

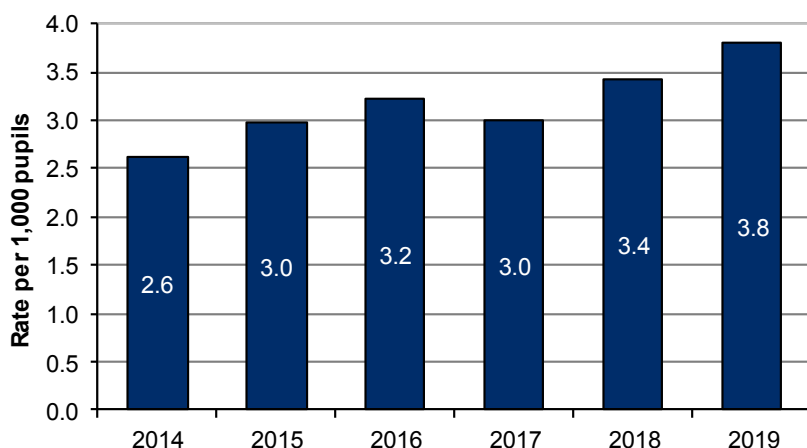


## Pupils educated other than at school, 2018/19

1 August 2019  
SFR 58/2019

This annual Statistical First Release reports on the number of pupils receiving education outside of school funded by Welsh local authorities and the number of pupils receiving elective home education in Wales. The information relates to the number of pupils receiving these forms of education during a census week in January for the academic years 2013/14 to 2018/19. During the 2018/19 academic year the census week was 14th to 18th January 2019.

**Chart 1: Rate per 1,000 pupils who are Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS), 2013/14 – 2018/19**



The rate of EOTAS pupils receiving their main education other than at school increased in 2018/19 over the year to 3.8 per 1,000 pupils. This is the highest rate since 2009/10.

**EOTAS pupils** are pupils who receive education outside of school funded by Welsh local authorities.

- **2,286** the number of EOTAS pupils.
- **1,784** the number of EOTAS pupils receiving their main education other than at school ([Table 1](#)).
- **3.8** out of 1,000 pupils in Wales received their main education other than at school ([Table 2](#)).

### Pupil referral

**units** were the most used type of EOTAS education ([Table 7](#)).

**7 out of 10** pupils whose main education is other than at school were **boys** ([Table 3](#)).

### About this release

This release covers data on individual pupils receiving education outside of school, including Pupil Referral Units, and includes data by age, gender and the type of provision.

Data are shown for Wales and at local authority/consortium level.

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## **Introduction**

The EOTAS Census covers pupils who are placed by Local Authorities (LAs) in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) or other forms of alternative provision referred to as 'Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS)'. It is equivalent of the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) for children educated other than at school.

The overriding criterion for inclusion in the EOTAS census is that it is for pupils for whom a Welsh LA has a financial responsibility and if not included in this census collection would not be picked up via PLASC. However, some pupils may legitimately be included in the EOTAS census and also on a school PLASC (for maintained primary, secondary and special schools).

The collection focuses on children receiving education funded by the LA other than at school as defined in Section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 i.e. those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise may not for any period receive suitable education.

### **Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)**

Section 19 (1) of the Education Act 1996 requires LAs to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at schools or otherwise for children of compulsory school age who, for whatever reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless suitable arrangements are made for them. Section 19 (2) states that any school established to provide education for such children and which is not a county [community] or special school, shall be known as a "Pupil Referral Unit".

### **Category of provision**

The pupil will either be placed in a PRU or another form of EOTAS provision. The categories are:

- Pupil Referral Unit
- Further education college
- Maintained primary, middle, secondary or special school
- Non-maintained special school
- Individual tuition and tuition at pupils' homes or at hospital
- Youth Gateway
- Work related education
- Training providers
- Voluntary organisations
- Brought in private sector provision
- Independent schools
- Pupil attending provision not maintained by the authority, or outside of the authority, for which the authority pays fees
- Awaiting provision or not currently in provision
- Other

**Table 1: Number of pupils educated other than at school, by local authority, 2018/19**

Local Authority	EOTAS pupils whose main education is outside of school and who			EOTAS pupils who	
	are not on roll at a maintained school	have subsidiary enrolment status at a maintained school	Total	have main or current enrolment status at a maintained school	All pupils receiving EOTAS provision
Isle of Anglesey	13	0	13	0	13
Gwynedd	40	0	40	0	40
Conwy	72	0	72	0	72
Denbighshire	87	0	87	58	145
Flintshire	80	41	121	6	127
Wrexham	17	45	62	*	*
Powys	53	6	59	*	*
Ceredigion	*	*	13	12	25
Pembrokeshire	14	109	123	13	136
Carmarthenshire	6	66	72	25	97
Swansea	59	93	152	22	174
Neath Port Talbot	*	*	45	*	*
Bridgend	0	69	69	10	79
The Vale of Glamorgan	37	77	114	23	137
Rhondda Cynon Taf	71	122	193	14	207
Merthyr Tydfil	8	65	73	25	98
Caerphilly	83	30	113	128	241
Blaenau Gwent	*	0	*	0	*
Torfaen	*	0	*	19	*
Monmouthshire	*	*	14	7	21
Newport	88	16	104	49	153
Cardiff	215	10	225	86	311
Wales:					
2018/19	1,027	757	1,784	502	2,286
2017/18	1,008	601	1,609	579	2,188
2016/17	892	510	1,402	570	1,972
2015/16	909	603	1,512	602	2,114
2014/15	909	478	1,387	770	2,157
2013/14	958	267	1,225	1,142	2,367

