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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**PUPIL ABSENCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND,
2005/06****INTRODUCTION**

This is a new Statistical First Release (SFR) reporting on absence in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies during 2005/06. It is based on pupil level absence data collected for the first time via the School Census. This release provides information on the levels of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school; absence rates by pupil characteristics (such as gender, free school meal eligibility, ethnic group and special educational needs); the percentage of pupils by number of days absence; as well as summary statistics on persistent absentees (the percentage of absence these pupils account for; their characteristics; and the number of schools where the percentage of persistent absentees falls within certain ranges).

Information on pupil absence in schools in England during 2005/06 has already been published in SFR35/2006 in September 2006 and updated in January 2007. This release was based on a different data source and is not directly comparable with figures presented here.

KEY POINTS**ABSENCE RATES BY PUPIL CHARACTERISTICS**

- The percentages of half days missed due to absence in maintained secondary schools in England for 2005/06 are as follows:

Authorised Absence	6.82 per cent
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Unauthorised Absence	1.42 per cent
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Overall Absence	8.24 per cent
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These rates represent an increase compared to the figures previously reported via annual Absence in Schools Survey returns published in SFR35/2006 of 0.08, 0.22 and 0.30 percentage points in authorised, unauthorised and overall absence respectively. See Notes to Editor 8 for a detailed comparison of the two sets of figures. (Table 1.1)

- The overall absence rate for girls is slightly higher than that for boys. In 2005/06 the overall absence rate for girls in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies was 0.27 percentage points more than that for boys. (Table 1.2)
- Pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) have higher rates of absence. In maintained secondary schools, the overall absence rate for those pupils known to be eligible for FSM was around 12 per cent compared with less than 8 per cent for the rest of the

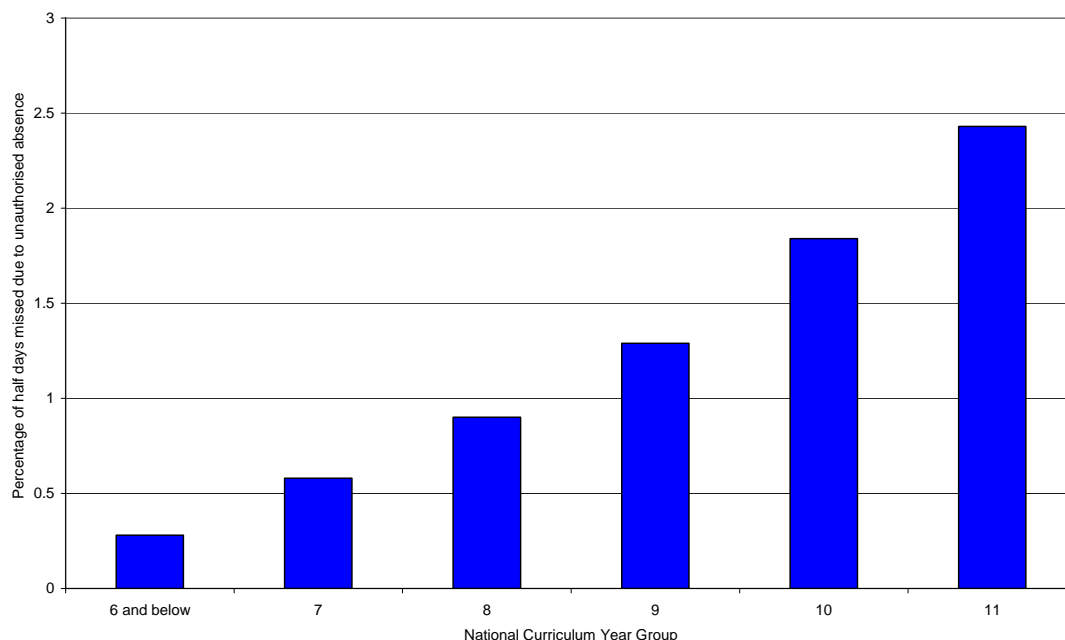
school population. The rate of unauthorised absence for pupils who were known to be eligible for FSM was almost three times that of the rest of the school population. (Table 1.2)

