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PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN PRIVATE, VOLUNTARY, INDEPENDENT AND MAINTAINED SECTORS IN ENGLAND: JANUARY 2000 (Provisional)

Introduction

This Statistical First Release contains provisional information about the number of pupils under five years of age in schools in England in January 1996 to 2000. Provisional estimates are also given for the number of three and four year old pupils in private or voluntary provision and those who are funded by a nursery education grant.

KEY POINTS

Pupils under five in school (Table 1)

- Between January 1999 and January 2000, the number of pupils under five years of age in maintained nursery and primary schools decreased by 8,300 or 1.2 per cent to 713,700;
- 58 per cent of children under five years of age were in maintained nursery and primary schools in January 2000, including nearly 30 per cent in nursery schools and nursery classes within maintained primary schools and nearly 29 per cent in other classes in maintained schools.

Children aged four (Table 2)

- The number of four year olds who attended maintained schools decreased from 499,200 (80 per cent of the four year old population) to 486,500 (79 per cent of the four year old population) between January 1999 and January 2000;
- The number of four year olds who attended independent schools or private and voluntary providers increased from 123,800 to 126,800 between January 1999 and January 2000;
- 100 per cent of the of the four year old population were in places in all types of provision in January 2000 compared to 99 per cent in January 1999.

Children aged three (Table3)

- 232,200 three year olds (38 per cent of the three year old population) attended maintained schools in England in January 2000;
- The number of three year olds who attended independent schools or private and voluntary providers was 291,900 (48 per cent of the three year old population) in January 2000;

- 86 per cent of the three year old population were attending a maintained or independent school or a private or voluntary provider in January 2000;
- In the 65 LEAs where funding was available for three year olds in January 2000, 85 per cent of the three year old population had a place, and 76 per cent of the three year old population had a funded place in the maintained, independent, private or voluntary sector..

TABLES

Table 1: Pupils under five in maintained schools in England: January 1996-2000 (provisional)

Table 2: Children aged four in early years provision in England: January 1999 and 2000 (provisional)

Table 3: Children aged three years old in early years provision in England: January 2000 (provisional)

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Information about pupils in maintained and independent schools is derived from the **Annual Schools Census** in January each year.
2. Information about private and voluntary providers and about Government funded places for under fives in independent schools is derived from the **Early Years Census** which takes place in January each year and collects information from all providers registered with Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships. Such providers receive nursery education grant for four year olds, and in some LEAs, for three year olds where Government funding has been made available.
3. Provisional figures are still subject to revision and include estimates based on around 85 per cent of the expected number of returns from private and voluntary providers. Final figures are scheduled to be published in September 2000 in 'Statistics of Education: Schools in England 2000' and in the Statistical Bulletin 'Children Under Five Years of Age in Early Years Education' in Autumn 2000.
4. **Age of pupils:** The Annual Schools Census has collected for some time information on the numbers of pupils aged three and four broken down by numbers born between 1 September and 31 December, 1 January to 31 March, 1 April to 31 August. In this release the number of three year olds relates to those pupils born between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 1996 and, similarly, the number of four year olds relates to those pupils born between 1 January 1995 and 31 December 1995.
5. The participation rates shown in this bulletin are calculated using population estimates derived from mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office of National Statistics.
6. **Nursery classes:** These are classes in maintained primary schools that have been designated as nursery classes. Such classes normally include amongst their staff at least one qualified nursery assistant in addition to a qualified teacher.
7. Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships are convened by LEAs and bring together all local parties to map out early education and childcare services. Through their Annual Plans they are obliged to guarantee good quality, at least part time, nursery education

places for all four year olds whose parents want one and some three year old places where Government funding has been made available. These places can be in the maintained, independent, private or voluntary sectors. During 1999 - 2000 funding for three year olds was targeted exclusively on children in 65 local authorities, based on social need. During 2000 - 2001 money is being distributed across all authorities with the emphasis still focused on social need.

8. Section 1(1) of the *Nursery Education and Grant - Maintained Schools Act 1996* states that the Secretary of State may make arrangements for the making of grants in respect of nursery education. The arrangements and payment of the grant are covered by the regulations made under the Act and the *School Standards and Framework Act 1996*. The grant is payable by the LEA to providers registered with them up to an annual maximum of £1,160 per eligible child pursuant to the approved Plan for their area. The grant must be spent on nursery education for eligible children within the meaning of the Act and regulations. This will be checked through audit arrangements.

Related statistics

Information about day care facilities for children will be available in July in a Statistical First Release and in the Statistical Bulletin 'Children's Day Care Facilities at 31 March 2000' which will be published in Autumn 2000. The information from this survey covers various types of day care facilities for children age under eight - day nurseries, childminders, playgroups, out of school clubs, holiday schemes and family centres. Figures are collected on the number of providers of day care facilities, places provided and children receiving local authority provision. Where possible, provision for children aged under five is separately identified.