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government  
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

### Key points for 2018/19

**2,286** the number of EOTAS pupils, down 3% since 2013/14.

**1,784** the number of EOTAS pupils receiving their main education other than at school, up 46% since 2013/14.

**78%** the percentage of EOTAS pupils receiving their main education other than at school, up from 52% in 2013/14.

- In 2018/19, 2,286 pupils were reported to be receiving education other than at school funded by their local authority during the census week (14th to 18th January 2019). In this statistical release such pupils will be referred to as ‘EOTAS pupils’.
- Not all EOTAS pupils receive their education solely outside of the maintained school environment. In fact, many of them are still on roll at maintained schools. Of the 2,286 EOTAS pupils:
  - 1,027 EOTAS pupils were not on roll at a maintained school in the January 2019 Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC), so they only received education ‘other than at school’;
  - 757 EOTAS pupils had ‘subsidiary’ enrolment status in maintained schools in the January 2019 PLASC, meaning that their main education was ‘other than at school’; and;
  - 502 EOTAS pupils had ‘main’ or ‘current’ enrolment status in maintained schools in the January 2019 PLASC, which means that their main education was in a maintained school.
- This breakdown can be seen in the following diagram. The circle on the left represents the EOTAS pupils who were on roll at a maintained school, while the circle on the right shows the EOTAS pupils whose main education was other than at school. The section where the circles overlap shows the number of EOTAS pupils whose main education was other than at school and had ‘subsidiary’ enrolment status in a maintained school.



- Since pupils with ‘main’ or ‘current’ enrolment status in the January 2019 PLASC are included in the Schools’ Census publication, the main focus of this statistical release will be on the EOTAS pupils whose main education is other than at school – the 1,784 pupils represented by the circle on the right.

**Table 2: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by local authority, 2013/14-2018/19 (a)**

	Number						Rate (a)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Isle of Anglesey	23	23	20	40	29	13	2.4	2.4	2.1	4.1	3.0	1.3
Gwynedd	31	29	69	38	33	40	1.8	1.7	4.0	2.2	1.9	2.4
Conwy	75	70	55	63	64	72	4.7	4.4	3.4	4.0	4.0	4.5
Denbighshire	66	45	62	75	98	87	4.2	2.8	3.9	4.8	6.2	5.5
Flintshire	137	145	119	95	111	121	5.7	6.1	5.0	4.0	4.7	5.2
Wrexham	59	47	41	36	56	62	3.0	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.9	3.2
Powys	59	58	59	52	62	59	3.2	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.6	3.4
Ceredigion	16	15	31	15	*	*	1.7	1.6	3.2	1.6	*	*
Pembrokeshire	8	10	18	30	33	123	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.7	1.9	7.1
Carmarthenshire	30	50	72	59	68	72	1.1	1.8	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.6
Swansea	128	178	168	140	169	152	3.6	5.0	4.7	3.9	4.7	4.2
Neath Port Talbot	92	80	76	56	42	45	4.4	3.9	3.6	2.7	2.0	2.1
Bridgend	29	39	45	30	51	69	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.3	2.2	3.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	96	80	108	103	116	114	4.4	3.6	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	87	102	160	149	176	193	2.2	2.6	4.1	3.8	4.5	5.0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	3	40	29	48	73	0.0	0.3	4.6	3.3	5.4	8.0
Caerphilly	16	142	70	30	59	113	0.6	4.9	2.4	1.1	2.1	4.0
Blaenau Gwent	43	33	43	57	*	*	4.5	3.5	4.6	6.1	*	*
Torfaen	20	26	24	14	40	17	1.3	1.7	1.6	0.9	2.7	1.1
Monmouthshire	6	5	*	12	22	14	0.5	0.4	*	1.0	1.9	1.2
Newport	67	68	87	96	88	104	2.7	2.7	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.9
Cardiff	137	139	133	183	227	225	2.6	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.1	4.1
Wales	1,225	1,387	1,512	1,402	1,609	1,784	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.8

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government School Census, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools and pupils whose main education is other than at school as in the January School Census and EOTAS Pupil Census.

## Key points in 2018/19

**3.8** out of every 1,000 pupils received their main education other than at school.



The rate of pupils whose main education is other than at school increased during 2018/19.



