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SCHOOLS, PUPILS, AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS, JANUARY 2013

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical First Release (SFR) reports January 2013 findings on the number of schools and pupils in England by their characteristics (for example free school meal eligibility and ethnicity) and on class sizes.

KEY POINTS

Pupil numbers

- In January 2013 there were around 8.2 million pupils (headcount) in all schools in England, a small increase since 2012. (Table 2a)
- In state-funded primary schools there were 4.3 million pupils, a small increase since 2012. (Table 2a)
- In state-funded secondary schools there were 3.2 million pupils, a small decrease since 2012. (Table 2a)
- In independent schools there were 579,700 pupils, a small increase since 2012. (Table 2a)

Free school meal eligibility

- In maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, special schools and pupil referral units 18.3 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, compared to 18.2 per cent in 2012. (Table 3b) See Technical Notes 3 and 4 for further information about eligibility.
- In maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools 19.2 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, a small decrease from 19.3 per cent in 2012. (Table 3b)
- In state-funded secondary schools 16.3 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, a small increase from 16.0 per cent in 2012. (Table 3b)
- In special schools 38.3 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, an increase from 37.5 per cent in 2012. (Table 3b)
- In pupil referral units (and alternative provision academies and free schools) 40.1 per cent of pupils were known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, an increase from 36.7 per cent in 2012. (Table 3b)

Ethnicity

Those pupils of compulsory school age and above who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British are defined as being of “minority ethnic origin”.

- In state-funded primary schools 28.5 per cent of pupils were classified as being of minority ethnic origin, an increase from 27.6 per cent in 2012. (Table 4a)
- In state-funded secondary schools 24.2 per cent of pupils were classified as being of minority ethnic origin, an increase from 23.2 per cent in 2012. (Table 4a)

First Language

- In state-funded primary schools 18.1 per cent of pupils of compulsory school age or above had a first language that was known, or believed, to be other than English, an increase from 17.5 per cent in 2012. (Table 5a)
- In state-funded secondary schools 13.6 per cent of pupils of compulsory school age or above had a first language that was known, or believed, to be other than English, an increase from 12.9 per cent in 2012. (Table 5a)

Class sizes

Key stage 1 classes (including reception) in state-funded primary schools (Tables 6a and 6b)

- The average size of key stage 1 classes taught by one teacher on the census day in January 2013 was 27.3, compared to 27.2 in January 2012.
- The number of key stage 1 classes reported as having more than 30 pupils on the census day, lawfully and unlawfully, was 2,299 (from a total of 56,597 classes), 4.1 per cent of all key stage 1 classes, up from 2.7 per cent in January 2012.
- The number of key stage 1 classes reported as unlawfully having more than 30 pupils on the census day was 225 (from a total of 56,597 classes), 0.4 per cent of all key stage 1 classes, unchanged from January 2012.
- The number of key stage 1 classes reported as having more than 30 pupils, but which met legal requirements (which allow infant classes of more than 30 in very limited circumstances) on the census day was 2,074 (from a total of 56,597 classes), 3.7 per cent of all key stage 1 classes, up from 2.3 per cent in January 2012.
- The most common reason¹ for a key stage 1 class meeting legal requirements for having over 30 pupils was pupils admitted after an independent appeal panel upheld an appeal. This accounted for 42.6 per cent of lawful classes with over 30 pupils. Pupils who moved into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there was no other available school within reasonable distance was the

¹ Note: The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribe certain limited circumstances in which pupils may be admitted as exceptions to the infant class size limit. This list of exceptions differs from those used in previous years and results are not directly comparable.

second most common reason, accounting for 31.1 per cent of lawful classes with over 30 pupils. Note that it is possible for more than one reason to be reported for lawful classes with over 30 pupils. (Table 6b)

TABLES

Table 1a: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2013

Table 1b: Pupil referral units and alternative provision: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2013

Table 1c: Independent schools: Number of pupils by age and gender, January 2013

Table 1d: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools: Number of pupils by national curriculum year group and gender, January 2013

Table 1e: Pupil referral units: Number of pupils by national curriculum year group and gender, January 2013

Table 2a: All schools: Number of schools and pupils by type of school, January 2003 to 2013

Table 2b: Academies: Number of schools and pupils by type of academy, January 2013

Table 2c: State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number of schools by their status and religious character, January 2013

Table 2d: State-funded primary and secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by the status and religious character of their schools, January 2013

Table 3a: Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, state-funded special schools, pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals by age, January 2013

Table 3b: Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, state-funded special schools and pupil referral units: Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals based on Performance Tables, January 2013

Table 3c: Academies: Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals, January 2013

Table 4a: State-funded primary, secondary, special schools, pupil referral units and local authority alternative provision: Number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group, January 2013

Table 4b: Primary academies: Number and percentages of pupils by ethnic group, January 2013

Table 4c: Secondary academies: Number and percentages of pupils by ethnic group, January 2013

Table 4d: Special and alternative provision academies: Number and percentages of pupils by ethnic group, January 2013

Table 5a: State-funded primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2013

Table 5b: Academies: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2013

Table 6a: State-funded primary schools: Key stage 1 and 2 classes, as at January each year, January 2009 to 2013

