

Information, Guidance & Resources

11 October 2023

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DfE Published Statistics - Pupil Attendance in Schools

- Information on the [levels of overall, authorised and unauthorised absence](#) in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools from September 2022 onwards is published each week. The data includes daily, weekly and year-to-date information on attendance and absence, in addition to reasons for absence.
- The figures are published as **experimental official statistics** to give an indicative figure for the absence rate during the 2023/24 academic year. They should be viewed as an early indicator for the more detailed, but less regular, [National Statistics on pupil absence](#) (which will include school level breakdowns).
- If you are a school that has not yet signed up to share your data, please visit [Share your daily school attendance data](#) for more information. This will also give you, your local authority and your multi-academy trust (if applicable) [access to daily attendance reports](#) to help identify pupils needing attendance support earlier.
- This release covers the 2023/24 academic year from 11 September to 15 September 2023, with data relating to 5-15 year olds in state funded primary, secondary and special schools in England.

- The attendance rate was 95.0% across all schools in the week commencing 11 September 2023 (absence rate 5.0%).
- Absence was 0.4 percentage points lower across all schools in the week commencing 11 September 2023 than in the equivalent week in the last academic year ([week commencing 12 September 2022](#)). This has been driven by a decrease in authorised absence, mainly illness absence.
- High-level national figures for the week commencing 4 September 2023 (first week back) are available in the data catalogue below. For the full 2022/23 academic year and termly pupil absence data, including by characteristics please see this [historical publication](#).

School Type	Absence Rate (w/c 11 September 2023)
State funded primary	3.9% (2.3% authorised and 1.5% unauthorised)
State funded secondary	6.2% (3.5% authorised and 2.8% unauthorised)
State funded special	10.1% (7.1% authorised and 2.9% unauthorised)

Overall absence rate

5.0%

during week commencing 11
September 2023

Authorised absence rate

2.9%

during week commencing 11
September 2023

Unauthorised absence rate

2.1%

during week commencing 11
September 2023

Planned Local Authority & School Expenditure: 2023/2024 financial year

Local Authorities are required under section 251 of the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#) to prepare and submit a budget statement to the Department for Education each year.

This information summarises the S251 budget return covering local authority planned spending on education services and children's & young people's services - education, children's services (including youth justice), early years, and high needs place funding for the financial year 2023-24.

To access the full data set, go to [Planned LA and School Expenditure](#)

Headline Facts:

- For the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, local authority total net planned expenditure on education and children's and young people's services is £72.2 billion, £5.3 billion higher than 2022-23. This consists of:
 - £57.8 billion (80.1%) for schools (before academy recoupment), £3.7 billion higher than in 2022-23.
 - £3.0 billion (4.2%) for other education and community spend, £0.4 billion higher than in 2022-23.
 - £11.4 billion (15.8%) for children's and young people's services, £1.1 billion higher than in 2022-23.
- Please note that these figures are in cash terms and are not adjusted for inflation.

Total net planned expenditure on schools

£57.8 billion

£3.7 billion higher than 2022-23

Total net planned expenditure on other education and community

£3.0 billion

£0.4 billion higher than 2022-23

Total net planned expenditure on children's and young peoples services

£11.4 billion

£1.1 billion higher than 2022-23

Net planned expenditure per capita on schools budgets

£5,229

£220 higher than 2022-23

Net planned expenditure per capita on other education and community

£849

£126 higher than 2022-23

Net planned expenditure per capita on children's and young peoples services

£969

£114 higher than 2022-23

Key Stage 2 Attainment: academic year 2022/23

Key stage 2 national curriculum assessments in England statistics published in September extends interim data published on 11 July 2023 and includes results for pupils in schools in England:

- at national, regional, local authority level, local authority district and constituency level
- by pupil characteristics such as gender, disadvantage and special educational needs
- by school characteristics such as school type, phase and religious character
- prior attainment in the phonics screening check (met the standard in year 1, or year 2, or did not meet it by the end of year 2)

The statistics are provisional and will be updated with revised data in December. **To access the full data set, go to [Key stage 2 attainment 2022/23](#)**

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing & maths (combined) 59% Unchanged from 2022	Percentage of pupils reaching the higher standard in reading, writing & maths (combined) 8% Up from 7% in 2022	Disadvantage gap index 3.2 Down from 3.23 in 2022
Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading 73% Down from 75% in 2022	Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in writing TA 71% Up from 69% in 2022	Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in maths 73% Up from 71% in 2022

Headline Facts:

- The statistics cover the attainment of year 6 pupils who took assessments in summer 2023. These pupils experienced disruption to their learning during the pandemic, particularly at the end of year 3 and in year 4.
- In individual subjects, attainment increased in maths, writing and science compared to 2022. Attainment remained the same in GPS and fell in reading.
- In reading, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, down from 75% in 2022.
- In maths, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 71% in 2022.
- In writing teacher assessment, 71% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 69% in 2022.
- In grammar, punctuation and spelling, 72% of pupils met the expected standard, unchanged from 2022.
- In science teacher assessment, 80% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 79% in 2022.
- In all of reading, writing and maths, 59% of pupils met the expected standard, unchanged from 2022. At the higher standard, 8% of pupils met the standard, up from 7% in 2022.
- The disadvantaged gap index is down from 3.23 in 2022 to 3.20 in 2023. This figure is expected to slightly increase in the revised publication. Please see the pupil characteristics section for more detail.

