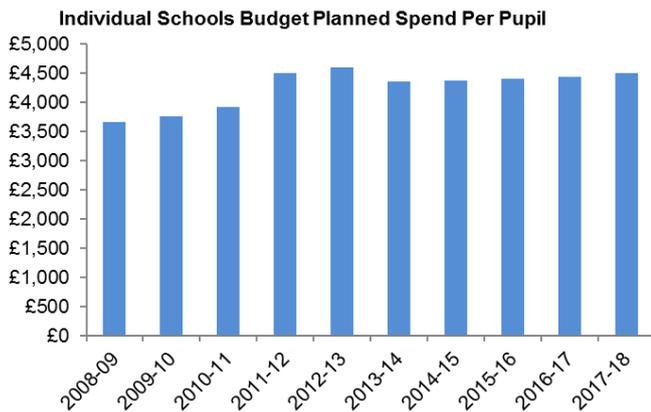




Planned expenditure on schools, education and children's services by local authorities in England, 2017-18

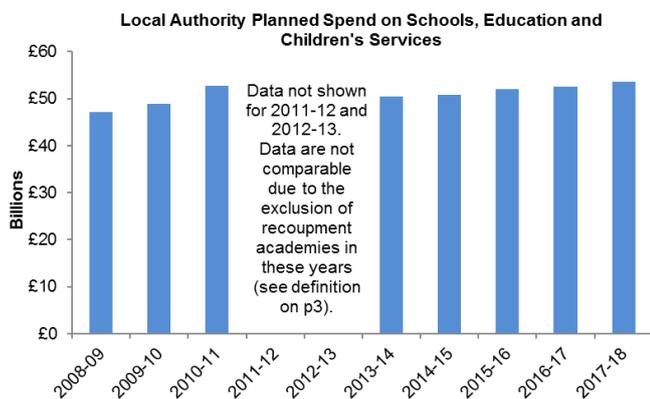
SR 48/2017, 21 September 2017

Individual Schools Budget: Planned spend per pupil has risen since 2016-17 in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for inflation)



Education spending is largely driven by pupil numbers. It is therefore important to consider per pupil spending to give a better indication of whether spending is falling or increasing. The planned spend per pupil in 2017-18 is £4,475, nominally up from £4,432 in 2016-17.

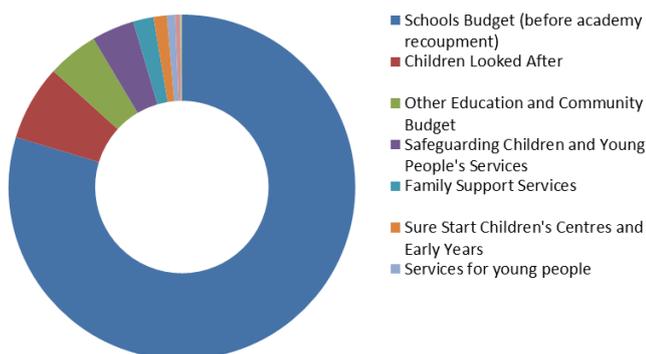
Local Authority planned spend on schools, education and children's services has increased slightly since 2016-17 (not adjusted for inflation)



Total planned spend by local authorities on schools, education and children and young people's services for 2017-18 is £53.7 billion, a nominal increase of £1.0 billion (equivalent to 2.0 per cent) from the 2016-17 planned spend.

The majority of this is made up by the total Schools Budget planned spend

Overview of planned expenditure by local authorities



As in previous years, the majority of local authorities' planned spend is on the schools budget: £42.8 billion in 2017-18, accounting for 80 per cent of planned expenditure overall.

The planned spend on children looked after is £3.8 billion (7 per cent), followed by other education and community at £2.6 billion (5 per cent), safeguarding children and young people's services at £2.1 billion (4 per cent) and family support services at £1.0 billion (2 per cent).

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About this release

This statistical release provides a summary of the planned expenditure by local authorities on schools, education and children and young people’s services for the financial year April 2017 to March 2018.

All year-on-year changes in this release are based on unrounded data presented in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for inflation).

In this publication

The following tables are included in the statistical release:

- Budget tables (Excel .xls)
- Underlying data (open format .csv and metadata .txt)

The accompanying quality and methodology information document, provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Section 251 Budget Return

Local authorities (LAs) are required to provide the Department for Education with a Section 251 Budget Return of planned expenditure covering schools, education and children’s and young people’s services. This is to ensure LAs provide financial data in a consistent manner that can support comparisons and benchmarking with other LAs. See the [Section 251 budget guidance for LAs](#) for further information on the data reported.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at: finance.statistics@education.gov.uk

1. LA Planned Spend on Schools, Education and Children’s Services

(Table 1)

The planned schools budget nominally rose by £1.1 billion or 2.7 per cent since 2016-17. There was a smaller increase for children’s and young people’s services including youth justice: up 0.8 per cent. Meanwhile the other education and community budget fell by 5.5 per cent.

