Enter the number of girl pupils (regardless of age) who are in the final year of key stage 4 study.

2.10 Section 10 - annexes

Where requested, it is vital that dates of birth are supplied for anyone entered onto the form. Failure to do so will result in the department being unable to process the return and the school will be contacted for missing data to be provided.

2.10.1 Annex A - teachers who are newly appointed or have left

The data items consist of the following:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
New appointments - teachers	<p>If there are any new appointments since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025 select 'yes', otherwise select 'no'.</p> <p>If 'yes' enter details on the new appointments - teachers section in Annex A part A.</p>
Leavers - teachers	<p>If there are any teachers who have left since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025 select 'yes', otherwise select 'no'.</p> <p>If 'yes' enter details on the leavers - teachers section in Annex A part B.</p>

2.10.2 Annex B - non-teaching staff who are newly appointed or have left

The data items consist of the following:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
New appointments non-teaching staff	<p>If there are any newly appointed non-teaching staff since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025 select 'yes', otherwise select 'no'.</p> <p>If 'yes' enter details on the new appointments - non-teaching staff section in Annex B part A.</p>
Leavers non-teaching staff	<p>If any non-teaching staff have left since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025 select 'yes', otherwise select 'no'.</p> <p>If 'yes' enter details on the leavers - non-teaching staff section in Annex B, part B.</p>

2.10.3 Annex C - Details of individual proprietors and proprietorial bodies including chair and members

The data items consist of the following:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Individual proprietors	<p>If your establishment does not have an individual proprietor select 'no'.</p> <p>If it does have an individual proprietor select 'yes' and enter details on the individual proprietors section in Annex C, part A.</p>
Proprietors body	<p>If your establishment does not have a proprietor body select 'no'. A school either has a proprietor body or an individual proprietor, not both.</p> <p>If it does have a proprietor body select 'yes' and enter details on the proprietor body section in Annex C, parts Bi to Bii.</p>
Newly appointed board members	<p>If there are no new board members since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025 select 'no', otherwise select 'yes' and enter details on the board members section in Annex C, part Biii.</p>

2.11 Annexes

All staff working within the school who come into contact with pupils must be entered on annex A or B as appropriate if they have been appointed or left in the relevant period; this includes contract and agency staff. However, contractors who are working in schools when pupils are not in attendance, and do not therefore come into contact with children, do not need to be entered on to the form - for example decorators who have worked in the school during holidays.

2.11.1 Annex A part A - New teacher appointments

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of all teachers who have been appointed since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025. This must include all head teachers whether or not involved in teaching and proprietor(s) who teach.

Teachers who were appointed and left within the year covered by the census return must be included in both Annex A, part A and Annex A, part B.

Staff returning from maternity leave should not be entered on Annex A, part A as they will not be new appointees.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Please select which applies	This refers to the new teacher appointments. The following are the options: H - head teacher; F - full time teacher; P - part time teacher.
Surname	Enter the new teacher appointee's surname.
Previous surname	Enter if the new teacher appointee has previous surnames. If the new teacher appointee has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.
First name(s)	Enter the new teacher appointee's first name(s).

2.11.2 Annex A part B - Leavers (teachers)

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of all teachers who have left since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025. This must include all head teachers whether or not involved in teaching, and proprietor(s) who teach.

Teachers who were appointed and left within the year covered by the return must be included in both Annex A, part A and Annex A, part B.

Staff on maternity leave should not be entered on Annex A, part B, as they have not left the school's employ. Only members of staff who have permanently left the employment of the school should be entered on Annex A, part B and Annex B, part B.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Please select which applies	<p>This refers to the teacher leavers.</p> <p>The following are the options:</p> <p>H - head teacher; F - full time teacher; or P - part time teacher.</p>
Surname	Enter the teacher leaver's surname.
Previous surname	<p>Enter if the teacher leaver has previous surnames.</p> <p>If the teacher leaver has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.</p>
First name(s)	Enter the teacher leaver's first name(s).

2.11.3 Annex B part A - New non-teaching staff appointments

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of all non-teaching staff who have been appointed since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025.

Non-teaching staff who were appointed and left within the year covered by the return must be included in both Annex B, part A and Annex B, part B.

Staff returning from maternity leave should not be entered on Annex B, part A as they were not new appointees.

All non-teaching staff working within the school who come into contact with pupils must be entered on to Annex B part A; this includes contract and agency staff. However, contractors who are working in schools when pupils are not in attendance, and do not therefore come into contact with children, do not need to be entered on to the form, for example decorators who have worked in the school during holidays.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Please select which applies	<p>This refers to the new non-teaching staff members.</p> <p>The following are the options:</p> <p>F - full time member of staff; P - part time member of staff.</p>
Surname	Enter the new non-teaching staff appointee's surname.
Previous surname	<p>Enter if the new non-teaching staff appointee has previous surnames.</p> <p>If the new non-teaching staff appointee has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.</p>
First name(s)	Enter the new non-teaching staff appointee's first name(s).
Post title	Enter the post title of the new non-teaching staff appointee within the school.

2.11.4 Annex B part B - Leavers (non-teaching staff)

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of all non-teaching staff who have left since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025.

Non-teaching staff who were appointed and left within the year covered by the return must be included in both Annex B, part A and Annex B, part B.