**Merthyr Tydfil** had the highest rate of pupils whose main education is other than at school.

- In 2018/19, 3.8 out of every 1,000 pupils in Wales received their main education other than at school, which is up from 3.4 out of every 1,000 in 2017/18 and 2.6 out of every 1,000 in 2013/14.
- **Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf** and **Swansea** had the highest numbers of EOTAS pupils in 2018/19, but **Merthyr Tydfil** had the highest rate of EOTAS pupils in 2018/19 at 8.0 per 1,000 pupils.
- **Pembrokeshire** had a rate of 7.1 per 1,000 pupils, up from 1.9 in 2017/18. This is due to an increase in the number of pupils being recorded as subsidiary enrolment at a maintained school, as opposed to being recorded as main or current enrolment status.

**Table 3: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by age and gender, 2013/14 - 2018/19 (a)**

	Number						Rate (a)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Gender</b>												
Boys	858	990	1,060	979	1,139	1,253	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.8	5.2
Girls	367	397	452	423	470	531	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.3
Pupils	1,225	1,387	1,512	1,402	1,609	1,784	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.8
<b>Age (b)</b>												
19 or over	0	*	0	0	*	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
18	23	25	18	22	27	13	14.9	17.6	12.2	19.9	24.1	13.3
17	36	47	49	56	28	48	2.9	3.7	4.1	4.9	2.6	4.7
16	65	75	80	59	73	56	4.1	4.9	5.5	4.4	5.8	4.8
15	546	609	718	596	705	815	15.8	18.2	22.2	18.9	23.0	25.9
14	213	262	243	211	266	281	6.4	8.1	7.6	6.8	8.4	8.8
13	120	132	150	148	151	177	3.7	4.1	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.4
12	68	83	90	69	103	111	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.1	3.3
11	40	48	42	52	51	72	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	2.1
10	32	19	35	47	50	67	1.0	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.9
9	18	29	21	44	47	44	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.3
8	22	17	15	36	34	20	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.6
7	9	10	19	15	17	29	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8
6	7	10	7	18	22	21	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6
5	9	*	7	9	*	*	0.3	*	0.2	0.2	*	*
Under 5	17	14	18	20	17	20	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government  
School Census, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools and pupils whose main education is other than at school as in the January School Census and EOTAS Pupil Census.

(b) Age as on 31 August at the start of the academic year.

### Key points in 2018/19

For pupils whose main education is other than at school:

- 7 in every 10 pupils were boys.
- 6 in every 10 were aged 14 or 15.
- Pupils aged 15 had the highest rate of EOTAS pupils of all pupils of compulsory school age.

- Since 2013/14 there have been more boys whose main education is other than at school than girls and this continues to be the case in 2018/19. Around 7 in every 10 pupils whose main education is other than at school were boys.
- The rate of boys whose main education is other than school has increased from 4.8 out of 1,000 in 2017/18 to 5.2 in 2018/19. The rate of girls has increased from 2.0 out of 1,000 in 2017/18 to 2.3 in 2018/19.
- 15 year olds had the highest rate of pupils receiving their main education other than at school overall in 2018/19, with almost 26 in every 1,000 pupils of this age educated other than at school.
- The rate of pupils aged 11-15 whose main education is other than at school increases as the pupils' ages increase. In 2018/19, 2.1 out of every 1,000 pupils aged 11 received their main education other than at school and as pupils' ages increase, this rate also increases, to 25.9 out of every 1,000 pupils at age 15.

**Table 4: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by special educational need (SEN) provision, 2013/14 - 2018/19 (a)**

SEN provision	Number of pupils						Percentage of pupils (a)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Statement of SEN	424	463	472	468	545	583	34.6	33.4	31.2	33.4	33.9	32.7
School Action Plus	594	645	705	694	729	862	48.5	46.5	46.6	49.5	45.3	48.3
School Action	41	87	123	79	122	126	3.3	6.3	8.1	5.6	7.6	7.1
No SEN	166	192	212	161	213	213	13.6	13.8	14.0	11.5	13.2	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) Percentage of pupils whose main education is other than at school.

**88.1%** of pupils whose main education is other than at school in 2018/19 have special educational needs.

- In 2018/19 the percentage of pupils whose main education is other than at school with special educational needs increased compared to 2017/18.
- Since 2013/14, School Action Plus has been the most common SEN provision for pupils whose main education is other than at school.

**Table 5: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by free school meal (FSM) entitlement, 2013/14-2018/19 (a)**

Free school meal entitlement	Number of pupils						Percentage of pupils (a)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Entitled to FSM	407	484	629	462	632	649	33.2	34.9	41.6	33.0	39.3	36.4
Not entitled to FSM	818	903	883	940	977	1,135	66.8	65.1	58.4	67.0	60.7	63.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) Percentage of pupils whose main education is other than at school.

### Key points

Of pupils whose main education is other than at school;

- Around 7 out of 20 pupils were entitled to free school meals.

- 36.4 per cent of pupils whose main education is other than at school were entitled to free school meals in 2018/19.
- The percentage of pupils whose main education is other than at school who were entitled to free school meals decreased in 2018/19, but remained higher than the 33 per cent seen in 2016/17.



