



Department  
for Education

# **Special educational needs in England: January 2020**

**Metadata guidance document**

**July 2020**

# Contents

Description .....	3
Coverage.....	3
File format and conventions .....	3
Rounding .....	3
Conventions.....	3
Data files .....	4
Annex A: Variable listing and descriptions.....	5

## Description

This document describes the data included in the 'Special educational needs in England' 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 publication methodology, available on the publication report, 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 number of schools and pupils in:

- state-funded primary schools
- state-funded secondary schools
- state-funded special schools
- non-maintained special schools
- pupil referral units
- independent schools

It includes information on:

- pupil numbers, including, SEN provision, SEN type of need gender, ethnicity, language and free school meals eligibility
- school numbers, including resourced provision, SEN units and approved provisions (special schools only)

The information is based on data collected via the pupil level spring school census, school level annual school census, general hospital schools census and alternative provision census.

## 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:

<b>File name</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Geographical levels</b>	<b>Years</b>
sen_phase	Number of pupils in state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools by SEN provision, type of need and school type	National; Regional; Local authority	2015/16 to 2019/20
sen_fsm_ethnicity_language	Number of pupils in state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units by SEN provision, type of need, free school meal eligibility, language and ethnicity.	National; Regional; Local authority	2015/16 to 2019/20
sen_ncyear	Number of pupils in state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units by SEN provision, type of need and national curriculum year.	National; Regional; Local authority;	2015/16 to 2019/20
sen_age_gender.csv	Number of pupils in state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units by SEN provision, type of need, age and gender.	National; Regional; Local authority;	2015/16 to 2019/20
sen_secondary_need.csv	Number of pupils in state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units by SEN provision, primary type of need and secondary type of need	National; Regional; Local authority;	2015/16 to 2019/20
sen_school_level_underlying_data	School level file, containing one row per school included in the publication, including headcounts and breakdowns of SEN provision and type of need	School	2019/20

## 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
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
Open date	School open date
Sex_of_school_description	Sex of school description
Phase-type_grouping	School type
TypeOfEstablishment_(name)	School type (detailed)
Middle school	Middle school indicator
All through school	All through school indicator
Hospital school	Hospital school indicator
Denomination	Denomination
Admissions_Policy	School admissions policy
Urban_rural	Urban or rural indicator
district_administrative_code	District administrative code of school
district_administrative_name	District administrative name of school
parlc_code	Parliamentary constituency code of school
parlc_name	Parliamentary constituency name of school
ward_code	Ward code of school
ward_name	Ward name of school
school_postcode	School postcode
LSOA11	Lower Super Output Area of school
Total pupils	Total pupils
SEN support	Number of pupils with SEN support
EHC plan	Number of pupils with EHC plan
EHC_Primary_need_spld	Number of pupils with EHC plan and SPLD as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_mld	Number of pupils with EHC plan and MLD as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_sld	Number of pupils with EHC plan and SLD as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_pmld	Number of pupils with EHC plan and PMLD as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_semh	Number of pupils with EHC plan and SEMH as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_slcn	Number of pupils with EHC plan and SLCN as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_hi	Number of pupils with EHC plan and HI as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_vi	Number of pupils with EHC plan and VI as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_msi	Number of pupils with EHC plan and MSI as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_pd	Number of pupils with EHC plan and PD as primary need