- Across maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies absence rates (authorised, unauthorised and overall) were highest for the Traveller of Irish Heritage (26 per cent overall absence); Gypsy/Roma (23 per cent overall absence); Mixed (White and Black Caribbean) (almost 10 per cent overall absence) and Irish (just over 9 per cent overall absence). The rate of overall absence for pupils of White and Mixed ethnic origin was above the national average; for pupils of Asian, Black and Chinese ethnic origin it was below the national average. The rate of overall absence for Minority Ethnic pupils was significantly below the rate for White British pupils. The overall absence rate for all pupils was around 8 per cent. Caution is recommended in interpreting the data for Traveller of Irish Heritage children and Gypsy/Roma children due to the small numbers recorded. (Table 1.3)
- Across maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies the rate of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) increases by national curriculum year group. **Chart A** shows the rate of unauthorised absence by national curriculum year group in maintained secondary schools. Rates of unauthorised absence were highest for pupils in national curriculum year group 11 and pupils in national curriculum year groups 12 and above. In maintained secondary schools the rate of unauthorised absence for pupils in national curriculum year group 11 (2.43 per cent) was around four times the rate of pupils in national curriculum year group 7 (0.58 per cent). (Table 1.4)

Chart A:

Maintained secondary schools:

Rate of unauthorised absence by national curriculum year group



- Looking at absence rates by first language, the lowest rates of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) were amongst those pupils whose first language was known or believed to be other than English. In maintained secondary schools, the rate of unauthorised absence for pupils whose first language was known or believed to be other than English was 0.12 percentage points less than for those pupils whose first language was known or believed to be English. (Table 1.5)

- Looking at absence rates by special educational needs, the highest rates of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) were amongst those pupils at *School Action Plus*. Across all secondary schools, the rate of overall absence for those pupils at *School Action Plus* was almost twice that for those pupils with no identified special educational needs. (Table 1.6)

DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENCE

- Almost 68 per cent of pupil enrolments in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies had no unauthorised absence from school in 2005/06. (Table 2.1)
- Less than 3 per cent of pupil enrolments in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies account for over 50 per cent of the total number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence. (Table 2.1)
- The percentage of pupil enrolments with no absence (authorised and unauthorised) during 2005/06 in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies was 4.9 per cent; 6.8 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively. (Table 2.2)
- For the highest proportion of enrolments (around 29 per cent) the duration of their overall absence (authorised and unauthorised) was between 0.5 and 5 days during 2005/06.
- The overall absence (authorised and unauthorised) of some 11 per cent of enrolments in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies exceeded 25 days. This accounted for some 39 per cent of the total absence from maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies in 2005/06.

PERSISTENT ABSENTEES

A Persistent Absentee (PA) is defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year (typically more than 20 per cent absence).

- In 2005/06 there were over 215,000 PAs in maintained secondary schools (7 per cent of pupil enrolments); 300 PAs in city technology colleges (3 per cent of pupil enrolments); and 2,000 PAs in academies (9 per cent of pupil enrolments). (Table 3.1)
- The rate of overall absence (authorised and unauthorised) for PAs is 35 per cent, which is over four times higher than the rate for all pupils. (Table 3.1)
- Across maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies PAs (7 per cent of pupil enrolments) account for 30 per cent of overall absence - 24 per cent of authorised absence and almost 61 per cent of unauthorised absence. (Table 3.1)
- In 2005/06 some 7.3 per cent of girls in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies were PAs. This is slightly higher than the proportion of boys who were PAs, which was 6.9 per cent. (Table 3.2)
- The occurrence of PAs was higher amongst pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM). In 2005/06, some 16 per cent of pupils who were known to be eligible for FSM were PAs compared with less than 6 per cent for the rest of the school population. (Table 3.2)

- The rate of PAs increases as pupils progress through school. The highest rate of PAs was in national curriculum year group 11, where almost 12 per cent of pupils were PAs. (Table 3.2)
- Almost 21 per cent of pupils at *School Action Plus* were PAs compared with just over 5 per cent of pupils who had no identified special educational needs. (Table 3.2)
- The rate of PAs was highest for the Traveller of Irish Heritage (almost 42 per cent of all Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils were PAs); Gypsy/Roma (40 per cent); Mixed (White and Black Caribbean) (some 10 per cent) and Irish (just over 9 per cent) groups. The rate of PAs for pupils of White and Mixed ethnic origin was above the national average; for pupils of Asian, Black and Chinese ethnic origin it was below the national average. The rate of PAs for Minority Ethnic pupils was significantly below the rate for White British pupils. The PA rate for all pupils was 7 per cent. Caution is recommended in interpreting the data for Traveller of Irish Heritage children and Gypsy/Roma children due to the small numbers recorded. (Table 3.3)
- In 2005/06 there were 45 maintained secondary schools where 20 per cent or more of the school population were PAs. The highest proportion of school population who were PAs fell between 3.0 per cent and 5.9 per cent, relating to around 1,000 maintained secondary schools. (Table 3.4)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Definitions

1. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) published specific guidance on the categorisation of attendance and absence in February 2005 when it launched the new codes as part of the collection of absence data via the School Census. This guidance was revised when the 2006 Pupil Registration regulations came into force on 1 September 2006 and was published alongside "Keeping Pupil Registers" which is guidance on applying the regulations. The guidance is available at www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/legislation.
2. In law, parents of children of compulsory school age (aged 5 to 15 at the start of the school year) are required to ensure that they receive a suitable education by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Failure to comply with this statutory duty can lead to prosecution. LAs are responsible in law for making sure that pupils attend school.
3. Schools are required to take attendance registers twice a day: once at the beginning of the morning session and once during the afternoon session. In their register schools are required to distinguish whether pupils are present, engaged in an approved educational activity or are absent. Where a day pupil of compulsory school age is absent, schools have to indicate in their register whether the absence is authorised by the school or unauthorised.
4. Authorised absence is absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absences for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (for example, illness).
5. Unauthorised absence is absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences. Arriving late for school can sometimes be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Data collection

6. Prior to 2005/06 the Department's main source of absence data was the Absence in Schools Survey which is conducted in May each year and collects the number of day pupils of compulsory school age together with information on the number of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence from maintained primary, secondary, all special and independent schools, city technology colleges and academies in England. Findings from this survey have been published in SFR 35/2006 available at: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000679/index.shtml>
7. In 2006 the School Census (SC) started to collect pupil level absence data on a termly basis (Spring, Summer and Autumn collections) from maintained secondary school, city technology colleges and academies. The collection of pupil level absence data provides the first opportunity to report on the relationship between absence and personal characteristics (gender, ethnic group, special educational needs etc.) and the rates/distribution of Persistent Absentees.
8. Although the 2005/06 figures collected in the Absence in Schools Survey and the School Census (SC) relate to the same period the two sources collect data at different levels and different points in the academic year. Schools have previously been asked to provide aggregate school level figures on an annual basis whereas the figures in this SFR are aggregated directly from individual level pupil information, collected on a termly basis, and provide a more precise basis for aggregation of overall absence. As expected, the baseline figures from both surveys are different. Using data from the SC we have absence information for more pupil enrolments than in the Absence in Schools Survey which suggests that we now have better data coverage. The rates of absence reported in the SC are, on the

whole, higher than those collected via the Absence in Schools Survey. In particular, the rates of unauthorised absence reported in the SC are higher than those collected via the Absence in Schools Survey. As the SC is collected on a termly basis it is possible that reason for absence has not been ascertained before the data are collected (i.e. a sickness absence note has not yet been received by the school) resulting in the absence being recorded as unauthorised instead of authorised. The move to pupil level collection of absence data signifies a step forward in the analysis of pupil attendance, but it is important that, in the first year of collection, we are aware of concerns with the quality of this data. Further details relating to this are given in Notes to Editors 9 through to 13.

A comparison of figures derived from the two sets of data is given in the table:

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
COMPARISON OF ABSENCE DATA COLLECTED VIA THE ABSENCE IN SCHOOLS SURVEY AND
THE SCHOOL CENSUS**

2005/06

England

	Absence in Schools Survey	School Census
Maintained Secondary Schools		
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	..	2,951,565
Number of enrolments	3,017,628	3,024,728
Percentage of half days missed:		
authorised absence	6.74	6.82
unauthorised absence	1.20	1.42
overall absence	7.94	8.24
City Technology Colleges		
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	..	9,433
Number of enrolments	9,552	9,559
Percentage of half days missed:		
authorised absence	5.33	5.45
unauthorised absence	0.27	0.35
overall absence	5.60	5.81
Academies		
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	..	22,046
Number of enrolments	22,243	22,040
Percentage of half days missed:		
authorised absence	6.78	6.63
unauthorised absence	1.91	2.42
overall absence	8.69	9.05

.. Not available

Data Coverage and Quality

- Schools have provided, via the SC, individual level attendance data relating to the Autumn 2005, Spring 2006 and Summer 2006 terms for pupils aged 5 to 15 (at the start of the school year) who are non-boarders. In each term the SC has collected three fields relating to absence: the number of possible sessions; the number of sessions missed due to authorised absence and the number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence.