Table 1: Year-on-year comparison of the local authority planned expenditure
England, 2016-17 and 2017-18

		2016-17 (billions)	2017-18 (billions)	Nominal change between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (billions)
Total Schools Budget	Gross	£41.6	£42.8	an increase of £1.1
	Net	£41.4	£42.6	an increase of £1.2
Total Other Education and Community Budget	Gross	£2.7	£2.6	a decrease of £0.1
	Net	£2.1	£1.9	a decrease of £0.2
Total Children’s and Young People’s Services including Youth Justice	Gross	£8.3	£8.4	an increase of £0.1
	Net	£7.5	£7.6	an increase of £0.1
Total Planned Expenditure	Gross	£52.6	£53.7	an increase of £1.0
	Net	£51.0	£52.1	an increase of £1.1

Source: Section 251 Budget

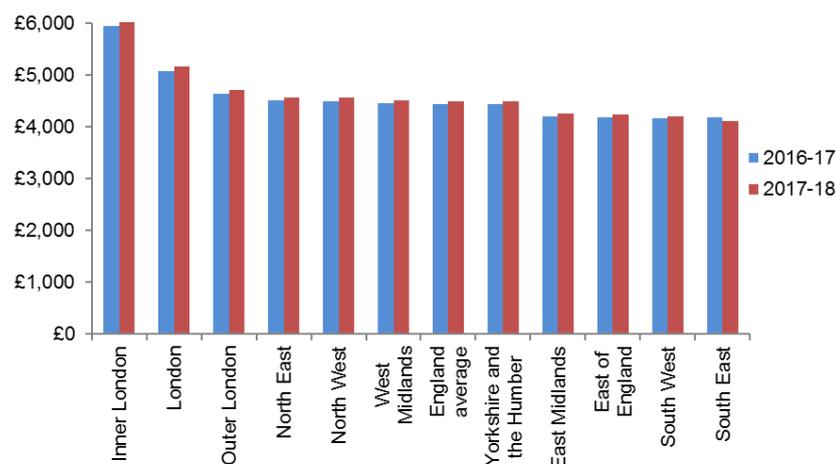
1. Gross figures are actual total estimated costs of the activities before allowance for any expected income, but after allowing for any “buyback” (reclaimed) income from the local authority’s own schools to avoid double-counting. Both expenditure and income should be excluded where LA maintained schools are buying services.
2. Net figures are calculated automatically by subtracting any income from the gross figures.
3. All figures in this table are presented in cash terms and have not been adjusted for inflation.

Recoupment academies

Recoupment is a method of adjusting a dedicated schools grant to take account of the conversion of a maintained school into an academy. From 2017 to 2018 this also includes new provision academies and free schools from their date of opening. Further information is in the [Academies and dedicated schools grant: recoupment guide](#).

2. Individual Schools Budget (Tables 1 & 4)

Figure 2: Individual Schools Budget per capita by region
England, 2016-17 to 2017-18



Source: Section 251 Budget Return
1. Not adjusted for inflation

Planned spend per pupil varies between regions, with the highest planned spend being £6,027 per pupil in Inner London, compared with £4,113 per pupil in the South East.

Since 2013-14 the individual schools budget figures within the total schools budget also include figures for recoupment academies which increases the coverage of this area of the schools budget. Since almost all academies became recoupment academies in 2015-16, more spending on academies is now included in this budget. Wherever possible, statistics are provided showing planned spending 'per capita' (by combining the financial return with pupil numbers and/or population estimates) to make comparisons over time more reliable.

3. Other Education and Community Budget (Tables 1, 2, 3 & 5)

This covers the central education functions performed by local authorities, for example education welfare service, education psychologists, home to school transport, and adult and community learning.

Planned expenditure for some areas of the other education and community budget has reduced (before taking account of inflation). This is partly due to the increased number of schools which have converted to academy status. It is also due to the fact that some areas of spend have moved from the other education and community budget to the schools budget in 2017-18, as a result of the ending of the Education Services Grant.

Since 2016-17 local authorities' planned expenditure for this area has nominally fallen from £2.7bn to £2.6bn, a drop of 5.5 per cent. The most noticeable areas with reduced planned gross spending are on statutory/regulatory duties - education (a fall of £50.8m or 20.2 per cent), school improvement (a fall of £46.1m or 25.5 per cent) and pension costs (a fall of £29.2m or 10.0 per cent).

4. Children and Young People's Services, including Youth Justice

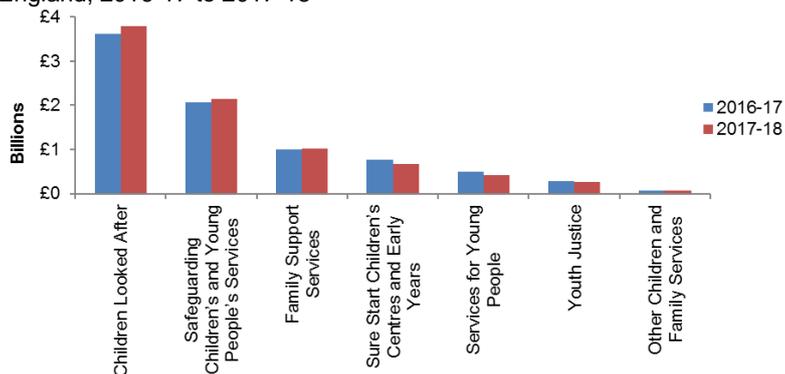
(Tables 1, 2, 3 & 6)

This covers a range of services such as early years and Sure Start children's centres, children looked after and children and young people's safety, youth services and family support services.

