**Autumn 2025 School Census bulletin number 1**

**(Extract from: Important Information From The Department For Education- Autumn School Census 2025 – Readiness Bulletin Number 1)**

The school census is the department’s primary source of administrative data about pupils attending schools in England. The data collected is vital in supporting a number of the department’s strategic objectives and is widely used for the purpose of improving, and promoting, the education or well-being of children in England. For example, the data collected helps us to make sure we are allocating funds where they are needed and that no groups of children are missing out on the education they deserve.

The autumn school census will be used to fund the schools block of the dedicated schools grant and the pupil premium.

**Data collection timetable and key dates**

The census date for the 2025 autumn school census is Thursday 2 October with the deadline for approved submissions being Wednesday 29 October. The database will be closed to amendments from schools and local authorities on Wednesday 26 November.

**School census guide**

A guide for the 2025-26 academic year is now available [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fcomplete-the-school-census&data=05%7C02%7Cschooldata%40essex.gov.uk%7C7dc63643d2c447de63ef08ddeaffa5f7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638925106214423928%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Oh%2FgdRIb49NTfLdCKiZYJYiPXCS8beqmcaNa8SOknxY%3D&reserved=0).  
We would ask that you also look at the section which covers changes since the previous census [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fcomplete-the-school-census%2Fchanges-for-2025-to-2026&data=05%7C02%7Cschooldata%40essex.gov.uk%7C7dc63643d2c447de63ef08ddeaffa5f7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638925106214438595%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=H0MzPVQM5XbOkdnY6a75LyWVjSlqEell5MC9AKLXsQ4%3D&reserved=0)

**Registration of nursery pupils**

This is a reminder that children who are receiving early years provision that is directly run by an academy, on academy premises, must be registered pupils of the academy and recorded on the school census.

**Advice from Essex County Council**

**Reports**

Schools are advised that the reports query will be in place in each census. Failure to run the reports does not prevent the return from being authorised, although schools are strongly encouraged to do so in order that they may check their data in Collect is correct.

[Here](https://secureschools.essex.gov.uk/displaydocument.aspx?docid=2271) is a guide on how to find and run the reports.

The duplicate UPN error will also be in place in each census. Unresolved duplicate UPNs WILL prevent the return from being authorised.

**Submission deadline for maintained schools**

Maintained schools are asked to submit their returns to COLLECT by **Friday 10th October**, to allow time for the LA to support with error and query resolution.