**Table 6: Pupils aged 5 and over whose main education is other than at school, by ethnic background, 2013/14-2018/19 (a)**

Ethnic background	Number of pupils						Rate (a)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>White</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>
White - British	1,075	1,225	1,371	1,262	1,430	1,579	3.0	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.5
Any other white background	31	38	31	29	33	59	3.4	3.7	2.8	2.4	2.6	4.4
Mixed	25	32	32	34	45	46	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.8	3.6
Asian	*	7	10	8	11	11	*	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1
Black	*	*	*	*	*	7	*	*	*	*	*	1.9
Chinese or Chinese British	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other ethnic group	5	*	*	*	*	6	1.2	*	*	*	*	1.1
<b>Total with valid category</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Unknown or not stated	65	66	44	38	63	56	25.9	29.1	20.7	19.3	31.6	23.8
<b>All pupils</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils of this ethnic minority. Full- and part-time pupils in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools and pupils whose main education is other than at school as in the January School Census and EOTAS Pupil Census.

(b) Age as at 31st August at the start of the academic year.

(c) "." means data item is not applicable

(d) This table represents pupils aged 5 and over only.

- 4.5 out of 1,000 pupils with a “White” ethnic background are receiving their main education other than at school.
- In 2018/19, the number of pupils with a “White” or “Mixed” ethnic background being educated other than at school is the highest it has been since 2013/14.

**Table 7: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by educational provision, 2018/19**

Since pupils may attend more than one educational provision in a week, some pupils may be counted against more than one provision. That is why the number of enrolments is higher than the number of pupils whose main education is other than at school (1,784 pupils) in Table 1.

Educational provision	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments	Average number of hours a pupil is scheduled to attend in a week
Pupil referral unit (a)	820	43.5	23.3
Further education college	209	11.1	24.7
Maintained school	92	4.9	10.6
Non-maintained special school	68	3.6	25.2
Individual tuition	265	14.0	11.8
Youth Gateway	0	0.0	.
Work-related education	15	0.8	15.7
Training provider	38	2.0	22.0
Voluntary organisation	0	0.0	.
Bought in private sector provision	18	1.0	20.8
Independent school	270	14.3	25.0
Provision not maintained by, or is outside of, authority	17	0.9	22.6
Awaiting provision or not currently in provision	28	1.5	.
Other	47	2.5	20.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) The pupils who are enrolled at a PRU but have zero hours of provision recorded are excluded from this table.

"." data item is not applicable.

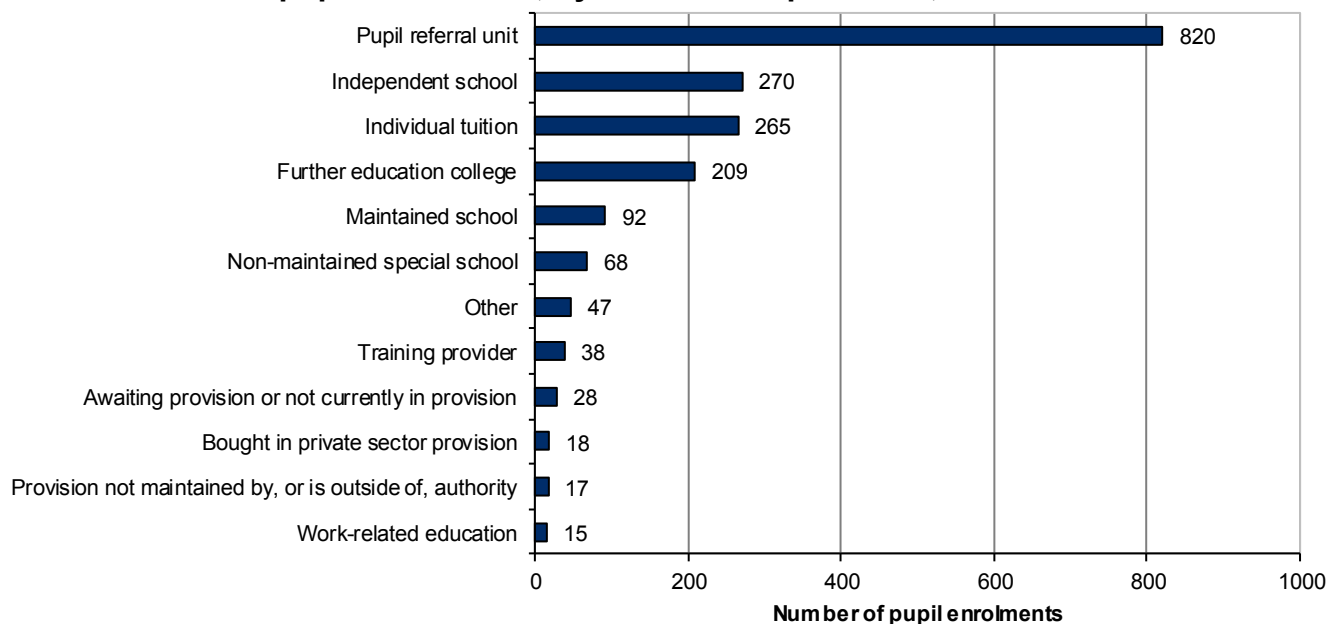
## Key points

Pupils whose main education is other than at school:

- **43.5%** - Percentage of pupil enrolments were at pupil referral units.
- **28** - Number of pupils not receiving educational provision during the census week.