10. The SC collects information for a pupil's attendance in the term prior to the census. For example, the Spring SC collects information on absence during the Autumn term. Absence data for the 2005/06 year has been derived by linking pupil records collected in the Spring 2006 SC, Summer 2006 SC and Autumn 2006 SC to derive overall annual totals for the number of possible sessions and the number of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence for each enrolment. Pupil characteristic data are not collected retrospectively. For example, a pupil's national curriculum year group collected in the Spring SC refers to their national curriculum year group in the Spring Term. Derived annual absence totals have been linked to characteristic data collected in the Spring SC. Where characteristic data are missing in the Spring SC, information collected in the Summer SC has been used.
11. Information relating to pupil absence counts the number of pupil enrolments rather than the number of pupils. Where a pupil has moved school throughout the year, they will be counted more than once as they have recorded attendance data in more than one school. Pupil absence is recorded for the period a pupil is enrolled at a school.
12. For a pupil enrolment, if the number of possible sessions in a term is zero/missing or is less than the total number of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence, or if the total number of possible sessions exceeds the limit for the term, then the absence variables have been set to zero for that term only, and that term's information has been discounted from this SFR. If the total number of possible sessions for each and every term equals zero, then the enrolment has not been included. This has resulted in some 7,200 cases being excluded from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from city technology colleges and 370 cases from academies. One anomaly to arise from this is the number of day pupils in academies exceeds the number of enrolments in academies during 2005/06, as shown in Table 1.1.
13. The information shown for attendance and absence is for 2.5 terms of the 2005/06 academic year. Data relating to the Summer Term is only required up until the Friday before the Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May (26 May in 2006), rather than the full term. Schools which closed during the 2005/06 year, for which data are available, have been included.

General

14. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
15. Further information, including LA level analyses, are available through the following link:-
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000718/index.shtml>
16. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be addressed to School Statistics Unit, Room 1F Area E, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail schools.statistics@dfes.gsi.gov.uk
17. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at Department for Education and Skills, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7925 6789.

Table 1.1

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PUPIL ABSENCE BY TYPE OF SCHOOL**

2005/06

England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (2)	Number of pupil enrolments (3)(4)	Percentage of half days missed (5):		
			Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
Maintained Secondary Schools	2,951,570	3,024,730	6.82	1.42	8.24
City Technology Colleges	9,430	9,560	5.45	0.35	5.81
Academies	22,050	22,040	6.63	2.42	9.05
Total	2,983,040	3,056,330	6.82	1.42	8.24

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(3) Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(4) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(5) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1.2

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PUPIL ABSENCE BY GENDER AND FREE SCHOOL MEAL (FSM) ELIGIBILITY (2)**

2005/06

England

	Maintained Secondary Schools			City Technology Colleges			Academies			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Day pupils of compulsory school age (3):												
Number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM	216,810	213,360	430,180	570	660	1,230	4,140	3,450	7,590	221,520	217,470	439,000
Other pupils	1,280,320	1,241,070	2,521,390	4,210	3,990	8,200	7,870	6,590	14,460	1,292,410	1,251,640	2,544,050
Total	1,497,140	1,454,430	2,951,570	4,780	4,650	9,430	12,010	10,040	22,050	1,513,930	1,469,120	2,983,040
Percentage of half days missed - Authorised Absence (4):												
Pupils known to be eligible for FSM	9.07	9.21	9.14	6.71	7.33	7.04	7.79	8.08	7.92	9.04	9.18	9.11
Other pupils (5)	6.29	6.58	6.43	4.93	5.51	5.21	5.98	5.96	5.97	6.29	6.58	6.43
Total (5)	6.69	6.96	6.82	5.15	5.77	5.45	6.59	6.68	6.63	6.68	6.96	6.82
Percentage of half days missed - Unauthorised Absence (4):												
Pupils known to be eligible for FSM	3.18	3.17	3.18	0.47	0.84	0.67	3.25	4.02	3.60	3.18	3.18	3.18
Other pupils (5)	1.12	1.12	1.12	0.27	0.34	0.30	1.83	1.79	1.81	1.13	1.12	1.12
Total (5)	1.42	1.42	1.42	0.29	0.41	0.35	2.31	2.54	2.42	1.42	1.42	1.42
Percentage of half days missed - Overall Absence (4):												
Pupils known to be eligible for FSM	12.25	12.38	12.31	7.18	8.17	7.71	11.04	12.10	11.52	12.22	12.36	12.29
Other pupils (5)	7.42	7.70	7.56	5.20	5.85	5.51	7.81	7.75	7.78	7.41	7.70	7.55
Total (5)	8.11	8.38	8.24	5.44	6.18	5.81	8.90	9.22	9.05	8.11	8.38	8.24

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

Source: School Census

(2) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.

