



Department
for Education

How to apply for key DfE datasets

Explore Education Statistics data catalogue - [Data catalogue - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics) – allows users to download DfE Open Data.

If you require access to DfE administrative datasets & survey data (use the table & key below to understand how you should apply and find out more about what data is included in each asset):

Key

Access to DfE data via	Description
DfE DSS	DfE Data Sharing Service - Apply for Department for Education (DfE) personal data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
ONS	Researchers must apply for access to de-identified data through the ONS Project Accreditation Service for SRS (PASS) Apply to become an accredited researcher – How to access: Apply for researcher accreditation Apply to use data in the Secure Research Service - ONS > Landing
UKDS	Researchers must apply for access to de-identified data through the UK Data Service
MoJ Data First	Apply for this data using the MOJ: Data First, application form for secure access to data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Availability of DfE personal data

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
	Attendance: COVID-19 establishment level attendance data	Status of educational settings during the coronavirus outbreak data	DfE DSS: contact data.sharing@education.gov.uk	
	Attendance: daily attendance data	Voluntary collection of daily attendance data from schools that agree to share their data with DfE	Not publicly available More info	
CEYSP	Childcare and early years survey of parents	Parents' use of childcare and early years provision, and their views and experiences of particular childcare providers and childcare provision in general. Waves 1 and 2 are available now in the ONS SRS. Subsequent waves will be deposited annually. Surveys 2004-2019 and 2024 are available in UKDS.	ONS SRS Catalogue UKDS Catalogue More info	
CEYSP	Childcare and early years provision: providers' survey	This survey monitors the characteristics and development of childcare and early years providers and the workforce in England.	UKDS Catalogue	

¹ Average working days (where available), from application to access within the ONS SRS, based on applications received in the 2025 calendar year.

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
COT20s	Children of the 2020s [Education and Outcomes Pathways Studies (EOPS) Early Years]	This follows a random probability sample of 8,500 children, starting from the age of 9 months in 2022, with plans to conduct annual data collection until the age of 5 years. Wave 1 and 2 is now available in UKDS, only wave 1 is available in the ONS SRS. Subsequent waves will be deposited annually up to wave 5 (2028).	ONS SRS Catalogue UKDS Catalogue: Wave 1 UKDS Catalogue: Wave 2	89 working days
ECHILD	Education and child health insights from linked data	ECHILD dataset links DfE National Pupil Database (NPD) and NHS Digital Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data. The dataset can be used to answer policy-relevant research questions around the relationship between education and children's health. ECHILD includes linked, de-identified health and education records for around 20 million children born in England. By joining up routinely collected information from health and education services, ECHILD enables research that explores people's experiences across these areas of life.	ONS SRS Catalogue More info	

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
ESS	Employer skills survey	The Employer Skills Survey is a large-scale telephone survey of 72,918 employers across the UK, providing labour market information on the skills challenges faced by employers.	ONS SRS Catalogue	
EEF	NPD linked to Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) archive	Data collected as part of EEF-funded evaluations is archived in order to estimate the long-term impact of the interventions, to better understand variation in children's outcomes across evaluations, and to improve the methodological approaches. Archive data can be used alongside DfE data (where relevant and approved by DfE).	Apply to EEF DfE DSS More info	
FEWDC	Further education workforce	This is an annual census of workforce in further education providers in England. The first census was in 2021/22. Further Education Workforce Census in England, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/2024 are available in UKDS. 2021/22 and 2022/23 are available in ONS (2023/24 deposit is being processed).	UKDS Catalogue ONS SRS Catalogue More info	72 working days

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
GRADE	Grading and admission data for England	This is a joint initiative by Ofqual, DfE and UCAS to share data concerning examinations and admissions to conduct research on educational and assessment systems in England and learn lessons from 2020 summer awarding arrangements. GRADE data is available on ONS SRS.	ONS SRS Catalogue More Info	140 working days
GUIE	Growing Up In England	Growing Up in England links DfE's All Education Dataset for England to the 2011 Census. There are 2 waves of data released.	ONS SRS Catalogue More Info	
ILR	Individualised learner record	The ILR is an on-going collection of data about learners from training providers in the Further Education and Skills sector in England	DfE DSS More info	
ILR-Next Steps	ILR linked to Next Steps	Next Steps: Linked Education Dataset (ILR), England. Next Steps, previously known as the 'Longitudinal Study of Young People in England' (LSYPE1), follows the lives of around 16,000 people born in 1989-90 in England. There have been eight sweeps of the study so far, between 2004 and 2016	UKDS Catalogue	