- In 2018/19 there were 820 enrolments at pupil referral units, which accounted for 43.5 per cent of all EOTAS educational enrolments. Pupil referral units were used much more frequently to educate EOTAS pupils than other provisions.
- Independent Schools were the next most frequent educational provision, accounting for 14.3 per cent of EOTAS educational enrolments. Individual tuition accounted for 14 per cent while further education made up 11.1 per cent of EOTAS provision
- Although the EOTAS data collection refers to pupils educated other than at school, in some circumstances EOTAS pupils are placed into a maintained school as part of their provision. 92 pupils received EOTAS education in a maintained school.
- The average number of hours of education provided to pupils whose main education is outside of school was 21.0 hours during the census week. Pupils enrolled at non-maintained special schools received the highest average number of hours of provision during the census week, with an average of 25.2 hours provided per pupil.

**Chart 2: Number of pupil enrolments, by educational provision, 2018/19**



**Chart 3: Percentage of pupil enrolments, by educational provision, 2013/14 - 2018/19**

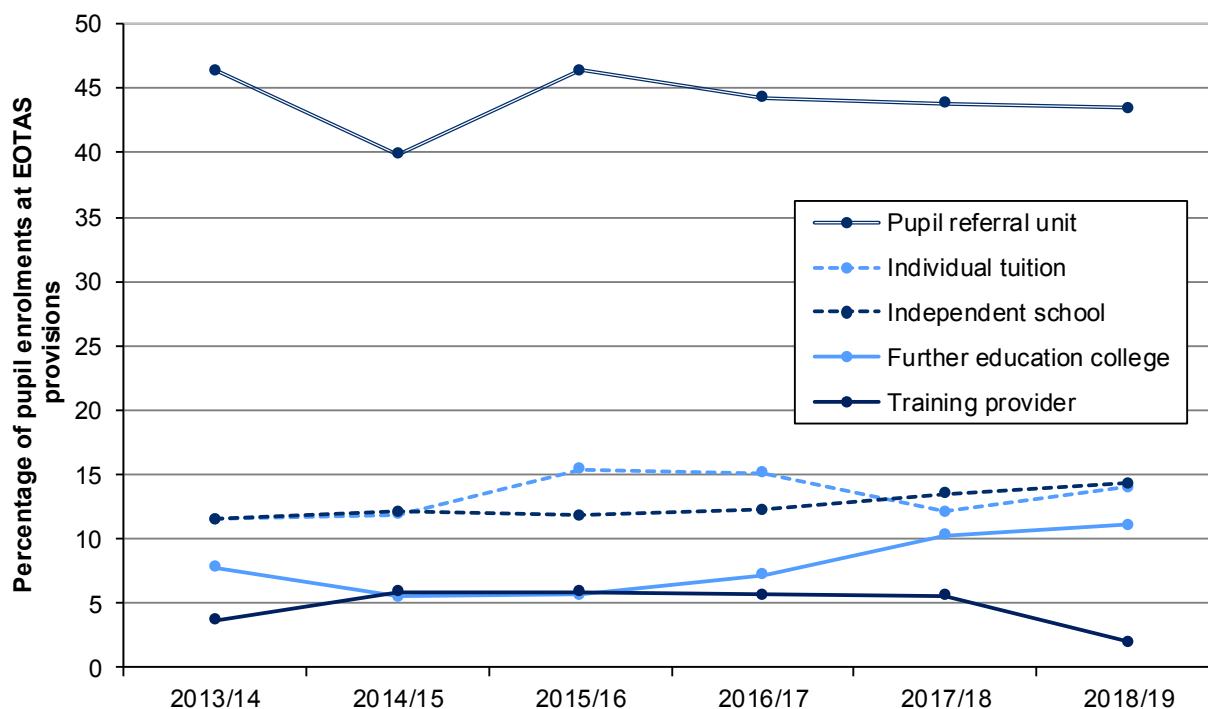


Chart 3 shows how the percentages of pupil enrolments in EOTAS provision have changed since 2013/14.

- Pupil referral units have been the most frequently-used EOTAS provision since 2013/14. Their usage peaked in 2015/16. Pupil referral unit usage decreased slightly during 2018/19.
- In 2018/19 the use of both individual tuition and independent schools as EOTAS provision increased. Independent Schools were the second most used provision for EOTAS pupils during 2018/19.
- In 2018/19, the use of further education colleges increased whilst remaining the fourth most used EOTAS provision. Training providers were the fifth most frequent provision, but the number of enrolments at training providers dropped by 60 per cent from 2017/18.