(3) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(4) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(5) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on free school meal eligibility was missing.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1.3
MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1)
PUPIL ABSENCE BY ETHNIC GROUP (2)
 2005/06
 England

	Maintained Secondary Schools				City Technology Colleges				Academies				Total			
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):		
		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
White	2,480,830	6.91	1.39	8.30	7,350	5.50	0.30	5.80	13,760	7.21	3.04	10.25	2,501,940	6.91	1.39	8.30
White British	2,402,780	6.90	1.38	8.27	7,160	5.48	0.29	5.78	12,600	7.17	3.12	10.28	2,422,530	6.89	1.38	8.28
Irish	10,540	7.49	1.84	9.33	30	5.84	0.29	6.13	100	7.27	2.54	9.81	10,670	7.49	1.84	9.33
Traveller of Irish heritage	1,030	17.66	8.82	26.49	0	.	.	.	30	11.65	9.13	20.78	1,060	17.50	8.83	26.33
Gypsy/ Roma	2,260	15.45	7.89	23.34	#	#	0.00	#	30	12.28	6.66	18.94	2,290	15.39	7.87	23.26
Any other White background	64,220	6.80	1.39	8.19	160	6.18	0.59	6.76	1,010	7.43	1.77	9.21	65,390	6.80	1.40	8.20
Mixed	76,450	6.98	1.77	8.74	520	5.63	0.50	6.13	1,330	7.09	1.70	8.79	78,300	6.97	1.76	8.72
White and Black Caribbean	28,710	7.53	2.15	9.68	260	6.09	0.60	6.69	580	7.43	1.76	9.20	29,550	7.52	2.13	9.64
White and Black African	7,290	6.40	1.61	8.01	50	5.51	0.29	5.80	150	5.74	1.60	7.34	7,490	6.38	1.60	7.99
White and Asian	14,860	6.50	1.25	7.75	60	5.18	0.34	5.52	140	7.21	1.61	8.83	15,050	6.50	1.25	7.75
Any other Mixed background	25,590	6.79	1.68	8.47	150	5.05	0.48	5.54	470	7.04	1.69	8.73	26,210	6.79	1.67	8.46
Asian	189,290	6.04	1.16	7.21	370	5.03	0.35	5.38	1,890	5.93	0.90	6.83	191,550	6.04	1.16	7.20
Indian	64,030	5.22	0.76	5.98	180	3.82	0.32	4.14	550	5.30	0.71	6.01	64,760	5.22	0.76	5.98
Pakistani	73,220	6.83	1.37	8.20	120	6.84	0.41	7.25	840	6.68	0.93	7.61	74,180	6.83	1.36	8.19
Bangladeshi	29,390	6.36	1.74	8.09	30	6.55	0.31	6.86	190	6.50	0.54	7.04	29,610	6.36	1.73	8.09
Any other Asian background	22,650	5.42	0.92	6.34	40	4.26	0.35	4.61	310	4.75	1.41	6.16	23,010	5.41	0.92	6.33
Black	105,100	5.00	1.34	6.35	710	4.56	0.46	5.02	3,810	4.80	1.15	5.95	109,620	4.99	1.33	6.33
Black Caribbean	39,450	5.87	1.63	7.50	380	4.81	0.49	5.30	1,500	5.57	1.51	7.08	41,330	5.85	1.61	7.46
Black African	53,170	4.13	1.03	5.16	230	3.88	0.23	4.11	1,900	3.97	0.89	4.86	55,290	4.12	1.03	5.15
Any other Black background	12,490	5.97	1.77	7.74	110	5.23	0.83	6.06	410	5.99	0.98	6.97	13,000	5.97	1.74	7.71
Chinese	9,830	3.32	0.46	3.79	60	2.64	0.11	2.75	190	2.44	0.27	2.71	10,080	3.31	0.46	3.76
Any other ethnic group	25,340	6.03	1.47	7.50	90	5.65	1.00	6.64	650	5.62	1.25	6.87	26,070	6.02	1.46	7.48
Minority Ethnic Pupils (5)	484,050	6.11	1.39	7.50	1,940	5.07	0.47	5.54	9,040	5.75	1.31	7.06	495,030	6.10	1.39	7.48
All pupils (6)	2,951,570	6.82	1.42	8.24	9,430	5.45	0.35	5.81	22,050	6.63	2.42	9.05	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence figures by ethnic group have been derived.

(3) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(4) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(5) Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group, excluding White British.

(6) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on ethnic group was unclassified or missing.

