

Where does school census data go?

A summary of funding and published data which is based on schools' termly school census returns.

For those of us who work on school census, we all know it is a statutory (lawful) requirement for schools to complete once a term. But why do we spend so much time working on it, and why is it important that the data is as accurate and complete as possible?

There are three main strands to where your school census data goes:

1. Funding direct to schools based-on school census data items,
2. Funding to local authority which drives funding available to schools for high needs and early years,
3. Published data.

Additionally, the DfE have been known to retrospectively use previously collected data, or decide at the last minute to use different data collections to inform additional funding streams – particularly during COVID. So, whilst it is important to make sure all the following data items are correct, all the data you submit in census should be accurate and up to date.

The COLLECT system which schools use to submit their school census return to the DfE does some basic data checking on these data items, but it is limited. Ealing local authority do comprehensive data checks, which is why we ask that all schools (including academies) submit their census return the first Friday following each school census day, in order to give us enough time to check this data for you.

1. Funding direct to schools based-on school census data items

	Census Data Item	Funding impacted	Census funding based on	Phase / Age
1.	UPN	National Funding Formula, Pupil Premium grant (and used for matching previous census data)	Autumn	Required for all, NFF funding applies to R-Y11
2.	ULN	Post 16 (ESFA)	Autumn	Pupils aged 14 or over
3.	Postcode	National Funding Formula (IDACI)	Autumn	Required for all, NFF funding applies to R-Y11
4.	Language	National Funding Formula (EAL for pupils new to English school system in last 3 years)	Autumn	Required for all, NFF funding applies to R-Y11
5.	FSM eligibility	Pupil Premium,	Autumn	Required for all,

		National Funding Formula, Post 16	(but FSM eligibility in all census return informs pupil premium)	NFF and Pupil premium funding applies to R-Y11
6.	School lunches taken	Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)	Autumn, Spring and Summer	Infant (Reception to Year 2)
7.	Service children indicator	Pupil Premium	Autumn	Required for all, Pupil premium funding applies to R-Y11
8.	Learner support code (bursary funding for 16 to 19)	16 to 19 bursary fund (ESFA)	Spring and Summer	Post 16
9.	Post looked after arrangements	Pupil Premium	Autumn	Required for all, Pupil premium funding applies to R-Y11
10.	Pupil enrolment status	National Funding Formula (Age weighted pupil unit)	Autumn	All
11.	Pupil date of entry	National Funding Formula	Autumn	All
12.	Pupil boarder indicator	N/A to Ealing state-funded schools	All	Reception and above
13.	NC Year	Determines which type of funding a child is allocated (depending on phase)	All	All
14.	Post 16 data (including learning aims)	ESFA post 16 qualification funding	Autumn	Post 16

More information from the DfE on all school census data items can be found online here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census/data-items>

2. Funding to local authority which drives funding available to schools for high needs and early years

	Census Data Item	Funding impacted	Census funding based on	Phase / Age
1.	Funded entitlement hours	Early years block of the dedicated schools grant allocation to LAs – which funds school nursery provision	Usually Spring, but currently based all three census collections due to COVID impact	Early Years
2.	Hours at setting	Early years block of the dedicated schools grant allocation to LAs – which funds school nursery provision	Usually Spring, but currently based all three census collections due to COVID impact	Early Years
3.	Early years pupil premium	Early years block of the dedicated schools grant allocation to LAs – which funds school nursery provision	Spring	Early Years
4.	Top up funding indicator (SEN)	SEN High needs funding allocations	Spring	All
6.	Disability access fund indicator	Disability access fund	Usually Spring, but currently based all three census collections due to COVID impact	Early Years
5.	Part time indicator	Early years block of the dedicated schools grant allocation to LAs – which funds school nursery provision	Usually Spring, but currently based all three census collections due to COVID impact	Early Years
6.	Pupil enrolment status	Supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS)	Spring	Early Years (Maintained nursery schools only)

3. Published data

	Type of Data	School Census Based on	Publication link
1.	Free School Meal Eligibility	Autumn	https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/free-school-meals-autumn-term/2020-21-autumn-term
2.	Exclusions	Autumn, Spring & Summer	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-exclusions
3.	Absence and attendance	Autumn, Spring & Summer	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-pupil-absence
4.	Special Educational Need (SEN provision, primary and secondary need)	Spring	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen
5.	Pupil characteristics including: - FSM - Language - Ethnicity - Gender - Class sizes - School characteristics	Spring	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers
6.	KS2, GCSE and Post 16 performance tables (pupil characteristics data is matched in to published assessment data)	Spring	https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables