Department for Education

Pupil absence in schools in England, 2018/19

Metadata guidance document

March 2020

Contents

Description

This document describes the data included in the 'Pupil absence in schools in England: 2018/19' National Statistics release's underlying data files. 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 Guide to absence statistics should be referenced alongside this data. It provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality as well as explaining methodology used in producing the data.

Coverage

This release provides information on the levels of overall, authorised and unauthorised absence in:

- state-funded primary schools
- state-funded secondary schools
- state-funded special schools

It includes information on:

- reasons for absence
- persistent absentees
- pupil characteristics
- absence information for pupil referral units
- absence by term

The information is based on pupil level absence data collected via the school census.

A guide on how we produce pupil absence statistics is also available with further detail on the methods used. The underlying data files include national, regional, local authority, local authority district and school level absence information from 2006/07 to 2018/19 for schools in England.

File format and conventions

Rounding

This dataset has not had suppression applied.

Conventions

The following convention is used throughout the underlying data.

':' Not applicable.

Data files

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

File name	Content	Geographical levels	Years
Absence_3term201819_4_year_olds	Overall absence for all enrolments in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools for pupils aged 4.	National; Regional; Local authority; School	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_absence_by_term	Absence information by school terms, (autumn, spring summer) including information on overall absence, persistent absence and reason for absence.	National; Regional; Local authority	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_la_characteristics	Absence information by pupil characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity by local authority.	Local authority	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_lad_characteristics	Absence information by pupil characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity by local authority district	Local authority district	2016/17 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_nat_reg_la_sch	Absence information for all enrolments in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools including information on overall absence, persistent absence and reason for	National; Regional; Local authority; School	2006/07 to 2018/19

	absence for pupils aged 5-15, based on all 5 half terms data from 2006/07 to 2011/12 inclusive and based on 6 half term data from 2012/13 onwards.		
Absence_3term201819_national_characteristics	Absence information by pupil characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity for England.	National	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_one_percent_bands	The number of pupil enrolments by overall, authorised and unauthorised absence percentage point bands.	National	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_one_plus_sessions	The number of enrolments with one or more session of absence, including by reason for absence.	National; Regional; Local authority; School	2012/13 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_plaa	EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS Absence data by post-looked after arrangements. Information is not available for all children who have been adopted from care or left care due to a special guardianship order (SGO) or a child arrangements order (CAO), as his requires declaration by	National	2018/19

	the parents of the child. Therefore the figures have been classed as experimental statistics. In line with the Looked After Children statistics rounding and suppression policy, numbers of enrolments in this file have been rounded to the nearest 10.		
Absence_3term201819_pru	Absence information for pupil referral units	National; Regional; Local authority; School	2013/14 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_pup_residency	Absence information by the pupil's residence including the level of deprivation and rurality. A small number of pupils who attend school in England but who live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, as well as those with a missing or invalid home are included in the file. These pupils are included in national totals, and in the "unclassified" category for regional, local authority and local authority district (LAD) level information.	National; Regional; Local authority; Local authority district	2016/17 to 2018/19
Absence_3term201819_school_loc	Absence information by the school	National; Regional; Local authority; Local	2016/17 to 2018/19

	location including the level of depravation and rurality. In a few cases the local authority responsible for the school (sch_admin_la) is different from the geographic location of the school.	authority district; School	

Annex A: Variable listing and descriptions

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

Variable name	Variable description
time_identifier	The type of time period covered
year_breakdown	The breakdown of the year covered
time_period	The year/s covered
geographic_level	The geographic level of the data
country_code	9 digit country code
country_name	Country name
region_code	Region code (Government Office Region) - 9 digit code
region_name	Region name (Government Office Region)
old_la_code	Local authority code (old)
new_la_code	Local authority code (new) - 9 digit code
la_name	Local authority name
estab	School establishment number
laestab	School LAEstab number
urn	School Unique Reference number
school_type	Type of school
academy_type	Type of academy
academy_open_date	The date that the academy first opened
all_through	If the school is all-through or not
num_schools	Total number of schools
enrolments	Total number of pupil enrolments
sess_possible	Number of sessions possible
sess_overall	Number of overall absence sessions
sess_overall_percent	Overall absence rate
term	Academic term that the data refers to
sess_authorised	Number of authorised absence sessions
sess_unauthorised	Number of unauthorised absence sessions
sess_authorised_percent	Authorised absence rate
sess_unauthorised_percent	Unauthorised absence rate
sess_auth_illness	Number of illness sessions
sess_auth_appointments	Number of medical appointments sessions
sess_auth_religious	Number of religious observance sessions
sess_auth_study	Number of study leave sessions
sess_auth_traveller	Number of traveller sessions
sess_auth_holiday	Number of authorised holiday sessions
sess_auth_ext_holiday	Number of extended authorised holiday sessions
sess_auth_excluded	Number of excluded sessions
sess_auth_other	Number of authorised other sessions
sess_auth_totalreasons	Number of authorised reasons sessions
sess_unauth_holiday	Number of unauthorised holiday sessions
sess_unauth_late	Number of late sessions
sess_unauth_other	Number of unauthorised other sessions
sess_unauth_noyet	Number of no reason yet sessions
sess_unauth_totalreasons	Number of unauthorised reasons sessions
sess_overall_totalreasons	Number of overall reasons sessions

characteristic_group	High level pupil characteristics
characteristic	Pupil characteristics (detail)
enrolments_PA_10_exact	Number of persistent absentees
enrolments_pa_10_exact_percent	Percentage of persistent absentees
sess_possible_pa_10_exact	Number of sessions possible for persistent absentees
sess_overall_pa_10_exact	Number of overall absence sessions for persistent absentees
sess_authorised_pa_10_exact	Number of authorised absence sessions for persistent absentees
sess_unauthorised_pa_10_exact	Number of unauthorised absence sessions for persistent absentees
sess_overall_percent_pa_10_exact	Overall absence rate exact
sess_authorised_percent_pa_10_exact	Authorised absence rate exact
sess_unauthorised_percent_pa_10_exact	Unauthorised absence rate exact
sess_authorised_illness	Number of illness sessions
sess_authorised_appointments	Number of medical appointments sessions
sess_authorised_religious	Number of religious observance sessions
sess_authorised_study	Number of study leave sessions
sess_authorised_traveller	Number of traveller sessions
sess_authorised_holiday	Number of authorised holiday sessions
sess_authorised_ext_holiday	Number of extended authorised holiday sessions
sess_authorised_excluded	Number of excluded sessions
sess_authorised_other	Number of authorised other sessions
sess_authorised_totalreasons	Number of authorised reasons sessions
sess_unauthorised_holiday	Number of unauthorised holiday sessions
sess_unauthorised_late	Number of late sessions
sess_unauthorised_other	Number of unauthorised other sessions
sess_unauthorised_noyet	Number of no reason yet sessions
sess_unauthorised_totalreasons	Number of unauthorised reasons sessions
la_code	Local authority code (old)
lad_code	Local authority district code - 9 digit code
lad_name	Local authority district name
percent_bands	Absence percent band
enrolments_overall	Number of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for overall absence
enrolments_overall_percent	Percentage of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for overall absence
enrolments_authorised	Number of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for authorised absence
enrolments_authorised_percent	Percentage of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for authorised absence
enrolments_unauthorised	Number of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for unauthorised absence
enrolments_unauthorised_percent	Percentage of all pupil enrolments that fall into that per cent band for unauthorised absence
enrol_overall	Number of enrolments with at least one overall absence session

enrol_authorised	Number of enrolments with at least one authorised absence session
enrol_unauthorised	Number of enrolments with at least one unauthorised absence session
enrol_auth_illness	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to illness
enrol_auth_appointments	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to medical or dental appointments
enrol_auth_religious	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to religious observance
enrol_auth_study	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to study leave
enrol_auth_traveller	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to traveller absence
enrol_auth_holiday	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to agreed family holiday
enrol_auth_ext_holiday	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to agreed extended family holiday
enrol_auth_excluded	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to exclusion
enrol_auth_other	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to other authorised circumstances
enrol_unauth_holiday	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to family holiday not agreed
enrol_unauth_late	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to arriving late
enrol_unauth_other	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to other unauthorised circumstances
enrol_unauth_noyet	Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to no reason yet
plaa	Type of Post Looked After Arrangements
measure	Breakdown by IDACI or Rurality
pup_rurality	Rurality band of pupil residence
pup_idaci	IDACI band of pupil residence
sch_admin_la	The school's administrative local authority
sch_postcode	School postcode
sch_rurality	Rurality band of school location
sch_idaci	IDACI band of school location

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