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SCHOOL CAPACITY 2012

INTRODUCTION

This release provides information for May 2012 on the numbers of primary and secondary school places, unfilled school places and pupils in excess of school capacity, together with pupil number forecasts. Data are provided at national and local authority (LA) level.

This is **an official statistics** publication, published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

KEY POINTS

State-funded Primary Schools

Of the 16,812 state-funded primary schools:

- 3,424 schools (20.3 per cent) were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity (20.4 per cent in 2011). There were 31,490 pupils (0.7 per cent) in excess of school capacity (0.9 per cent in 2011).
- 13,388 schools (79.6 per cent) had 1 or more unfilled places (79.6 per cent in 2011). There were 432,650 (10.0 per cent) unfilled places (10.4 per cent in 2011).

State-funded Secondary Schools

Of the 3,260 state-funded secondary schools:

- 694 schools (21.2 per cent) were full or had pupils in excess of school capacity (25.4 per cent in 2011). There were 30,770 (0.9 per cent) pupils in excess of school capacity (1.1 per cent in 2011).
- 2,566 schools (78.7 per cent) had 1 or more unfilled places (74.6 per cent in 2011). There were 406,020 (11.3 per cent) unfilled places (11.0 per cent in 2011).

Local Authority Pupil Forecasts

- According to LA's own forecasts, the number of primary pupils is set to increase nationally between 2011/12 and 2016/17.
- At secondary level (11-19), LAs forecast that the overall number of secondary pupils attending state-funded secondary schools will increase nationally between 2011/12 and 2018/19.

TABLES

Table 1	State-funded Primary and Secondary Schools: School Capacity in England, May 2012
Table 2	State-funded Primary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area in England, May 2012
Table 3	State-funded Secondary Schools: School Capacity by Local Authority Area in England, May 2012
Table 4	Pupils of Primary School Age 2011/12 and Pupil Forecasts 2012/13 – 2016/17 by Local Authority Area in England
Table 5	Pupils of Secondary School Age 2011/12 and Pupil Forecasts 2012/13 – 2018/19 by Local Authority Area in England

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

1. The capacity assessment of a school is the number of pupil places available. Net capacity is the measure of places that 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. The capacity of Academies is based on the number of places the school has agreed to provide as reflected in the school's funding agreement or as subsequently amended. This means that the final agreed size of new Academies and Free Schools has been provided.
2. Data on pupil forecasts are also collected from local authorities as part of the School Capacity Survey. 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.

Data Collection, Coverage and Quality

3. The Department collects school place data from local authorities (LAs) under The Information as to Provision of Education (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.
4. LAs have provided capacity data for all maintained primary and secondary schools and Academies (including Free Schools, CTCs, UTCs and Studio Schools) within their area via the 2012 School Capacity Survey.
5. Figures relating to number of pupils are derived from the School Census as at May 2012 and include sole, dual main and dual subsidiary enrolment status.
6. For the purpose of the School Capacity Collection, net capacity data submitted by local authorities should include all classroom accommodation on school sites including temporary accommodation. If a school operates a foundation unit that includes Reception pupils, the net capacity submitted via this collection will include teaching space used by this year group.
7. Many LAs are permanently expanding provision in response to place pressures. Some schools may have spare places that reflect accommodation that has been built for future increased intake cohorts. Some Academies and Free Schools have spare places, because the final agreed size of new Academies/Free Schools has been provided even if these schools are growing year on year.
8. Tables 2 and 3 are local authority level tables which are based on school level data for state-funded primary and secondary schools as at May 2012. The description 'state-funded primary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as primary, as well as primary converter academies and Free Schools. The description 'state-funded secondary schools' refers to those schools maintained by the local authority, including middle schools deemed as secondary, secondary converter academies, all sponsored academies, Free Schools, CTCs, UTCs and Studio Schools.

9. Tables 4 and 5 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). Secondary forecasts should exclude pupils in sixth form colleges. All pupil forecasts exclude pupils expected to be educated in a new school (or new places in an existing school) funded through s106 agreements.
10. Primary forecasts for 2016/17 in Dorset local authority do not include reception pupils.
11. The Department publishes separately information on national trends in pupil projections. The last release was published on Thursday 26 July 2012 and contained projections of national pupil numbers in schools, based on mid-2010 national population projections, the latest available data at the time from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), and the January 2012 School Census data. The Department will be publishing revised projections based on the interim mid-2011 based sub-national population projections (from ONS) in March 2013. The pupil forecasts within the School Capacity Collection 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.
12. There are no planned revisions to this SR, 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>.
13. National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
14. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.
15. The following symbols have been used within this publication:
 - .. - not available
 - .
16. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to Pupil Place Planning Team, Ground Floor Area C, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail SCAP.2012@education.gsi.gov.uk.
17. 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.