



Department  
for Education

# **National pupil projections – future trends in pupil numbers: methodology**

## **Metadata guidance document**

**July 2020**

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## Description

This document describes the data included in the 'National pupil projections – future trends in pupil numbers: July 2020' Official Statistics release's underlying data file. This data is released under the terms of the [Open Government License](#) and is intended to meet at least 3 stars for [Open Data](#).

The [methodology document](#) for this subject should be referenced alongside this release. It provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and how the data is produced.

## Coverage

This publication contains actual and projected figures for the pupil population up to the age of 15 (at the start of the academic year) for most school types within England.

Figures from the main (principal) projection are provided by the school types of:

- Maintained nursery
- State primary
- State secondary
- State special
- AP settings
- Independent
- Non maintain special

For the under 5 age group figures are provided as the full time equivalent (FTE) and headcount due to the number of part time pupils. All other ages, or age groups as appropriate, are provided as FTE only.

In addition summary figures for the number of pupils of:

- Nursery and primary age
- Secondary age
- Total

are provided for the principal projection and the variant (alternative scenario) projections of:

- Low fertility
- High fertility
- Low migration
- High migration
- Low population
- High population.

## File format and conventions

### Rounding

Figures in the variant projection data file are provided, and rounded, to the nearest thousand.

### Conventions

The following convention is used throughout the underlying data.

'c' Suppressed (under 500)

'∴' Not applicable.

## Data files

This statistical release includes the following underlying data file in csv format:

<b>File name</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Geographical levels</b>	<b>Years</b>
PupilProjPrincipal_2020	Actual and projected pupil projection by school type, pupil status and age or age group.	National	2020
PupilsProjVariant_2020	Actual and projected pupil projection by age group and variant projection.	National	2020

## Annex A: Variable listing and descriptions

Variable names and descriptions included across the underlying data files are provided below.

<b>Variable name</b>	<b>Variable description</b>
time_period	The year the projection was made
time_identifier	The projection point
geographic_level	The geographic level of the data
country_code	9 digit country code
country_name	Country name
projection_level	Which principal or variant projection
school_type	Type of school
pupil_status	FTE or headcount
pupil_age	Pupil age or age group
20XX_actual (2005 to 2020)	Actual population in year x
20XX_projection (2021 to 2030)	Projected population in year x
20XX_difference_num (2020 to 2030)	Numerical difference between variant and principal projections
20XX_difference_percent (2020 to 2030)	Percentage difference between variant and principal projections



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