

Pupil absence in schools in England, autumn 2013 and spring 2014: national, local authority and school level data

Metadata Specification

Description

This document describes the data contained in the autumn term 2013 and spring term 2014 data file, which contains national, local authority and school level data.

National file

Information on absence by pupil characteristics.

Local Authority files

Information on absence sessions broken down by reasons for absence, number of persistent absentees and the absence sessions for which persistent absentees are responsible.

School level files

Information on overall absence and number of persistent absentees and the absence sessions for which persistent absentees are responsible for pupils aged 5 to 15.

Information on overall absence for four year old pupils.

An example of the proposed SFR restructure (as outlined in chapter 9 of this release) is shown in additional table 7 and as a machine readable CSV format, and can be found in the SFR38_2014_Additional document and SFR38_2014_UD document respectively. This is an example of absence by reason information only; it shows national, local authority and school level figures for autumn 2006 and spring 2007 to autumn 2013 and spring 2014.

File format

National_characteristics.csv – rows in this file relate to pupil characteristics

LA_Absence_percentage.csv and LA_level_reasons.csv – rows in these files are identified as each local authority area in England

School_level_5to15_year_old.csv – rows in this file are identified as individual schools in England

School_level_4_year_old.csv – rows in this file are identified as individual schools in England

Suppression

Enrolment numbers of 1 and 2 have been suppressed and published as “x”. The corresponding absence rates have also been suppressed.

Abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
LA	Local Authority
PA	Persistent Absentees

Annex A – Field Listing

A full list of fields and the order in which they should be shown on the file is given below.

National_characteristics.csv

enrolments	Number of enrolments
sess_possible	Number of sessions possible
sess_overall	Number of overall absence sessions
sess_authorised	Number of authorised absence sessions
sess_unauthorised	Number of unauthorised absence sessions
sess_overall_percent	Percentage of overall absence
sess_authorised_percent	Percentage of authorised absence
sess_unauthorised_percent	Percentage of unauthorised absence
enrolments_pa_15	Number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
enrolments_percent_PA_15	Percentage of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_possible_PA_15	Sessions possible for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_overall_PA_15	Overall absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_authorised_PA_15	Authorised absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_unauthorised_PA_15	Unauthorised absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_overall_percent_PA_15	Percentage overall absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_authorised_percent_PA_15	Percentage authorised absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_unauthorised_percent_PA_15	Percentage unauthorised absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)

LA_Absence_percentage.csv

enrolments	Number of enrolments
sess_possible	Number of sessions possible
sess_overall	Number of overall absence sessions
sess_authorised	Number of authorised absence sessions
sess_unauthorised	Number of unauthorised absence sessions
overall_absence_percent	Percentage of overall absence
auth_absence_percent	Percentage of authorised absence
unauth_absence_percent	Percentage of unauthorised absence

enrolments	Number of enrolments
sess_possible	Number of sessions possible
sess_overall	Number of overall absence sessions
sess_authorised	Number of authorised absence sessions
sess_unauthorised	Number of unauthorised absence sessions
sess_auth_illness	Number of authorised absence sessions due to illness (not medical or dental)
sess_auth_appointments	Number of authorised absence sessions due to medical/dental appointments
sess_auth_religious	Number of authorised absence sessions due to religious observance
sess_auth_study	Number of authorised absence sessions due to study leave
sess_auth_traveller	Number of authorised absence sessions due to traveller absence
sess_auth_holiday	Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed family holiday
sess_auth_ext_holiday	Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed extended family holiday
sess_auth_excluded	Number of authorised absence sessions due to exclusion, no alternative provision
sess_auth_other	Number of authorised absence sessions due to other authorised circumstances
sess_auth_totalreasons	Total authorised absence sessions with reasons
sess_auth_unclass	Unclassified authorised absence sessions
sess_unauth_holiday	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to family holiday not agreed
sess_unauth_late	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to arriving late
sess_unauth_other	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to other unauthorised circumstances
sess_unauth_noyet	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to no reason yet
sess_unauth_totalreasons	Total unauthorised absence sessions with reasons
sess_unauth_unclass	Unclassified unauthorised absence sessions
sess_overall_totalreasons	Total overall absence sessions with reasons