Public enquiries

Jennifer Beaumont 01325 392626

Press enquiries

Shazia Ejaz 0207 925 5107

David Lloyd 0207 925 5721

Table 1: Pupils under five (1)(2) in maintained schools in England: January 1996-2000 (provisional)

		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total nursery and primary schools (3)						
number of pupils	aged 3 and under	210,100	214,200	222,000	225,700	229,900
	aged 4	498,400	499,300	498,500	496,400	483,800
	total under 5	708,500	713,500	720,500	722,000	713,700
percentage of population at 31 December (4)	aged 3 and under	32	34	35	37	38
	aged 4	76	77	79	79	79
	total under 5	54	56	57	58	58
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools						
number of pupils	aged 3 and under	209,300	213,200	220,900	224,500	228,400
	aged 4	155,000	154,200	147,500	142,400	134,400
	total under 5	364,300	367,400	368,400	366,900	362,800
percentage of population at 31 December (4)	aged 3 and under	32	34	35	37	37
	aged 4	24	24	23	23	22
	total under 5	28	29	29	30	30
Infant classes in primary schools (3)						
number of pupils	aged 3 and under	800	900	1,200	1,100	1,600
	aged 4	343,400	345,200	351,000	353,900	349,400
	total under 5	344,200	346,100	352,100	355,100	351,000
percentage of population at 31 December (4)	aged 3 and under	-	-	-	-	-
	aged 4	52	53	55	56	57
	total under 5	26	27	28	29	29
Special schools (5)						
number of pupils	aged 3 and under	2,700	2,800	2,600	2,500	2,300
	aged 4	3,200	3,100	3,100	2,900	2,700
	total under 5	5,900	5,800	5,700	5,400	4,900
percentage of population at 31 December (4)	aged 3 and under	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
	aged 4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
	total under 5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4

1. Ages at previous 31 December.

2. Includes full and part-time pupils, numbers rounded to the nearest 100.

3. Includes reception and other (non-nursery classes) within primary schools.

4. Participation rate - the number of full-time and part-time pupils expressed as a proportion of the estimated child population at 31 December.

5. Including special, non-maintained special and general hospital schools. Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

- less than 0.5 per cent

Table 2: Children aged four (1) in early years provision in England: January 1999 and 2000 (provisional)

	1999		2000		Funded places 2000	
	Number of 4 year olds (2)	Percentage of population (3)	Number of 4 year olds (2)	Percentage of population (3)	Number of 4 year olds (4)	Percentage of population (3)
Private and Voluntary (5)	95,100	15	98,400	16	93,100	15
Independent Schools	28,700	5	28,400	5	11,800	2
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools	142,400	23	134,400	22	134,400	22
Infant classes in primary schools (6)	356,800	57	352,100	57	352,100	57
All Provision	623,000	99	613,300	100	591,400	97

1. Includes full and part-time children, aged 4 years old at previous 31 December.

2. Numbers of four year olds have been rounded to the nearest 100. There may be double counting of some children who attend part-time with more than one provider.

3. Participation rate - the number of full-time and part-time children (based on provision) expressed as a proportion of the estimated 4 year old population at previous 31 December.

4. Figures for private and voluntary providers and independent schools are based on number of four year olds receiving grants as reported by providers.

5. Excludes providers not registered to receive Nursery Education Grants.

6. Includes reception and other non-nursery classes within primary schools and all classes in maintained and non-maintained special and general hospital schools but excludes children registered elsewhere.

Table 3: Children aged three (1) in early years provision in England: January 2000 (provisional)

	In all LEAs		In all LEAs for which funding was available in January 2000			
	Total number of 3 year olds (2)	Percentage of population (3)	Total number of 3 year olds (2)	Percentage of population (4)	Funded 3 year olds (5)	Percentage of population (4)
Private and Voluntary (6)	266,000	43	52,800	23	37,500	17
Independent Schools	25,900	4	6,700	3	1,600	1
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools	228,400	37	131,400	58	131,400	58
Infant classes in primary schools (7)	3,800	1	1,400	1	1,400	1
All Provision	524,100	86	192,300	85	171,900	76

1. Includes full and part-time children, aged 3 years old as at 31 December 1999.
2. Numbers of three year olds have been rounded to the nearest 100. There may be double counting of some children who attend part-time with more than one provider.
3. Participation rate: the number of full-time and part-time children reported (based on provision) expressed as a proportion of the estimated 3 year old population at 31 December 1999.
4. Based on the population of 65 LEAs eligible to provide funding for three year olds via EYDP.
5. The numbers include children reported by the providers to be in receipt of a Nursery Education Grant.
6. Excludes providers not registered to receive Nursery Education Grants.
7. Includes reception and other non-nursery classes within primary schools and all classes in maintained and non-maintained special and general hospital schools but excludes children registered elsewhere.