There has been a nominal rise in the planned spending by LAs on the 'children and young people's services' category. Planned expenditure in this area has increased by £0.1bn from £8.3bn to £8.4bn – a 0.8 per cent increase between 2016-17 and 2017-18 and is now at the highest level since 2014-15.

Figure 3: Planned Spend On Children's and Young People's Services

England, 2016-17 to 2017-18



Source: Section 251 Budget Return
1. Not adjusted for inflation

There is considerable variation in changes to the planned expenditure between subcategories, with some areas seeing a rise and some a fall since 2016-17 (in each case, without taking inflation into account).

The children looked after sub-category has the biggest increase in planned spend, from £3.6bn in 2016-17 to £3.8bn in 2017-18. Sure Start children's centres and early years, is the sub-category with the biggest decrease in planned spend, from £0.8bn in 2016-17 to £0.7bn in 2017-18.

5. High Needs Place Funding (Table 7)

Planned expenditure on high needs places (in addition to the planned spend on high needs from budgets retained centrally by local authorities) has been affected by the number of schools converting to academy status, as well as by changes to the way that some local authorities have recorded their expenditure and other factors. This should be taken into account when making year-on-year comparisons.

Table 2: Year-on-year comparisons of the local authority planned expenditure on high needs
England, 2016-17 and 2017-18

	2016-17 (millions)	2017-18 (millions)	Nominal change between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (millions)
High needs places:			
Special school places	£852	£831	a decrease of £20
Pupil referral unit places	£146	£128	a decrease of £17
Hospital education places	£30	£26	a decrease of £4

Source: Section 251 Budget

6. Early Years Education (Table 8)

Some elements of the planned spend on two, three and four year olds is also included in the planned central expenditure on children under five.

In calculating the average funding rate per hour, the total hours include planned funded hours for the core 15 hours, additional 15 hours and funded hours above statutory core hours. This is a change from previous years. Therefore, for local authorities who have reported funded hours above the core entitlement, the average hourly funding rate is not comparable with the previous years' published hourly rates in Table 8.

Table 3: Year-on-year comparisons of local authority planned expenditure on early years education
England, 2016-17 and 2017-18

	2016-17 (millions)	2017-18 (millions)	Nominal change between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (millions)
EYSFF spend:			
Two year olds	£475	£484	an increase of £9
Three and four year olds	£2,107	£2,624	an increase of £517
Non EYSFF spend:			
Contingency budget	£12	£4	a decrease of £8

	Three and four year olds	£33	£36	an increase of £3
Centrally retained budget	Two year olds	£36	£12	a decrease of £24
	Three and four year olds	£149	£128	a decrease of £22
Early years pupil premium	Three and four year olds	£47	£32	a decrease of £15
Disability Access fund	Three and four year olds	N/A	£12	N/A
SEN inclusion fund	Two year olds	N/A	£2	N/A
	Three and four year olds	N/A	£48	N/A

Source: Section 251 Budget

1. Disability Access Fund programme introduced from April 2017.

2. SEN Inclusion Fund is a top-up grant element only. This is a new mandatory local funding requirement from April 2017 for three and four year olds, and discretionary local funding for two year olds from April 2017.

7. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the [department's statistics website](#):

National tables

- 1 Overview of planned expenditure by local authorities, 2014-15 to 2017-18
- 2 Schools budget by sector, 2017-18

Local authority and regional tables

- 3 Planned expenditure by local authority, 2017-2018
- 4 Planned spend of net expenditure of individual schools budget by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18
- 5 Planned spend of net expenditure on other education and community budgets by local authority, 2016-17 to 2017-18
- 6 Planned spend of net expenditure on children's and young people's services including youth justice by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18
- 7 Planned spend on high needs by local authority, 2017-18
- 8 Planned spend on early years education by local authority, 2017-18

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

- **We preserve confidentiality**

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.

- **We round numbers**

Because of this rounding, totals in text and in tables may not always equal the sum of their

component parts. Similarly, differences quoted in text may not always be the same as differences shown in tables. This is consistent with the [departmental statistical policy](#).

- **We adopt symbols**

Symbols are used in the tables as follows:

- . not applicable
- .. not available

8. Further information is available

- [Previously published budget figures](#)
- [Section 251 Outturn statistics](#). Whereas this release focuses on planned expenditure, outturn statistics focus on actual expenditure by LAs (and their schools).
- [Academy spending](#). Experimental statistics present information on the income and expenditure in academies in the academic year 2015/2016.

9. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This 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
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

The department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

10. Technical information

A [methodology note](#) accompanies this statistical release. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

11. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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Department for Education

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