Staff on maternity leave should not be entered on Annex B, part B as they remain in the employ of the school. Only members of staff who have permanently left the employment of the school should be entered on Annex B, part B.

All non-teaching staff working within the school who were leavers and who come into contact with pupils must be entered on Annex B, this includes contract and agency staff. However, contractors who are working in schools when pupils are not in attendance, and do not therefore come into contact with children, do not need to be entered on to the form, for example decorators who have worked in the school during holidays.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Please select which applies	<p>This refers to the post of the non-teaching staff leavers.</p> <p>The following are the options:</p> <p>F - full time member of staff; P - part time member of staff.</p>
Surname	Enter the non-teaching staff leaver's surname.
Previous surname	<p>Enter if the non-teaching staff leaver has previous surnames.</p> <p>If the non-teaching staff leaver has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.</p>
First name(s)	Enter the non-teaching staff leaver's first name(s).
Post title	Enter the post title of the non-teaching staff leavers within the school.

2.11.5 Annex C part A - Individual proprietors

Do not complete Annex C, part A if there is a proprietor body. You must complete Annex C, part B.

All individual proprietors of the school must be entered in this section, regardless of when they were appointed.

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of any individuals who are currently proprietors of the school as at census day (15 January 2026).

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Surname	Enter the proprietor's surname.
Previous surname	<p>Enter if the proprietor has previous surnames.</p> <p>If the proprietor has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.</p>
First name	Enter the proprietor's first name.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Date of birth	Enter the date of birth of the proprietor in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
NI number	Enter the proprietor's National Insurance number.
Telephone number	Enter the proprietor's telephone number.
Email	Enter the proprietor's email address.
Line address information (residential)	<p>You can enter the proprietor's address in the following format:</p> <p>Enter the proprietor's address using the relevant lines.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Via the BS7666 format below.</p>
Postcode	Enter the proprietors postcode.
BS7666 address information (residential)	<p>You can enter the proprietors address in the following format:</p> <p>BS7666</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Via the line address information above.</p>
Has there been a change since the previous census return?	<p>Tick yes if there has been a change to the proprietor entry since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025, otherwise tick no.</p> <p>You must select an option.</p>

2.11.6 Annex C part Bi - Proprietors which are a corporate or unincorporated body (proprietor body)

Do not complete Annex C, part Bi if you have completed Annex C, part A for the individual proprietors.

If the proprietor is a named body which is a legal entity, whether corporate or unincorporated, complete details at part Bi of Annex C. There should not be names of individuals recorded here.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Name of body	Enter the full name of the proprietor body.
Telephone number	Enter the telephone number where the proprietor body can be contacted.
Email address	Enter the email address of the proprietor body.
Line address information (residential)	<p>You can enter the proprietor body main contact address in the following format:</p> <p>Enter the proprietor body's main contact address using the relevant lines.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Via the BS7666 format below.</p>
Postcode	Enter the proprietor body contact address postcode.
BS7666 address information (residential)	<p>You can enter the proprietor body's main contact address in the following format:</p> <p>BS7666</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Via the line address information above.</p>

2.11.7 Annex C part Bii - Chair of the proprietor body

Do not complete Annex C, part Bii if you have completed Annex C, part A for the individual proprietors.

The chair of the proprietor body must be entered in this section, regardless of when he or she was appointed.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Has there been a change since the previous census return?	Please use the drop down to select 'yes' if there has been a change since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025, otherwise select 'no'.
Surname	Enter the chair of the proprietor body's surname.
Previous surname	Enter if the chair of proprietor body has previous surnames. If the chair of the proprietor body has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.
First name	Enter the chair of proprietor body's first name.
Date of birth	Enter the date of birth of the chair of proprietor body in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
NI Number	Enter the national insurance number of the chair of the proprietor body.
Line address information (residential)	You can enter the chair of the proprietor body contact address in the following format: Enter the chair of the proprietor body contact address using the relevant lines. Or Via the BS7666 format below.
Postcode	Enter the chair of the proprietor body address postcode.
BS7666 address information (residential)	You can enter the chair of the proprietor body contact address in the following format: BS7666 Or Via the line address information above.

2.11.8 Annex C part Biii - Newly appointed body members

Only complete Annex C, part Biii if you have not completed Annex C, part A.

Enter the full names, including previous surname, of all members of the proprietor body (excluding the chair) who have been appointed since the last census day ie on or after 17 January 2025.

Members of the proprietor body who were appointed and left within the year covered by the return must be included in Annex C.

The data items consist of:

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
Surname	Enter the proprietor body member's surname.
Previous surname	Enter if the proprietor body member has previous surnames. If the proprietor body member has more than one former surname, record the most recently used.
First name	Enter the proprietor body member's first name.
Date of birth	Enter the date of birth of the proprietor body member in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
NI Number	Enter the national insurance number of the proprietor body member.
Line address information (residential)	You can enter the proprietor body member's contact address in the following format: Enter the proprietor body member contact address using the relevant lines. Or Via the BS7666 format below.
Postcode	Enter the proprietor body member's address postcode.

Independent schools 2026 - data items	Description
BS7666 address information (residential)	<p>You can enter the proprietor body member's contact address in the following format:</p> <p>BS7666</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Via the line address information above.</p>



Department
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