. Not applicable

Less than 5 pupils, or absence rates based on a small number of pupils.

Source: School Census

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1.4

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PUPIL ABSENCE BY NATIONAL CURRICULUM YEAR GROUP (2)**

2005/06
England

	Maintained Secondary Schools				City Technology Colleges				Academies				Total				
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			
		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence		Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	
National Curriculum Year Group:																	
6 and below	51,530	5.35	0.28	5.63	0	.	.	.	600	.	.	.	52,130	5.35	0.28	5.63	
7	562,230	5.74	0.58	6.32	1,890	4.29	0.11	4.40	5,030	5.61	1.11	6.72	569,150	5.73	0.58	6.31	
8	573,050	6.48	0.90	7.38	1,870	4.90	0.20	5.10	4,770	6.41	1.58	8.00	579,690	6.48	0.90	7.38	
9	592,550	6.76	1.29	8.06	1,860	5.74	0.34	6.08	4,350	6.98	2.58	9.55	598,760	6.76	1.30	8.06	
10	595,570	6.98	1.84	8.82	1,930	5.99	0.35	6.34	3,720	7.34	3.49	10.83	601,220	6.98	1.84	8.82	
11	575,850	8.06	2.43	10.49	1,880	6.03	0.72	6.75	3,570	6.94	3.89	10.84	581,300	8.05	2.43	10.48	
12 and above	790	5.28	3.38	8.66	#	#	#	#	10	3.57	4.54	8.11	800	5.26	3.40	8.66	
Total (5)	2,951,570	6.82	1.42	8.24	9,430	5.45	0.35	5.81	22,050	6.63	2.42	9.05	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24	

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence figures by national curriculum year group have been derived.

(3) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(4) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(5) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on national curriculum yeargroup was missing.

. Not applicable

Less than 5 pupils, or absence rates based on a small number of pupils.

Source: School Census

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1.5
MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PUPIL ABSENCE BY FIRST LANGUAGE (2)
 2005/06
 England

	Maintained Secondary Schools				City Technology Colleges				Academies				Total			
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):		
Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	
Pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	272,330	5.86	1.28	7.14	480	4.99	0.26	5.25	3,970	5.38	1.15	6.54	276,780	5.85	1.28	7.13
Pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English	2,668,590	6.88	1.40	8.28	8,820	5.40	0.35	5.75	17,810	6.83	2.68	9.51	2,695,220	6.88	1.41	8.28
Total (5)	2,951,570	6.82	1.42	8.24	9,430	5.45	0.35	5.81	22,050	6.63	2.42	9.05	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence figures by first language have been derived.

(3) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(4) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(5) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on first language was unclassified or missing. This may result in the rate for total pupils being higher than either subgroup.

Source: School Census

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1.6
MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PUPIL ABSENCE BY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) (2)
 2005/06
 England

	Maintained Secondary Schools				City Technology Colleges				Academies				Total			
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):			Number of day pupils of compulsory school age (3)	Percentage of half days missed (4):		
Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Authorised absence		Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	
Pupils with statements of SEN	70,900	8.99	2.47	11.46	110	7.59	0.25	7.85	690	8.65	4.69	13.34	71,700	8.99	2.48	11.47
Pupils with SEN without statements	494,470	8.81	2.89	11.69	920	8.24	0.60	8.84	5,940	8.26	3.54	11.80	501,340	8.80	2.89	11.69
Of which:-																
Pupils at <i>School Action Plus</i>	151,340	10.06	4.04	14.09	180	9.73	0.69	10.41	1,940	9.43	5.52	14.94	153,450	10.05	4.05	14.10
Pupils at <i>School Action</i>	343,130	8.26	2.38	10.64	750	7.90	0.57	8.47	4,000	7.68	2.54	10.22	347,880	8.25	2.38	10.63
Pupils with SEN (with and without statements)	565,370	8.83	2.83	11.66	1,030	8.18	0.56	8.74	6,640	8.30	3.66	11.97	573,030	8.82	2.84	11.66
Pupils with no identified SEN	2,386,200	6.30	1.05	7.36	8,400	5.03	0.31	5.35	15,410	5.87	1.86	7.73	2,410,010	6.30	1.06	7.35
Total (5)	2,951,570	6.82	1.42	8.24	9,430	5.45	0.35	5.81	22,050	6.63	2.42	9.05	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence figures by SEN have been derived.

(3) Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

(4) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(5) Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on SEN was missing.