**Table 8: Number of pupils attending pupil referral units in Wales, by age, 2018/19**

Age (a)	Pupils who are registered at a single PRU (b)			Pupils who are dually registered at a PRU (c)		
	Boys	Girls	Pupils	Boys	Girls	Pupils
19 or over	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	*	*	6	0	0	0
15	248	121	369	*	*	13
14	110	51	161	41	21	62
13	61	27	88	33	10	43
12	52	9	61	*	*	23
11	*	*	39	11	0	11
10	*	*	35	*	*	16
9	*	*	29	15	0	15
8	16	0	16	18	0	18
7	*	*	19	11	0	11
6	*	*	13	*	0	*
5	*	*	6	*	0	*
Under 5	*	*	15	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>221</b>

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government  
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

(a) Age as at 31 August 2018.

(b) Figures relate to pupils educated at only one PRU and include pupils receiving other EOTAS provisions or being recorded as having 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2018/19 Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC), but exclude those with 'main' or 'current' enrolment in a maintained or special school in PLASC.

(c) Figures relate to pupils educated at more than one PRU or educated at a PRU while having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2018/19 PLASC.

## Key points

EOTAS pupils registered at Pupil Referral Units (PRUs):

- 857 pupils were registered at one PRU only.
- 221 pupils were dually registered at a PRU.

- During the 2018/19 census week 857 EOTAS pupils were registered at a single pupil referral unit (PRU). Nearly three quarters of these pupils were boys.
- The number of pupils registered at PRUs increases with each age group from age 11 up to age 15.
- 221 pupils were dually registered at a PRU during the 2018/19 census week. This means that they were either attending more than one PRU or were on roll at one PRU but receiving their main education in a maintained school.

**Table 9: Number of pupils attending pupil referral units in Wales, by local authority, 2018/19**

Local Authority (a)	Pupils who are registered at a single PRU (b)			Pupils who are dually registered at a PRU (c)		
	Boys	Girls	Pupils	Boys	Girls	Pupils
Isle of Anglesey	*	0	*	0	0	0
Gwynedd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	35	20	55	0	0	0
Denbighshire	*	*	11	50	6	56
Flintshire	76	27	103	5	0	5
Wrexham	36	22	58	*	0	*
Powys	17	5	22	*	0	*
Ceredigion	*	*	8	*	*	12
Pembrokeshire	79	24	103	*	*	8
Carmarthenshire	40	26	66	*	*	6
Swansea	89	22	111	*	*	12
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	7	17	24	*	*	10
The Vale of Glamorgan	57	12	69	0	*	*
Rhondda Cynon Taf	82	16	98	*	*	10
Merthyr Tydfil	*	*	17	10	0	10
Caerphilly	*	*	13	*	*	12
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torfaen	*	0	*	*	*	10
Monmouthshire	5	6	11	*	*	*
Newport	43	10	53	38	9	47
Cardiff	21	11	32	8	8	16
Wales	630	227	857	180	41	221

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government  
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

(a) Refers to the local authority in which pupils attended PRUs, not the local authority funding the provision.

(b) Figures relate to pupils educated at only one PRU and include pupils receiving other EOTAS provisions or being recorded as having 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2018/19 Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC), but exclude those with 'main' or 'current' enrolment in a maintained or special school in PLASC.

(c) Figures relate to pupils educated at more than one PRU or educated at a PRU while having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2018/19 PLASC.

- Swansea had the most pupils registered at only one pupil referral unit (111 pupils).
- Gwynedd, Neath Port Talbot and Blaenau Gwent had no pupils on roll at a pupil referral unit during the 2018/19 census week.
- Denbighshire had the most dually registered pupils at a pupil referral unit (56 pupils).