EHC_Primary_need_asd	Number of pupils with EHC plan and ASD as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_oth	Number of pupils with EHC plan and Other as primary need
EHC_Primary_need_nsa	Number of pupils with EHC plan and no assesment as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_spld	Number of pupils with SEN support and SPLD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_mld	Number of pupils with SEN support and MLD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_sld	Number of pupils with SEN support and SLD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_pmlld	Number of pupils with SEN support and PMLD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_semh	Number of pupils with SEN support and SEMH as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_slcn	Number of pupils with SEN support and SLCN as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_hi	Number of pupils with SEN support and HI as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_vi	Number of pupils with SEN support and VI as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_msi	Number of pupils with SEN support and MSI as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_pd	Number of pupils with SEN support and PD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_asd	Number of pupils with SEN support and ASD as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_oth	Number of pupils with SEN support and Other as primary need
SUP_Primary_need_nsa	Number of pupils with SEN support and no assesment as primary need
Prov_SPLD	School approved provision (SPLD)
Prov_MLD	School approved provision (MLD)
Prov_SLD	School approved provision (SLD)
Prov_PMLD	School approved provision (PMLD)
Prov_SEMH	School approved provision (SEMH)
prov_slcn	School approved provision (SLCN)
prov_hi	School approved provision (HI)
prov_vi	School approved provision (VI)
prov_msi	School approved provision (MSI)
prov_pd	School approved provision (PD)
prov_asd	School approved provision (ASD)
prov_oth	School approved provision (Other)
SEN_Unit	School has pupils recorded attending an SEN unit
RP_Unit	School has pupils recorded attending resourced provision
phase_type_grouping	Phase type of school
type_of_establishment	School type detail
hospital_school	Hospital school flag
total_pupils	Headcount
sen_support	SEN support
ehc_plan	EHC plans/Statements of SEN
sen_support_percent	SEN support (percent)
ehc_plan_percent	EHC plans/Statements of SEN (percent)
number_of_pupils	Headcount
nc_early_years	Early years
nc_reception	Reception
nc_year_1	Year group 1
nc_year_2	Year group 2
nc_year_3	Year group 3

nc_year_4	Year group 4
nc_year_5	Year group 5
nc_year_6	Year group 6
nc_year_7	Year group 7
nc_year_8	Year group 8
nc_year_9	Year group 9
nc_year_10	Year group 10
nc_year_11	Year group 11
nc_year_12	Year group 12
nc_year_13	Year group 13
nc_year_14	Year group 14
nc_not_followed	National curriculum not followed
nc_early_years_percent	Early years (%)
nc_reception_percent	Reception (%)
nc_year_1_percent	Year group 1 (%)
nc_year_2_percent	Year group 2 (%)
nc_year_3_percent	Year group 3 (%)
nc_year_4_percent	Year group 4 (%)
nc_year_5_percent	Year group 5 (%)
nc_year_6_percent	Year group 6 (%)
nc_year_7_percent	Year group 7 (%)
nc_year_8_percent	Year group 8 (%)
nc_year_9_percent	Year group 9 (%)
nc_year_10_percent	Year group 10 (%)
nc_year_11_percent	Year group 11 (%)
nc_year_12_percent	Year group 12 (%)
nc_year_13_percent	Year group 13 (%)
nc_year_14_percent	Year group 14 (%)
nc_not_followed_percent	National curriculum not followed (%)
secondary_need_SPLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
secondary_need_MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
secondary_need_SLD	Severe Learning Difficulty
secondary_need_PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty
secondary_need_SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
secondary_need_SLCN	Speech, Language and Communications needs
secondary_need_HI	Hearing impairment
secondary_need_VI	Visual impairment
secondary_need_MSI	Multi-sensory Impairment
secondary_need_PD	Physical Disability
secondary_need_ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
secondary_need_OTH	Other Difficulty or Disability
secondary_need_NSA	SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need
secondary_need_SPLD_percent	Specific Learning Difficulty (%)
secondary_need_MLD_percent	Moderate Learning Difficulty (%)
secondary_need_SLD_percent	Severe Learning Difficulty (%)
secondary_need_PMLD_percent	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (%)
secondary_need_SEMH_percent	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (%)
secondary_need_SLCN_percent	Speech, Language and Communications needs (%)
secondary_need_HI_percent	Hearing impairment (%)