Table 6b: State-funded primary schools: Key stage 1 classes, January 2013

Table 6c: State-funded primary and secondary schools: Classes as taught, as at January each year, January 2009 to 2013

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following supplementary tables, including figures at local authority and regional level are available on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>

Table 7a: All schools: Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7b: All schools: Number (headcount) of pupils by type of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7c: State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by admissions policy, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7d: State-funded primary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the status of their school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7e: State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the status of their school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7f: State-funded primary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the religious character of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 7g: State-funded secondary schools: Number of schools and number (headcount) of pupils, by the religious character of school, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 8a: Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 8b: State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 8c: Special schools: Number of pupils taking free school meals and number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 8d: Pupil referral units: Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by local authority area, by region, January 2013

Table 9a: State-funded primary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 9b: State-funded secondary schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 9c: Special schools: Number of pupils by ethnic group, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 10a: State-funded primary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 10b: State-funded secondary schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 10c: Special schools: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 10d: Pupil referral units: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and region in England, January 2013

Table 11: State-funded primary schools: Classes as taught by key stage of pupils, by local authority area, by region, January 2013

In line with the Government's agenda to make data more accessible, underlying data will be published on the same day in the 'Publication's Underlying Data' section.

Statistics on cross-border movement (i.e. pupils leaving their local authority of residence to attend schools located in a different local authority) will be published at a later date.

PUPIL NUMBERS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

School statistics relating to other areas of the United Kingdom can be accessed at:

- Welsh Assembly Government: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/schools/?lang=en>
- Scottish Government: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education>
- Northern Ireland Department of Education: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/default.asp6.htm>

The publication 'Education and training statistics for the United Kingdom' draws together information from each administration Chapter 1 covers schools and includes breakdowns of pupil numbers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen--2>

RELATED STATISTICS

- Pupil absence in schools in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-pupil-absence>
- Permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-exclusions>

- Special educational needs in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>
- Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>

TECHNICAL NOTES

Data Collection

1. This SFR contains information about pupil characteristics. This information is derived from School Census returns, School Level Annual School Census returns, Pupil Referral Unit Census returns and Alternative Provision Census returns made to the Department in January each year.
2. Please note that some 16-19 only providers do not complete School Census returns and instead complete the Individualised Learner Record (<http://www.theia.org.uk/ilr/>) such providers are not included in this publication.
3. The description 'state-funded' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, special schools, city technology colleges and academies, including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools.

Free School Meals

4. From September 2009 to July 2011, three local authorities participated in a pilot to provide free school meals to maintained primary school children. Durham and Newham provided universal free school meals to all primary pupils, and Wolverhampton extended the current eligibility criteria to include all families in receipt of Working Tax Credit, for primary and secondary pupils. The pilots looked at the health benefits of free school meals and investigated whether free school meals:
 - reduced obesity/had an impact on a child's BMI
 - changed eating habits at home
 - impacted on behaviour and academic performance at school
 - improved school standards
 - improved general health and well being.

For the pilot authorities mentioned above, care should be taken when comparing January 2010 and 2011 free school meal data with previous years' data and subsequent data. It appears that in 2012, Newham continued providing universal free school meals to all their primary pupils.

5. Free school meals are available to pupils who attend sixth forms attached to a maintained school, as long as the course of study began before the pupil reached age 18. Free school meal eligibility relates to those who meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim. Reported eligibility decreases markedly for pupils who attend school sixth forms and for this reason the quoted key points are now based on pupil numbers excluding those in school sixth forms.

Ethnic Group

6. Those pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group and are other than White British are defined as Minority Ethnic.

First Language

7. "First Language" is the language to which a child was initially exposed during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community.

Class Size

8. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 limits the size of infant classes (i.e. reception and key stage 1 classes) to no more than 30 pupils to a school teacher. The legislation allows for sensible exceptions e.g. when a child moves into an area during the school year and there is no other school within a reasonable distance of their home with a place available.

Data quality and validation

9. Guidance on the School Census is available on the DfE statistics website:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/stats/schoolcensus/a00208045/school-census-2013> .
10. The technical specification for School Census can be found at:
<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/version%2016%20school%20and%20pru%20census%202013%20technical%20specification.pdf> . This explains what data are collected and what validation is in place.
11. All Isle of Scilly classes were returned as mixed; therefore no class size statistics can be produced by Key Stage. The Five Islands School is a middle-deemed primary school; therefore information does not appear for the Isles of Scilly within the secondary phase.
12. Central Bedfordshire's Alternative Provision Census return was provided with no pupil information.

Confidentiality

13. Pupil numbers at national and regional levels have been rounded to the nearest 5. Pupil numbers less than 3 have been suppressed being replaced in the table by an 'x'. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure was also zero. Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on pupil numbers is less than 3, this has been replaced by an 'x'.
14. The following symbols have been used in this publication:
0 - zero
x - small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality (see Technical Note 8)
. - not applicable
.. - not available

National Statistics Publication

15. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

16. There are no planned revisions to this Statistical First Release; however, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the departmental revisions policy which is published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-official-statistics-published-by-the-department-for-education>.

Enquiries

17. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to Adam Hatton, IF Statistics: Academies and School Organisation, 4th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or e-mail infrastructure.statistics@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at DFE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7783 8300.