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SCHOOL CAPACITY 2010

INTRODUCTION

This release provides final School Capacity information for May 2010 on the number of primary and secondary school places, surplus school places and pupils in excess of school capacity in the maintained sector. Provisional data were released on 19 October 2010.

The release will include local authority (LA) level information and, for the first time, local authority pupil forecasts. Information on the supply of school places in academies is also included. The number of academies increased between 2009 and 2010 and this should be taken into account when making year on year comparisons.

This is **not** a National Statistics publication.

KEY POINTS

Maintained Primary Schools

Of the 16,964 local authority maintained primary schools, there were:

- 3,444 schools, 20.3 per cent, that were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity, compared to 19.8 per cent in 2009.
- 13,520 schools, 79.7 per cent, with surplus places, compared to 80.2 per cent in 2009.

There were 4,227,530 school places, and there were:

- 41,680 pupils, 1.0 per cent, in excess of school capacity, compared to 0.9 per cent in 2009.
- 458,430 surplus places, 10.8 per cent, compared to 11.4 per cent in 2009.

Maintained Secondary Schools

Of the 3,122 local authority maintained secondary schools, there were:

- 916 schools, 29.3 per cent, that were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity, compared to 28.7 in 2009.
- 2,206 schools, 70.7 per cent, with surplus places, compared to 71.3 per cent in 2009.

There were 3,330,670 school places, and there were:

- 54,260 pupils, 1.6 per cent, in excess of school capacity, compared to 1.7 per cent in 2009.
- 303,750 surplus places, 9.1 per cent, compared to 9.1 per cent in 2009.

Academies

- There were 14 academies with pupils in excess of their agreed pupil places.
- There were 37 academies with surplus places.
- Of the remaining academies, the majority were still filling up and therefore not classified as having surplus places.

Local Authority Pupil Forecasts

- According to LA's own forecasts, the number of primary pupils is set to increase nationally between 2009/10 and 2014/15.
- Only 5 LAs are forecasting that their primary pupil numbers will decrease over the next 5 years.
- At secondary level (11-19), LAs are forecasting that the overall number of secondary pupils attending maintained secondary schools will fall nationally by 2016/17.
- Over the next 7 years, 57 LAs are forecasting that their secondary pupil numbers will increase.

TABLES

Table 1	Local Authority Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools: School Capacity in England, May 2009-2010
Table 2	Local Authority Maintained Primary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England, May 2010
Table 3	Local Authority Maintained Secondary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England, May 2010
Table 4	Academies: Number of Agreed Pupil Places, by Academy, 2010
Table 5	Pupils of Primary School Age: Pupil Forecasts by Local Authority Area in England, 2010/11 – 2014/15
Table 6	Pupils of Secondary School Age: Pupil Forecasts by Local Authority Area in England, 2010/11 – 2016/17

TECHINCAL NOTES

Definitions

1. The net capacity assessment of a school is the number of pupil places available. This method of assessment provides a single and consistent form of calculating the capacity of schools and applies to all mainstream Community, Voluntary-aided, Voluntary-controlled and Foundation schools in England. Net capacity assessments do not apply to Academies, nursery schools, special schools or pupil referral units.
2. Data on pupil forecasts are also collected from local authorities as part of the School Capacity Survey. These data were not routinely published but were used by LAs for planning purposes, however, due to increased interest these figures are now being made publicly available for the first time. LAs use a wide variety of methods to forecast pupil numbers in school-place planning. The Department has provided guidance to assist authorities in this process but it is felt that LAs are best placed to determine their own methodology due to local knowledge of their planning areas and local trends in pupil numbers. Guidance on forecasting pupil numbers can be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tsp/fpn/>

Data Collection, Coverage and Quality

3. The Department collects school place data from local authorities (LAs) under The Education (Information as to the Provision of Education) (England) Regulations 2008. LAs provide data annually on the number of school places on a school by school basis. Information presented in this Statistical Release is derived from two sources: the School Capacity Survey and the School Census. LAs provided school capacity data for all of their maintained primary and secondary schools via the School Capacity Survey. Figures relating to number of pupils are derived from the School Census as at May 2010.
4. Information on school capacity is not available for academies, therefore they have returned data on their number of agreed pupil places as set out in their Funding Agreement. This information has been taken from a number of different sources, including: the 2008/09 School Improvement Partner (SIP) report, the 2009/10 SIP report, Edubase, the Education Brief, and in some cases the school capacity figure from their predecessor school. Thirteen academies did not provide an agreed pupil places figure. These academies have been included in the table for information but excluded from any analysis. Some academies were still filling up and therefore not classified as having surplus places. For this reason, we have shown the number of places still to be filled but have suppressed the percentage of surplus places. We have also suppressed the percentage of surplus places for those academies which opened in 2009 because it was not possible to identify whether they had the full age range of pupils or whether they were still filling up.
5. The following local authorities were unable to provide complete pupil forecasts:
 - Leeds - unable to provide 5th year for primary pupil forecasts.
 - Barnsley - unable to provide 5th year forecasts for reception pupils.
 - Dorset - LA unable to provide 5th year forecasts for reception pupils.
 - Windsor & Maidenhead - unable to provide secondary forecasts at year 6 & 7.

6. Tables 2 and 3 are local authority level tables which are based on school level data for primary and secondary schools as at May 2010. Primary figures include all pupils in primary and middle-deemed primary schools; secondary figures include all pupils in secondary and middle-deemed secondary schools.

7. Tables 5 and 6 are local authority level tables which are based on LA's own pupil forecasts. Primary pupil forecasts include pupils in year groups Reception to 6; secondary forecasts include pupils in year groups 7 to 13 (aged 11 – 19). LA secondary forecasts should exclude pupils in Academies and sixth form colleges. However, Ealing local authority provided forecast data which included one academy. All LA pupil forecasts exclude pupils expected to be educated in a new school (or new places in an existing school) funded through s106 agreements.

8. There are no planned revisions to this SFR, however, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the departmental revisions policy which is published at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml> .

General

9. The Department will be publishing information on trends in pupil projections on Thursday 9 December 2010 at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000974/index.shtml> . The release will contain projections of pupil numbers in schools and will be based on the latest available mid-2009 population estimates and mid-2008 population projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) together with the spring 2010 School Census data. The pupil forecasts within this release are as reported by Local Authorities for the purpose of assessing the local level need for future primary and secondary places. Any aggregated totals from the locally-focused forecasts are likely to differ from the main national projections due to differences with input data and projection methods.

10. The description 'maintained primary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as primary. The description 'maintained secondary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as secondary.

11. For the national table (table 1), numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. For tables 2 and 3, national and government office region numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

12. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.

13. The following symbols have been used within this publication:

- .. - not available
- .
- # - not applicable. Academy filling up.
- ~ - not applicable. Academy opened in 2009 and may still be filling up.

14. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to Schools Data Unit, Room 1F Area H, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail schools.statistics@education.gsi.gov.uk

15. 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 7925 6789.