Source: *School Census*

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 2.1

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLMENTS BY LENGTH OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (2)**

2005/06

England

	Maintained Secondary Schools			City Technology Colleges			Academies			Total		
	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of total unauthorised absence (5)	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of total unauthorised absence (5)	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of total unauthorised absence (5)	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of total unauthorised absence (5)
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage	
Number of days unauthorised absence:												
No Absence	2,050,750	67.8	0.0	8,010	83.8	0.0	13,280	60.3	0.0	2,072,040	67.8	0.0
0.5 to 1 day	368,190	12.2	4.3	880	9.2	12.6	2,590	11.8	2.8	371,670	12.2	4.3
1.5 to 2 days	152,370	5.0	4.2	250	2.6	8.7	1,270	5.7	3.1	153,880	5.0	4.2
2.5 to 5 days	193,990	6.4	10.7	230	2.4	15.6	1,830	8.3	8.8	196,050	6.4	10.7
5.5 to 10 days	112,460	3.7	12.8	100	1.0	14.5	1,180	5.3	11.5	113,730	3.7	12.8
10.5 to 20 days	74,020	2.4	16.4	50	0.5	12.9	940	4.3	17.9	75,000	2.5	16.4
more than 20 days	72,960	2.4	51.5	40	0.4	35.7	950	4.3	55.9	73,950	2.4	51.5
Total	3,024,730	100.0	100.0	9,560	100.0	100.0	22,040	100.0	100.0	3,056,330	100.0	100.0

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) There are 2 sessions for each school day (morning and afternoon).

(3) Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(4) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(5) The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence in each band expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 2.2

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLMENTS BY LENGTH OF OVERALL ABSENCE (2)**

2005/06

England

	Maintained Secondary Schools			City Technology Colleges			Academies			Total		
	Enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of overall absence (5)	Enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of overall absence (5)	Enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of overall absence (5)	Enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (3)(4)		Percentage of overall absence (5)
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage	
Number of days overall absence (2):												
No Absence	147,490	4.9	0.0	650	6.8	0.0	1,530	7.0	0.0	149,680	4.9	0.0
0.5 to 5 days	889,300	29.4	6.7	3,680	38.5	12.0	6,960	31.6	6.7	899,940	29.4	6.8
5.5 to 10 days	738,540	24.4	15.1	2,400	25.1	21.4	4,740	21.5	12.7	754,680	24.7	15.0
10.5 to 15 days	472,110	15.6	15.9	1,280	13.4	18.9	2,920	13.3	13.1	476,320	15.6	15.9
15.5 to 20 days	279,200	9.2	13.1	650	6.8	13.4	1,830	8.3	11.4	281,680	9.2	13.1
20.5 to 25 days	163,210	5.4	9.8	370	3.9	9.8	1,120	5.1	9.0	164,710	5.4	9.8
more than 25 days	334,870	11.1	39.4	530	5.5	24.5	2,930	13.3	47.0	338,330	11.1	39.4
Total	3,024,730	100.0	100.0	9,560	100.0	100.0	22,040	100.0	100.0	3,056,330	100.0	100.0

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) There are 2 sessions for each school day (morning and afternoon).

(3) Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(4) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(5) The number of sessions missed due to (overall) absence in each band expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to (overall) absence.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 3.1

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
PERSISTENT ABSENTEES (2)**

2005/06

England

	Maintained Secondary Schools	City Technology Colleges	Academies	Total
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees (2)(3)	215,100	300	1,990	217,390
Total number of pupil enrolments (3)(4)	3,024,730	9,560	22,040	3,056,330
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	7.1	3.1	9.0	7.1
Percentage of half days missed by persistent absentees due to (5):				
Authorised Absence	23.23	26.55	20.90	23.21
Unauthorised Absence	12.24	4.88	16.25	12.26
Overall absence	35.47	31.43	37.14	35.48
Percentage of absence for which persistent absentees are responsible (6):				
Authorised Absence	24.0	15.2	28.9	24.0
Unauthorised Absence	60.9	43.2	61.6	60.9
Overall absence	30.4	16.9	37.6	30.4

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.