**Table 10: Number of pupils of compulsory school age educated at home, by local authority, 2013/14-2018/19 (a)**

	Number						Rate (b)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Isle of Anglesey	23	21	23	36	37	12	3.1	2.8	3.0	4.7	4.7	1.5
Gwynedd	69	55	64	53	45	65	5.0	4.0	4.6	3.8	3.2	4.6
Conwy	40	62	108	76	101	116	3.2	5.0	8.6	6.1	8.0	9.1
Denbighshire	58	55	47	51	65	80	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.0	5.1	6.2
Flintshire	39	46	59	71	63	94	2.1	2.5	3.1	3.8	3.3	4.9
Wrexham	20	30	47	72	68	85	1.3	1.9	3.0	4.5	4.2	5.2
Powys	120	112	122	133	131	156	8.0	7.6	8.4	9.1	9.0	10.7
Ceredigion	112	111	113	139	151	171	14.7	14.9	15.0	18.4	19.6	21.9
Pembrokeshire	92	106	123	132	195	182	6.5	7.6	8.9	9.5	13.8	12.8
Carmarthenshire	122	160	209	..	..	284	5.7	7.4	9.6	..	..	12.7
Swansea	81	104	128	153	157	137	2.9	3.7	4.5	5.4	5.4	4.7
Neath Port Talbot	34	58	91	117	147	177	2.0	3.5	5.4	6.9	8.5	10.1
Bridgend	43	67	74	88	103	128	2.5	3.9	4.2	4.9	5.8	7.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	30	35	32	33	45	68	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.6	3.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	55	63	83	118	119	146	1.9	2.1	2.8	3.9	3.9	4.7
Merthyr Tydfil	13	17	20	31	42	43	1.8	2.4	2.8	4.3	5.8	5.8
Caerphilly	31	29	42	61	78	62	1.4	1.3	1.9	2.7	3.4	2.7
Blaenau Gwent	19	14	15	30	51	71	2.4	1.8	2.0	4.0	6.7	9.2
Torfaen	32	36	50	51	67	70	2.7	3.0	4.2	4.2	5.5	5.7
Monmouthshire	24	27	31	49	52	60	2.6	2.9	3.3	5.2	5.5	6.4
Newport	26	33	36	42	59	92	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.9	4.4
Cardiff	142	158	165	188	188	218	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.3	5.0
Wales	1,225	1,399	1,682	1,724	1,964	2,517	3.4	3.8	4.6	4.9	5.5	6.6

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) Data relate to pupils aged 5 to 15 on 31 August before the start of the academic year. Where local authorities do not know a pupil's age they were asked to provide an estimate.

(b) Rate per 1,000 pupils aged 5-15 on 31 August before the start of the academic year. The denominator includes pupils whose main education is other than at school, pupils who had 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in the January PLASC and pupils who are known to be electively home educated.

".." means that the data item is not available.

## Key points

- The number of children (pupils) whose parents have elected to educate them at home has been rising for the past 6 years.
- 2,517 pupils were electively home educated in 2018/19.
- Ceredigion had the highest rate of elective home educated pupils in 2018/19.

- In the 2018/19 academic year 2,517 children were known to be electively home educated in Wales. This means that the parents of these pupils decided to educate their children at home instead of sending them to school.
- The rate of elective home educated pupils increased in 2018/19 to 6.6 out of 1,000, from 5.5 out of 1,000 in 2017/18. The rate increased in all local authorities with the exceptions of Isle of Anglesey, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Caerphilly.
- In 2013/14, 3.4 out of 1,000 pupils were electively home educated. The rate has increased each year since then.
- Isle of Anglesey had the lowest rate of electively home educated children (1.5 per 1,000 pupils) while Ceredigion had the highest rate (21.9 per 1,000 pupils). Ceredigion has consistently reported the highest rate of electively home educated children since 2013/14.

- As parents notify their local authority that they are home educating their children on a voluntary basis (unless they have withdrawn their child from school), these data may not include all electively home educated children.

## Notes

### Context

#### Policy/operational

Local authorities are required to provide suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.

In practice, local authorities respond to that duty in widely varying ways, relating to their individual circumstances, such as their geography, socio-economic situation and educational policies. In September 2015 the Welsh Government established an Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) Task and Finish Group, chaired by former Estyn Chief Inspector Ann Keane. The EOTAS Task and Finish Group developed the framework, with engagement from the sector, as a response to reports by Estyn, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the University of Edinburgh.

The "[Education otherwise than at school \(EOTAS\) Framework for Action](#)" was last updated on 3 January 2018.

### Key quality information

This section provides information about the quality of the statistics in this release in five areas: Relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, and comparability and coherence.

### National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics

status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2010 following a [compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation](#). These statistics last underwent a [full assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in 2010.

### **Data source and coverage**

The EOTAS Pupil Census is carried out annually and collects data on pupils educated other than at school from local authorities electronically via a secure website. The collection is carried out by the school statistics team in Knowledge and Analytical Services within the Welsh Government.

The information in this Statistical First Release relates to pupils receiving local authority-funded education outside of the mainstream school environment during a census week each January and the number of pupils of compulsory school age (aged 5 to 15 on 31 August before the start of the academic year) known by local authorities to be electively home educated. For the 2018/19 academic year the census week was 14 to 18 January 2019.

In 2018/19, data were received on 2,286 pupils receiving education other than at school from all 22 local authorities in Wales. Of the 2,286 pupils receiving EOTAS provision, 502 were recorded in the January 2019 Pupil-Level Annual School Census as having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in maintained primary, secondary or special schools and were therefore considered to be receiving their main education in a maintained school. The remaining 1,784 pupils were considered to be receiving their main education other than at school. The focus of this Statistical First Release is on pupils mainly educated other than at school, but to give a complete picture it was necessary to include all pupils receiving EOTAS provision in [Table 1](#), [Table 8](#) and [Table 9](#).

Local authorities reported that in 2018/19, 2,626 pupils were known to be electively home educated. Of these pupils, 109 were known to not be of compulsory school age so they were excluded from the figures contained in this release, leaving a total of 2,517 pupils.