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
LEO i2.1	Longitudinal Education Outcomes	Longitudinal education outcome (LEO) iteration 2 - DfE, HMRC and DWP data – now includes linked UCAS data	ONS SRS Catalogue More Info	89 working days
LEO Synthetic	Longitudinal Education Outcomes (synthetic data)	This is available in UK Data Service Safeguarded Access and is designed to support researchers understand how they can use this administrative dataset.	UKDS Catalogue	
LSYPE2	Second longitudinal study of young people in England	The Second Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE2) dataset contains nine waves of data collection about the lives and experiences of young people through their transition from compulsory education to post-16 - covering ages 13/14 to 21/22. All waves (1-9) are now available in the ONS SRS and UK Data Service	UKDS Catalogue ONS Catalogue	148 working days
NPD	National Pupil Database	A database of information DfE holds on pupils attending schools in England including information we collect in the School Census, and attainment data from awarding organisations. It is the DfE's primary source of data about pupils in England.	Find and explore data in the National Pupil Database - GOV.UK DfE DSS More info	124 working days

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
NPD-MCS	NPD linked to Millenium Cohort Survey	The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) is a large-scale, multi-purpose longitudinal dataset providing information about babies born at the beginning of the 21st century, their progress through life, and the families who are bringing them up, for the four countries of the United Kingdom.	UKDS Catalogue	
NPD-Next Steps	NPD linked to Next Steps	Next Steps: Linked Education Dataset (NPD), England. Next Steps, previously known as the 'Longitudinal Study of Young People in England' (LSYPE1), follows the lives of around 16,000 people born in 1989-90 in England. There have been eight sweeps of the study so far, between 2004 and 2016	UKDS Catalogue	
NPD-UoS	NPD linked to Understanding Society	Understanding Society (UK Household Longitudinal Study), which began in 2009 builds on and incorporates the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), which began in 1991.	UKDS Catalogue	
MoJ-NPD	NPD linked to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data	Police National Computer data linked to NPD.	MoJ Data First	196 working days

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
PIAAC	Survey of Adult Skills, PIAAC, 2023	PIAAC and other international comparison studies allow DfE to benchmark our education system and performance against other countries, to review our system strengths and weaknesses in an international context, and to monitor trends over time according to independent measures. PIAAC measures England's population level attainment in literacy, numeracy and problem solving for 16–65-year-old adults along with other background information such as education and employment history and skills use. It is a programme of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with around 30 countries participating in this cycle. This is the second PIAAC cycle, with previous findings being published in 2013.	UKDS Catalogue	
PPMD	Pupil Parent Matched Data	Analysing family circumstances and education by matching parent and pupil data. The data compares household income and educational outcomes of pupils in England.	Not publicly available yet Pupil parent matched data (PPMD): how we use and share data - GOV.UK	

Acronym	Name (A-Z)	Description	How to apply	Estimated timelines for access to DfE datasets in ONS SRS ¹
SWC	School Workforce Census	Annual census from 2010 of data about each member of teaching and support staff working in local authorities, local authority-maintained schools and academies.	DfE DSS More info	
WLTL	Working lives of teachers and leaders	A longitudinal study that examines drivers of teacher and leader retention covering teacher and leader workloads, pupil behaviour, school culture and leadership, career reflections and future ambitions. Annual surveys are linked to School Workforce Census (SWC), Database of Trainee Teachers and Providers (DTTP) and Get Information About Schools (GIAS) thereby providing representative snapshots of the teaching workforce. Wave 1 and 2 are available in the ONS SRS. Subsequent waves will be deposited on an annual basis.	ONS SRS Catalogue More info	106 working days

If you cannot find the dataset you want, you may apply to DfE - [Apply for Department for Education \(DfE\) personal data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or contact data.sharing@education.gov.uk for more information.