(3) Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(4) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(5) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

(6) The total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence by all pupil enrolments.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 3.2

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSISTENT ABSENTEES (2)(3)**

2005/06

England

	Persistent Absentees (2)				
	Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies				
	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (4)(5)		Percentage of half days missed (6):		
	Number	Percentage (7)	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
Gender					
Boys	107,080	6.9	23.18	12.40	35.58
Girls	110,300	7.3	23.25	12.13	35.37
Total (8)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48
Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility					
Known to be eligible for FSM	71,130	16.0	22.03	14.17	36.20
Other pupils (8)	146,250	5.6	23.79	11.32	35.12
Total (8)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48
National Curriculum Year Group:					
6 and below	1,070	2.0	25.17	5.35	30.52
7	20,140	3.5	24.38	7.59	31.97
8	30,520	5.2	24.22	9.34	33.56
8	41,060	6.8	23.49	11.39	34.88
10	52,810	8.7	22.34	13.55	35.89
11	67,660	11.6	22.36	14.15	36.50
12 and above	60	6.3	17.69	19.78	37.47
Total (8)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48
First Language					
First language is known or believed to be other than English	13,340	4.7	21.53	10.77	32.31
First language is known or believed to be English	199,290	7.3	23.14	12.21	35.35
Total (8)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48
Special Educational Needs					
Statements of SEN	10,400	14.4	25.16	12.57	37.74
<i>School Action Plus</i>	31,730	20.5	23.67	15.72	39.39
<i>School Action</i>	42,850	12.3	22.09	13.27	35.36
No identified SEN	128,330	5.3	23.03	10.83	33.87
Total (8)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.

(3) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.

(4) Number of enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(5) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions of Persistent Absentees.

(7) The number of Persistent Absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with same gender or year group or SEN etc.

(8) Includes pupil enrolments for whom characteristic data were unclassified or missing. Total rates may be higher than rates for each subgroup.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 3.3
MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1)
PERSISTENT ABSENTEES BY ETHNIC GROUP (2)(3)
 2005/06
 England

	Persistent Absentees (2)				
	Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies				
	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06 (4)(5)		Percentage of half days missed (6):		
	Number	Percentage (7)	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
White	185,070	7.3	23.20	12.17	35.37
White British	178,390	7.3	23.18	12.15	35.32
Irish	990	9.2	22.48	13.66	36.14
Traveller of Irish heritage	460	41.6	30.41	18.18	48.59
Gypsy/ Roma	960	39.9	25.80	16.03	41.82
Any other White background	4,270	6.4	23.15	11.29	34.45
Mixed	6,510	8.2	22.14	12.99	35.13
White and Black Caribbean	3,070	10.3	22.14	13.08	35.22
White and Black African	520	6.8	22.34	12.83	35.17
White and Asian	940	6.2	22.42	11.65	34.07
Any other Mixed background	1,980	7.5	21.94	13.54	35.47
Asian	8,650	4.5	21.50	9.50	31.00
Indian	1,810	2.8	22.01	8.89	30.90
Pakistani	4,310	5.7	21.88	8.79	30.68
Bangladeshi	1,740	5.8	19.64	11.81	31.44
Any other Asian background	790	3.3	22.34	9.73	32.08
Black	5,050	4.5	21.50	12.30	33.80
Black Caribbean	2,610	6.3	21.41	12.27	33.69
Black African	1,550	2.7	21.47	12.07	33.53
Any other Black background	890	6.7	21.80	12.77	34.57
Chinese	150	1.5	20.94	11.73	32.67
Any other ethnic group	1,470	5.5	21.49	12.62	34.11
Minority Ethnic Pupils (8)	28,490	5.7	22.20	11.72	33.92
All pupils (9)	217,390	7.1	23.21	12.26	35.48

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.

(3) See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence and pupil characteristic data have been linked.

(4) Number of enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(5) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(6) The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions of Persistent Absentees.

(7) The number of Persistent Absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupil enrolments of same ethnic origin.

(8) Pupils who have been classified according to their ethnic group, excluding White British.

(9) Includes enrolments for whom information on ethnic group was unclassified or missing.

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 3.4

**MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES (1):
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS BY THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSISTENT ABSENTEES (2)**

2005/06

England

	Maintained Secondary Schools		City Technology Colleges		Academies	
	Number of schools	% of schools	Number of schools	% of schools	Number of schools	% of schools
Percentage of school enrolments who are Persistent Absentees (2)(3)(4)(5):						
Up to 3 per cent	541	16	8	73	6	22
3.0 per cent to 5.9 per cent	1,007	30	1	9	3	11
6.0 per cent to 8.9 per cent	941	28	1	9	4	15
9.0 per cent to 11.9 per cent	517	15	1	9	8	30
12.0 per cent to 14.9 per cent	206	6	0	0	3	11
15.0 per cent to 19.9 per cent	110	3	0	0	2	7
20.0 per cent and above	45	1	0	0	1	4
Total	3,367	100	11	100	27	100

Source: School Census

(1) Includes middle schools as deemed.

(2) Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.

(3) Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.

(4) There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.

(5) The number of Persistent Absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.