Ofsted Published Statistics & information

Published subject reports

Ofsted published 2 subject reports in September

- “[Getting our bearings: geography subject report](#)” looking at the quality of geography teaching in the schools inspected in England. The report evaluates the common strengths and weaknesses of geography education in the primary and secondary schools inspected. It summarises Ofsted’s main findings, shares their recommendations and builds on their [geography research review](#), published in 2021.
- “[Striking the right note: the music subject report](#)” looking at the quality of music education in the schools inspected in England. The report evaluates the common strengths and weaknesses of music education and considers the challenges that music faces. Evidence for the report was gathered by His Majesty’s Inspectors and by Ofsted Inspectors who specialise in music and have experience in the primary or secondary phase. The report summarises our main findings, shares our recommendations and builds on our [music research review](#), published in 2021.

Independent review of careers guidance in schools and FE & skills providers

- Ofsted’s independent review of careers guidance in schools and further education and skills providers has been published [here](#).
- The review found schools and FE & skills providers understand the importance of promoting both technical and academic pathways to students. Additionally, most providers are making good progress towards improving students’ access to options such as apprenticeships and technical qualifications. However, some FE & skills providers were having difficulties promoting courses to schools and teachers’ knowledge of technical pathways, especially T levels, could be limited.

Updates to National Guidance

The Reading Framework

This [guidance](#) sets out the research underpinning the importance of talk, stories and systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) in reception, the importance of fidelity in phonics, and the DfE's evidence-informed position on the best way to teach reading.

The document has been developed through the contributions of experts from across the literacy sector and of school leaders. It is based on the valued experience and knowledge of teachers, reading and language experts, educational organisations, English Hubs council members, and the 34 English Hubs.

School Inspection handbook

- Ofsted guidance on inspecting maintained schools and academies in England under the education inspection framework. Access the most current version of the handbook [here](#).
- Ofsted have also published a [protocol](#) setting out how they will deal with 'incomplete' inspection where they need to gather additional evidence in order to secure the inspection evidence base. The protocol applies to inspection, visits & monitoring visits.

The Advanced British Standard

- A summary of the proposals to introduce the Advanced British Standard, a new Baccalaureate style qualification for 16-19 year olds has been published [here](#)

Transforming children & young people's mental health provision

- Data on the delivery and uptake of government support for schools and colleges is published [here](#). Information includes:
 - mental health support team (MHST) coverage
 - senior mental health lead training grants
 - experiences, including perceived impacts, of schools and colleges working with MHSTs
 - wellbeing for education return and recovery

Information is in response to the [transforming children and young people's mental health provision green paper](#). A 'Mental health support team school and college survey' has recently been added.

Find out more about [mental health support in schools and colleges and faster access to NHS care](#).

Personal Information Charter

- The Department for Education (DfE) is data controller for the personal data they and their executive agencies process. The DfE executive agencies are:
 - Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
 - Standards and Testing Agency (STA)
 - Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)
- Privacy notices and the standards you can expect from the DfE when they collect or hold your personal information has recently been updated and published on the DfE's [Personal information charter](#) webpage.

Updates to National Guidance

Mobile phone use in schools

- The government has announced that mobile phone use is to be banned during the school day, including at break times. See the [press release issued on 2 October](#) for more information.

Secondary accountability measures (including Progress 8 & Attainment 8)

- 'Secondary accountability measures: 2022 guidance' has been updated to provide information about key stage 4 performance measures for 2023 to 2024 and plans for the headline EBacc attainment measure.
- The document explains how secondary accountability measures are calculated. It also gives more information about announced policies that apply to accountability measures for the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
- This information is for senior leaders and governors / trustees in secondary schools and trusts, including maintained schools, academies, alternative provision, free schools and special schools.
- See [here](#) for all related documents.

Help with flexible working in schools

- Documents to help implement flexible working, including a toolkit of resources, webinar training and support from flexible working ambassador multi academy trusts and schools is published [here](#).
- This includes the flexible working toolkit and a list of the sector experts who helped develop it

Support for new trainee teachers

- See [here](#) for information on £196M funding allocated to attract more teachers across key subjects

Funding: initial teacher training (ITT)

- Funding guidance for schools and ITT providers including bursaries, scholarships and salaried route grants has been published for academic year 2024 to 2025. See [here](#) for more information

School & College Security

- Guidance to help schools and colleges manage their security effectively so they can meet their obligations has recently been updated - see [here](#) for full information.

National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2024 to 2025

- The DfE publish tables showing provisional allocations for schools, high needs and central school services blocks from 2024 to 2025 – see [here](#) to access the full information
- The following documents initially published in July 2023 have been replaced with updated versions: 'National funding formula: summary table, 2024 to 2025', 'Impact of the schools NFF, 2024 to 2025' and 'Schools block national funding formula: technical note'.

PE and sport premium for primary schools

- See here for how much PE and sport premium funding schools will receive for the academic year 2023 to 2024 and advice on how to spend it. Please note that payment dates for 2023 to 2024 have been updated and a link to the 2023 to 2024 conditions of grant has been added

Resources

Universal SEND Services programme – now online units

- There are 5 new online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units planned as part of the National Association for Special Educational Needs (nasen) Universal SEND Services programme, to help SEND practitioners explore the most commonly observed barriers to learning, regardless of age, label or area of need.
- The latest units explore:
 - Mental wellbeing
 - Resilience
 - Anxiety
 - Sensory differences
 - Physical needs
- Find the full list of units at the [nasen Whole School SEND website](#).

Support with implementing flexible working in your school

- [5 more Flexible Working Ambassador Multi-Academy Trusts and Schools \(FWAMS\)](#) have been appointed, to complement the 7 appointed last term. FWAMS offer bespoke support to leaders in MATs, primary and secondary schools, AP/PRU and special school settings, and are part of a programme to help leaders embed flexible working.
- A [toolkit of practical resources](#) has been published to help with requesting and implementing flexible working. Learn more on the [gov.uk page](#).