**Pupil absence in schools in England: Autumn 2016 and spring 2017 national, local authority and school level underlying data**

**Metadata specification**

**Description**

This document describes the data included in the ‘Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2016 and spring term 2017’ National Statistics release’s underlying data file. This data is released under the terms of the [Open Government License](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) and is intended to meet at least 3 stars for [Open Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-transparency-and-accountability-of-government-and-its-services/supporting-pages/releasing-data-in-open-formats).

The underlying data files include national, regional, local authority and school level absence information for the autumn /spring terms 2016/17 for schools in England.

The [Guide to absence statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428446/Guide_to_absence_statistics.pdf) 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.

**File format**

The underlying data contains the following files:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **File and description** | **Geographic levels** | **Time period** |
| **SFR55\_2017\_national\_region\_la\_school.csv**  Absence information for all enrolments in state-funded primary and secondary schools including information on overall absence, persistent absence and reason for absence for pupils aged 5-15. | National  Regional  Local authority  School | Autumn/spring 2006/07 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_four\_year\_olds.csv**  Overall absence for four year old pupils. | National  Regional  Local authority  School | Autumn/spring 2012/13 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_pupil\_referral\_units.csv**  Absence information for all enrolments in pupil referral units including information on overall absence, persistent absence and reason for absence. | National  Regional  Local authority | Autumn/spring 2013/14 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_one\_plus\_sessions.csv**  For enrolments in primary and secondary schools, information on the number of enrolments with one or more session of absence, including by reason for absence. | National  Regional  Local authority  School | Autumn/spring 2006/07 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_one\_percent\_bands.csv**  For enrolments in primary and secondary schools, information on the number of enrolments by overall absence percentage point bands. | National | Autumn/spring 2006/07 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_national\_characteristics.csv**  For enrolments in primary and secondary schools, information on the overall, authorised, unauthorised and persistent absence rates by pupil characteristics. | National | Autumn/spring 2012/13 – Autumn/spring 2016/17 inclusive |
| **SFR55\_2017\_special\_schools.csv**  Absence information for enrolments in special schools including information on overall absence, persistent absence and reason for absence. | National  Regional  Local authority  School | Autumn/spring 2016/17 |

**Suppression**

Totals are rounded and small numbers are suppressed according to the following rules:

* Enrolment numbers at national and regional levels are rounded to the nearest 5.
* Enrolment numbers of 1 or 2 are suppressed to protect pupil confidentiality.
* Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on enrolment numbers of 1 or 2, the percentage is suppressed.
* Where any number is shown as 0, the original figure was also 0.

Symbols used to identify this in published tables are as follows:

0 Zero

x Small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality

. Not applicable

**Notes**

Please note that all data, including the school level data included in the underlying data is (apart from rounding and suppression as outlined above) as reported by schools to the Department in the relevant school census returns. As data cannot be amended once the relevant school census collection has closed, this means the data may include a small number of figures which are a result of administrative errors which were not identified before final returns were submitted.

Some URN information is missing for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09. These are marked as “.”.

**Annex A – Field Listing**

A full list of absence fields used in underlying data files is given below.