secondary_need_VI_percent	Visual impairment (%)
secondary_need_MSI_percent	Multi-sensory Impairment (%)
secondary_need_PD_percent	Physical Disability (%)
secondary_need_ASD_percent	Autistic Spectrum Disorder (%)
secondary_need_OTH_percent	Other Difficulty or Disability (%)
secondary_need_NSA_percent	SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need (%)
age_2_and_under	Age 2 and under
age_3_lower	Age 3 (lower)
age_3_middle	Age 3 (middle)
age_3_upper	Age 3 (upper)
age_4_lower	Age 4 (lower)
age_4_middle	Age 4 (middle)
age_4_upper	Age 4 (upper)
age_5	Age 5
age_6	Age 6
age_7	Age 7
age_8	Age 8
age_9	Age 9
age_10	Age 10
age_11	Age 11
age_12	Age 12
age_13	Age 13
age_14	Age 14
age_15	Age 15
age_16	Age 16
age_17	Age 17
age_18	Age 18
age_19_and_over	Age 19 and over
pupil_gender_boys	Boys
pupil_gender_girls	Girls
age_2_and_under_percent	Age 2 and under (%)
age_3_lower_percent	Age 3 (lower) (%)
age_3_middle_percent	Age 3 (middle) (%)
age_3_upper_percent	Age 3 (upper) (%)
age_4_lower_percent	Age 4 (lower) (%)
age_4_middle_percent	Age 4 (middle) (%)
age_4_upper_percent	Age 4 (upper) (%)
age_5_percent	Age 5 (%)
age_6_percent	Age 6 (%)
age_7_percent	Age 7 (%)
age_8_percent	Age 8 (%)
age_9_percent	Age 9 (%)
age_10_percent	Age 10 (%)
age_11_percent	Age 11 (%)
age_12_percent	Age 12 (%)
age_13_percent	Age 13 (%)
age_14_percent	Age 14 (%)
age_15_percent	Age 15 (%)
age_16_percent	Age 16 (%)



age_17_percent	Age 17 (%)
age_18_percent	Age 18 (%)
age_19_and_over_percent	Age 19 and over (%)
pupil_gender_boys_percent	Boys (%)
pupil_gender_girls_percent	Girls (%)
fsm_not_eligible	Not eligible for free school meals
fsm_eligible	Eligible for free school meals
ethnicity_White_British	White - White British
ethnicity_irish	White - Irish
ethnicity_traveller_of_Irish_heritage	White - Traveller of Irish heritage
ethnicity_any_other_White_background	White - any other White background
ethnicity_gypsy_roma	White - Gypsy/Roma
ethnicity_white_and_Black_Caribbean	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
ethnicity_white_and_Black_African	Mixed - White and Black African
ethnicity_white_and_Asian	Mixed - White and Asian
ethnicity_any_other_mixed_background	Mixed - Any other mixed background
ethnicity_indian	Asian - Indian
ethnicity_pakistani	Asian - Pakistani
ethnicity_bangladeshi	Asian - Bangladeshi
ethnicity_any_other_Asian_background	Asian - any other Asian background
ethnicity_black_Caribbean	Black - Black Caribbean
ethnicity_black_African	Black - Black African
ethnicity_Any_other_Black_background	Black - Any other Black background
ethnicity_chinese	Chinese
ethnicity_any_other_ethnic_group	Any other ethnic group
ethnicity_unclassified	Unclassified
language_english	First language is known to be, or believed to be English
language_other	First language is known to be, or believed to be, other than English
language_unclassified	First language unclassified
fsm_not_eligible_percent	Not eligible for free school meals (%)
fsm_eligible_percent	Eligible for free school meals (%)
ethnicity_White_British_percent	White - White British (%)
ethnicity_irish_percent	White - Irish (%)
ethnicity_traveller_of_Irish_heritage_percent	White - Traveller of Irish heritage (%)
ethnicity_any_other_White_background_percent	White - any other White background (%)
ethnicity_gypsy_roma_percent	White - Gypsy/Roma (%)
ethnicity_white_and_Black_Caribbean_percent	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean (%)
ethnicity_white_and_Black_African_percent	Mixed - White and Black African (%)
ethnicity_white_and_Asian_percent	Mixed - White and Asian (%)
ethnicity_any_other_mixed_background_percent	Mixed - Any other mixed background (%)
ethnicity_indian_percent	Asian - Indian (%)
ethnicity_pakistani_percent	Asian - Pakistani (%)
ethnicity_bangladeshi_percent	Asian - Bangladeshi (%)

ethnicity_any_other_Asian_background_percent	Asian - any other Asian background (%)
ethnicity_black_Caribbean_percent	Black - Black Caribbean (%)
ethnicity_black_African_percent	Black - Black African (%)
ethnicity_Any_other_Black_background_percent	Black - Any other Black background (%)
ethnicity_chinese_percent	Chinese (%)
ethnicity_any_other_ethnic_group_percent	Any other ethnic group (%)
ethnicity_unclassified_percent	Unclassified (%)
language_english_percent	First language is known to be, or believed to be English (%)
language_other_percent	First language is known to be, or believed to be, other than English (%)
language_unclassified_percent	First language unclassified (%)



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