Acad_type	Academy type as at 12 September 2013
Acad_open_date	Academy open date (for academies open at 12 September 2013)
All_through	Schools with a statutory low age of below seven and a statutory high age of above 14
enrol_sum	Number of enrolments
SessionsPossible_sum	Number of sessions possible
OverallAbsence_sum	Number of overall absence sessions
AuthorisedAbsence_sum	Number of authorised absence sessions
UnauthorisedAbsence_sum	Number of unauthorised absence sessions
overall_absence_percent	Percentage of overall absence
auth_absence_percent	Percentage of authorised absence
unauth_absence_percent	Percentage of unauthorised absence
PA_15_sum	Number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
pa_15_percent	Percentage of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
possible_session_pa_15_sum	Sessions possible for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
overall_abs_pa_15_sum	Overall absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
auth_abs_pa_15_sum	Authorised absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
unauth_abs_pa_15_sum	Unauthorised absence sessions for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)

overall_absence_percent_PA_15	Percentage overall absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
auth_absence_percent_PA_15	Percentage authorised absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
unauth_absence_percent_PA_15	Percentage unauthorised absence for persistent absentees (missing 38 or more sessions)
sess_auth_illness	Number of authorised absence sessions due to illness (not medical or dental)
sess_auth_appointments	Number of authorised absence sessions due to medical/dental appointments
sess_auth_religious	Number of authorised absence sessions due to religious observance
sess_auth_study	Number of authorised absence sessions due to study leave
sess_auth_traveller	Number of authorised absence sessions due to traveller absence
sess_auth_holiday	Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed family holiday
sess_auth_ext_holiday	Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed extended family holiday
sess_auth_excluded	Number of authorised absence sessions due to exclusion, no alternative provision
sess_auth_other	Number of authorised absence sessions due to other authorised circumstances
sess_auth_totalreasons	Total authorised absence sessions with reasons
sess_auth_unclass	Unclassified authorised absence sessions
sess_unauth_holiday	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to family holiday not agreed
sess_unauth_late	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to arriving late
sess_unauth_other	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to other unauthorised circumstances
sess_unauth_noyet	Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to no reason yet

sess_unauth_totalreasons	Total unauthorised absence sessions with reasons
sess_unauth_unclass	Unclassified unauthorised absence sessions
sess_overall_totalreasons	Total overall absence sessions with reasons

School_level_4_year_old.csv

Acad_type	Academy type as at 12 September 2013
Acad_open_date	Academy open date (for academies open at 12 September 2013)
All_through	Schools with a statutory low age of below seven and a statutory high age of above 14
enrol_sum	Number of enrolments
SessionsPossible_sum	Number of sessions possible
OverallAbsence_sum	Number of overall absence sessions
overall_absence_percent	Percentage of overall absence

Annex B - Calculations used in the autumn 2013 and spring 2014 SFR

1. Percentage of sessions missed due to overall absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total overall absence sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

2. Percentage of sessions missed due to authorised absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total authorised absence sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

3. Percentage of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total unauthorised absence sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

4. Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees:

$$\frac{\text{Number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees}}{\text{Number of enrolments}} \times 100$$

5. Percentage of sessions missed by persistent absentees due to overall absence:

$$\frac{\text{Overall absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Sessions possible for persistent absentees}} \times 100$$

6. Percentage of sessions missed by persistent absentees due to authorised absence:

$$\frac{\text{Authorised absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Sessions possible for persistent absentees}} \times 100$$

7. Percentage of sessions missed by persistent absentees due to unauthorised absence:

$$\frac{\text{Unauthorised absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Sessions possible for persistent absentees}} \times 100$$

8. Percentage of overall absence for which persistent absentees are responsible:

$$\frac{\text{Overall absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Total overall absence sessions}} \times 100$$

9. Percentage of authorised absence for which persistent absentees are responsible:

$$\frac{\text{Authorised absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Total authorised absence sessions}} \times 100$$

10. Percentage of unauthorised absence for which persistent absentees are responsible:

$$\frac{\text{Unauthorised absence sessions for persistent absentees}}{\text{Total unauthorised absence sessions}} \times 100$$

Distribution of reasons for absence - Percentage of absent sessions due to:

11. Individual reasons:

$$\frac{\text{Absence for this reason}}{\text{Total Overall Absence With Reasons}} \times 100$$

12. Total Overall Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Overall Absence With Reasons}}{\text{Total Overall Absence With Reasons}} \times 100$$

13. Total Authorised Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Authorised Absence With Reasons}}{\text{Total Overall Absence With Reasons}} \times 100$$

14. Total Unauthorised Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Unauthorised Absence With Reasons}}{\text{Total Overall Absence With Reasons}} \times 100$$

Absence rates by reason - Percentage of possible session missed due to:

15. Individual reasons:

$$\frac{\text{Absence for this reason}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

16. Unclassified:

$$\frac{\text{Unclassified Authorised/Unauthorised}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

17. Total Overall Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Overall Absence Sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

18. Total Authorised Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Authorised Absence Sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$

19. Total Unauthorised Absence:

$$\frac{\text{Total Unauthorised Absence Sessions}}{\text{Total Sessions Possible}} \times 100$$