Data on electively home educated pupils is not mandatory for the local authority to provide. In some years, there is not full coverage from all local authorities for this data (presented in table 10). Known under-coverage includes:

- In 2012/13 Caerphilly did not submit data for home educated pupils.
- In 2016/17 and 2017/18 Carmarthenshire did not submit data for home educated pupils.

### **Users and uses**

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- other government departments
- local authorities and schools
- Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales
- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government



- other areas of the Welsh Government
- the research community
- students, academics and universities
- individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- to advise Ministers
- to inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales
- to inform Estyn during inspections
- to assist in research in educational attainment.

### **Accuracy**

The Welsh Government works closely with local authorities in order to ensure all data are validated before tables are published. Data are collated into an electronic return and submitted to the Welsh Government through DEWi, a secure online data transfer system developed by the Welsh Government. Various stages of automated validation and sense-checking are built into the process to ensure a high quality of data.

Starting in 2011/12, following the collection of the data an additional validation period was carried out in which local authorities were sent summary tables of their data and asked to check that they were correct. While most of the data were confirmed to be correct, these checking periods highlighted problems with several local authorities' data which were resolved, further improving the accuracy of the data.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

This release is published each year around the end of July. The local authorities are provided with a period to upload data and respond to validation queries prior to the publication of results.

### **Accessibility and clarity**

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government's website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free-to-use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate and download data.

### **Comparability and coherence**

Tables and charts in this statistical first release contain data about different groups of EOTAS pupils as defined in the 'Definitions' section below. Whether the tables and charts are referring to EOTAS pupils whose main education is other than at school, whose main education is at a maintained school or all EOTAS pupils is clearly indicated, so before comparing two tables or charts please check that they are referring to the same group of EOTAS pupils.

Pupils by age ([Table 3](#)) and by SEN ([Table 4](#)) can be set in context by comparing to the general school population. The relevant data can be found in the publication of final school census results here: [Schools' census results](#)

From 2017/18, [StatsWales tables](#) are published to accompany this statistical first release.

England publishes the number of pupils on roll at Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision in the statistical release entitled 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2019'. The latest available statistics can be found here: [School, pupils and their characteristics: January 2019](#)

Related statistics for Northern Ireland can be found here: [Education Outside of School](#)

## Definitions

### Definitions of pupils educated other than at school

In the context of this statistical release:

- a pupil being educated other than at school (EOTAS) was recorded as receiving or awaiting education provision funded by the local authority otherwise than in a maintained school setting during the census week of the EOTAS Pupil Census. A pupil may also be included in this category if:
  - they attend an independent or non-maintained special school for which the local authority is responsible for paying all or part of the tuition fees;
  - they are placed in a maintained school as part of their education funded by the local authority.
- the phrase EOTAS pupil is used to refer to a pupil educated other than at school as defined above.
- an EOTAS pupil whose main education is other than at school is a pupil being educated other than at school who is either not on roll at a maintained school or is recorded as having a 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained school in the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census.
- an EOTAS pupil whose main education is in a maintained school is a pupil being educated other than at school with a 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census.
- pupils being electively home educated are children whose parents have decided to educate at home rather than at school and are not classed as EOTAS pupils in this publication. Although by definition they are educated other than at school, education for these pupils is not funded by the local authority and there is no legal basis under which the local authority can collect personal data about them. Data on electively home educated pupils are restricted to headcounts by local authority and are provided voluntarily by the local authority. Figures related to pupils electively home educated have been reported in separate tables to those relating to EOTAS pupils.

### Free school meal (FSM) eligibility

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are eligible to receive free school meals in maintained schools in Wales:

- Income Support

- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on'- the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit.

Children who receive income related employment and support allowance, Universal Credit, Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive Free School Meals.

Pupils should only be recorded as eligible if they have applied for free school meals to the local authority and (1) the relevant authority has confirmed their eligibility, or (2) final confirmation of eligibility is still awaited but the school has seen documents that strongly indicate eligibility.

### **Special educational needs (SEN)**

Pupils known to have special educational needs can be in one of the following categories:

- **School Action:** When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has special educational needs they provide interventions that are additional to, or different from, those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.
- **School Action Plus:** When the class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional to, or different from, those provided for the pupil through 'School Action' can be put in place.
- **Statement:** Pupils for whom the local authority maintains a statement of special educational needs under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. A statement may be issued by the local authority after assessment of a child's needs.

### **Rounding and symbols**

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total shown.

The following symbols have been used throughout this publication:

- . data item is not applicable.
- .. data item is not available.
- \* data item is disclosive.

## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### Further details

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/pupils-educated-other-school-september-2018-august-2019>

### Accessing the data electronically

The data behind some of the charts and tables in this release can be found on [StatsWales](#) (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables and charts).

Further data relating to these tables or attendance data for individual schools is available on request; please email [school.stats@gov.wales](mailto:school.stats@gov.wales).

### Next update

July 2020 (provisional)

The next update will cover the 2019/20 academic year.

### We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [school.stats@gov.wales](mailto:school.stats@gov.wales).

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