| **Variable name** | **Variable description** |
| --- | --- |
| term | School terms absence information is applicable to |
| year | Academic year absence information is applicable to |
| level | Geographical level i.e. national; region; local authority; school |
| country\_code | Country code– 9 digit 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 LA/establishment number |
| urn | Unique Reference Number of the school as at 12 September of the relevant year |
| school\_type | School type |
| academy\_type | Academy type as at 12 September of the relevant year  [Note: This field is only populated for Autumn/spring 2012/13 – Autumn/spring 2015/16 inclusive] |
| academy\_open\_date | The open date of the academy (only populated for those academies open as at 12 September of the relevant year)  [Note: This field is only populated for Autumn/spring 2012/13 – Autumn/spring 2015/16 inclusive] |
| all\_through | Schools with a statutory low age of below seven and a statutory high age of above 14  [Note: This field is only populated for Autumn/spring 2013/14 – Autumn/spring 2015/16 inclusive] |
| num\_schools | Number of schools |
| enrolments | Number of enrolments |
| sess\_possible | Number of sessions possible |
| sess\_overall | Number of overall absence sessions |
| sess\_authorised | Number of authorised absence sessions |
| sess\_unauthorised | Number of unauthorised absence sessions |
| sess\_overall\_percent | Overall absence rate (percentage) |
| sess\_authorised\_percent | Authorised absence rate (percentage) |
| sess\_unauthorised\_percent | Unauthorised absence rate (percentage) |
| enrolments\_pa\_10\_exact | Number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 10 per cent or more of their own possible sessions) |
| enrolments\_pa\_10\_exact\_percent | Percentage of enrolments classed as persistent absentees (missing 10 per cent or more of their own possible sessions) |
| sess\_auth\_illness | Number of authorised absence sessions due to illness (not medical or dental) |
| sess\_auth\_appointments | Number of authorised absence sessions due to medical/dental appointments |
| sess\_auth\_religious | Number of authorised absence sessions due to religious observance |
| sess\_auth\_study | Number of authorised absence sessions due to study leave |
| sess\_auth\_traveller | Number of authorised absence sessions due to traveller absence |
| sess\_auth\_holiday | Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed family holiday (and agreed extended family holiday 2013/14 onwards) |
| sess\_auth\_ext\_holiday | Number of authorised absence sessions due to agreed extended family holiday, this reason code was discontinued in 2013/14. |
| sess\_auth\_excluded | Number of authorised absence sessions due to exclusion, no alternative provision |
| sess\_auth\_other | Number of authorised absence sessions due to other authorised circumstances |
| sess\_auth\_totalreasons | Total number of authorised absence sessions with reasons |
| sess\_unauth\_holiday | Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to family holiday not agreed |
| sess\_unauth\_late | Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to arriving late |
| sess\_unauth\_other | Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to other unauthorised circumstances |
| sess\_unauth\_noyet | Number of unauthorised absence sessions due to no reason yet |
| sess\_unauth\_totalreasons | Total number of unauthorised absence sessions with reasons |
| sess\_overall\_totalreasons | Total number of overall absence sessions with reasons |
| enrolments\_percent | Percentage of all pupil enrolments (included in SFR51\_2016\_One\_percent\_bands table) |
| 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 (not medical or dental) |
| enrol\_auth\_appointments | Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to medical/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 (and agreed extended family holiday 2013/14 onwards) |
| enrol\_auth\_ext\_holiday | Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to agreed extended family holiday, this reason code was discontinued in 2013/14. |
| enrol\_auth\_excluded | Number of enrolments with at least one absence session due to exclusion, no alternative provision |
| 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 |
| characteristic\_desc | Description of characteristic category |
| characteristic | Pupil characteristic that the information relates to |
| sess\_possible\_pa\_10\_exact | Number of sessions possible for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_overall\_pa\_10\_exact | Number of overall absence sessions for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_authorised\_pa\_10\_exact | Number of authorised absence sessions for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_unauthorised\_pa\_10\_exact | Number of unauthorised absence sessions for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_overall\_percent\_pa\_10\_exact | Overall absence rate (percentage) for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_authorised\_percent\_pa\_10\_exact | Authorised absence rate (percentage) for enrolments who are persistent absentees |
| sess\_unauthorised\_percent\_pa\_10\_exact | Unauthorised absence rate (percentage) for enrolments who are persistent absentees |

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**Annex B – How to use the underlying data files**

Underlying data files can be filtered by column to pull out the level of information requested. Examples are given in this annex to assist users.

Details on how to filter datasets can be found online. Please see, for example, the [Microsoft Excel Office Support page](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjO35i6gY7TAhVBJsAKHRErDtwQFggcMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsupport.office.com%2Fen-us%2Farticle%2FFilter-data-in-a-range-or-table-01832226-31b5-4568-8806-38c37dcc180e&usg=AFQjCNGto4V43yhC-Bu8W3RPBuWwRPnnhg) for instructions on how to filter data in a range or table.

**Example 1: retrieve data for a specific local authority**

The **‘level’** column in underlying data files allows users to choose whether they want the information displayed at national, region, local authority, school, or any other geographical level. To look for data for a specific local authority, filter this column to *‘Local authority’* and search the local authority either by code or by name.

For example, to search for 2015/16 absence data for primary schools in Hackney and Islington local authorities, the following filters should be set: **‘year’** to *201516*, **‘level’** to *Local authority*, **‘LA\_name’** to *Hackney* and *Islington*, **‘school\_type’** to *State-funded primary*.

To search for 2015/16 absence data for individual schools in Hackney and Islington local authorities, all the same filters should be applied, except the **‘level’** column should now be set to *School*.

**Example 2: retrieve data for a specific pupil characteristic**

The **‘characteristic’** column in underlying data files allows users to choose which pupil or school characteristic they want the information displayed for.

For example, to search for 2015/16 national absence data for primary schools broken down by gender, the following filters should be set: **‘year’** to *201516*, **‘school\_type’** to *State-funded primary*, **‘characteristic’** to *Gender\_Male* and *Gender\_Female*.

